Spring 2016 Course Syllabus

Course Title: Criminology
Section Information: CRIJ 3305-030 & 031 – 12462 & 12465
Course Lectures: Online via Blackboard, 1/11/16 – 5/1/16
Course Location: Online via Blackboard
Section Instructor: Michael Thomas
Email: mthomas@tarleton.edu
Spring 2016 Office Hours: by appointment or by e-mail

Required Course Material:
ISBN-10: 0205275885

Other instructional material will be distributed via online lessons on Blackboard.

Highly Recommended Course Material:
Purdue OWL – The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University houses writing resources and instructional material, and is provided as a free service of the Writing Lab at Purdue. Within this course, utilize this free resource as a guide to academic writing and reference for correct APA formatting.
- Academic Writing – [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](
- APA Formatting – [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/](

Catalog Description: (3-0)
The study and critical analysis of various theories of crime causation, including an examination of classical, biological, psychological and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

Prerequisites:
CRIJ 1301 or approval of instructor.

Intended Student Outcomes: A) Knowledge Outcomes
- Students will define the etiology of crime through various criminological perspectives.

Intended Student Outcomes: B) Skills Outcomes
- Communicate ideas in writing that are sensible and relate logically to the subject at hand.
- Collect and evaluate information and translate the information into written form.
- Write complete sentences that are clear in meaning and concise in form.
• Put ideas and sentence into a logical order.
• Follow guidelines and instructions for written reports and assignments.
• Follow guidelines and instructions for APA formatting.
• Improve skills in writing for an academic audience.

Intended Student Outcomes: C) Writing Outcomes
• Students will demonstrate written communication skills appropriate to upper level college students preparing for entry into graduate studies in criminal justice, and criminology including writing for an academic audience, writing research results, writing for conference presentation, and writing for publication.

Policies: Academic Honesty
Per the TSU Student Handbook: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s materials or ideas as one’s own), or doing work for another person who will receive academic credit are impermissible. Students are expected to do their own work. Please refer to the following site for a more detailed description of the University’s policy concerning academic dishonesty:
http://catalog.tarleton.edu/undergrad/academicinformation/. If any section of your written work does not represent your own original idea, thought, or words, you must appropriately cite the source. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, will be considered cheating and will be dealt with as such. To help yourself avoid plagiarism, properly cite all written work using the American Psychological Association (APA) format.

Course Policies: Disability Statement
It is the policy of Tarleton State University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws. If you are a student with a disability seeking accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Access and Academic Testing at 254.968.9400 or caat@tarleton.edu. The office is located in Math 201. More information can be found at www.tarleton.edu/caat, in the University Catalog, or at www.ada.gov.

Course Policies: Due Dates
All due dates are posted on the course calendar of events. Please note as the instructor, I reserve the right to modify assignments or due dates, if needed. If a conflict arises which prevents you from submitting your work on the posted due date, contact me immediately via email. Without prior communication or accommodation, points will be deducted for late submissions. Please note, I am the sole arbiter for permissible late submissions. The deadline for submitting each assignment is 11:59 pm (CST) of the date listed. Additional information for each assignment is found on Blackboard, under the Course Content link.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment Topic</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Responses</td>
<td>Post your discussion response &amp; reply to 1 classmate’s posting</td>
<td>Each Sunday, starting 1/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper #1</td>
<td>Explain 1 Paradigm of Criminology</td>
<td>1/31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>2/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper #2</td>
<td>1 crime explained through 2 theories</td>
<td>4/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>5/1</td>
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**Course Requirements: Discussion Responses**

For each weekly assignment (beginning 1/18), there are discussion questions that must be answered and fully discussed. Grades will be assigned based upon individual participation, as measured by the quality of postings and interaction on the course Discussion Board.

**Course Requirements: Research Papers**

There are two (2) research papers that must be completed for this course. The writing assignments account for 20% of your final course grade. Details for each assignment will be provided on the associated written assignment sheet on Blackboard.

Please note, all students have access to the TSU Writing Center. The Writing Center is a free support service for students who need assistance in any stage of the writing process. Our consultants work with students from all classes, disciplines, and degree plans to enhance writing skills. Students may drop in at their own convenience or email their work to the Writing Center. For more information concerning The Writing Center: [http://www.tarleton.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.tarleton.edu/writingcenter/)

**Course Requirements: Exams**

There will be two (2) exams that account for 20% of your final course grade. There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam.

**Grade Scale:**

As detailed above, there are a total of five (5) assignments required for this class. Each is worth 20% of your overall grade. Your final grade is the aggregate point total of all assignments, divided by five (5).

For example:

- Discussion Responses = 92 points
- Research Paper #1 = 86 points
- Mid-Term Exam = 91 points
- Research Paper #2 = 85 points
- Final Exam = 94 points

Aggregate Point Total = 448/5 = 89.6; the final course grade is an ‘A’
Since Fall 2015, Tarleton has differentiated between a failed grade in a class because a student never attended (F0 grade), stopped attending at some point in the semester (FX grade), or because the student did not pass the course (F) but attended the entire semester. These grades will be noted on the official transcript. Stopping or never attending class can result in the student having to return aid monies received. For more information see the Tarleton Financial Aid website.

Important Dates:

Assignments, due dates and other course details are posted on the Course Content link on Blackboard and/or may be sent via Tarleton official student email:

http://tarleton.edu/technology/studentemail/index.html

Proposed Course Calendar of Events:

1/11 - 1/17  Course Introduction: Review syllabus, Introduction PowerPoint and post your introduction.
1/18 - 1/24  Chapter 1: Read pages 1-22, Ch 1 PowerPoint & post your discussion responses.
1/25 - 1/31  Research Paper #1: Detail a criminological paradigm and provide your reaction to it.
2/1 - 2/7    Chapter 2: Read pages 28-63, Ch 2 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
2/8 - 2/14   Chapter 3: Read pages 67-91, Ch 3 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
2/15 - 2/21  Mid-Term Exam, Chapters 1, 2 & 3: Complete exam by Sunday, 2/21 @ 11:59 pm
2/22 - 2/28  Chapter 4: Read pages 99-117, Ch 4 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
2/29 - 3/6   Chapter 4: Read pages 118-127, Ch 4 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
3/7 - 3/13   No Assignments; Enjoy Spring Break
3/14 - 3/20  Chapter 5: Read pages 135-142, Ch 5 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
3/21 - 3/27  Chapter 5: Read pages 143-146, Ch 5 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
3/28 - 4/3   Chapter 5: Read pages 147-159, Ch 5 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
4/4 - 4/10   Chapter 5: Read pages 172-178, Ch 5 PowerPoint and provide your discussion responses.
4/11 - 4/17  Research Paper #2: Explain the same hypothetical crime through two different crime theories.
4/18 - 4/24  Review Chapters 4 & 5
4/25 - 5/1   Final Exam, Chapters 4 & 5: Complete exam by Sunday, 5/1 @ 11:59 pm