

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2012 – SOCI 3313-02 – Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

SOCI 3313 – Criminology **Section:** 02

Method of Delivery: Lecture **Place/Time:** MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m. PKH 321

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: **Mr. Chad Gann M.A., M.A.**

E-mail Address: cgann@uta.edu

Office: University Hall
The University of Texas at Arlington

Telephone: 817.386.0176

Fax: 817.272.5673

E-mail Policy: E-mail is the official means of communication for this course. You should receive a response within 48 hours. Note: I am not required to answer emails on weekends. You ***MUST*** include the following e-mail subject line format if you expect a response:
SOCI 3313 – (Subject of your e-mail)

Mailing Address: University of Texas at Arlington
Dept. of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Box 19595
Arlington, TX 76019

INSTRUCTOR'S BIOGRAPHY:

Mr. Chad Gann holds a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is presently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public and Urban Administration with an emphasis in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. Mr. Gann currently holds the rank of Lieutenant with the Arlington, Texas Police Department and is assigned as the SWAT Commander.

E-CULTURE POLICY:

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned a UTA email account. Go to [MavMail UTA Email](#) for information about activating and using MavMail. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2012 – SOCI 3313-02 – Course Syllabus

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Additionally, in an effort to streamline the management of assignments and communication, this course will be using UTA's Distance Learning and Course Management: Blackboard E-Learn. All course materials, grades, supplemental readings, and any other function designated by the instructor will be posted in Blackboard. While the use of Blackboard will be covered during the course introduction, it is the student's responsibility to enter the site and become familiar with the program as quizzes, exams, and assignments may be given using this medium.

Please ensure that you can enter Blackboard using your NetID login information by clicking on the following link: <http://elearn.uta.edu> (Please note that there is not a "www" in this url).

COURSE OUTLINE:

Please see the [Course Calendar](#).

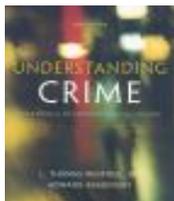
COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course evaluates crime from a sociological perspective. It aims to provide students with the tools and information necessary to examine the definitions and measurement of crime. In order to accomplish this, students will survey the major theoretical explanations of criminal behavior and society's formal responses to crime and criminals.

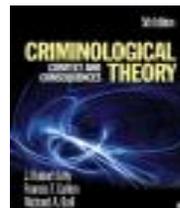
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Learning Objectives will be provided at the beginning of each lecture.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/WEBSITES: (YES! ALL ARE REQUIRED)



Understanding Crime
L. Thomas Winfree &
Howard Abadinsky
ISBN: 978-0-495-60083-1
Wadsworth Publishing



Criminological Theory
J. Robert Lilly; Richard A.
Ball; Francis T. Cullen
ISBN: 978-1-4129-8145-3
SAGE Publishing

The Purdue Online Writing Lab
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2012 – SOCI 3313-02 – Course Syllabus

Both texts are available at the UTA bookstore or at the bookstore of your choice.

**Supplemental articles and readings of interest may be provided by the instructor, however, material from supplemental readings required for exams will be discussed by the instructor.

Scantrons: Students are responsible for purchasing Scantrons in order to submit responses on all three multiple-choice exams and up to ten Pop-Quizzes. Scantrons (Form No. 882-E) should be green and white for this course. Scantrons are available for purchase at the UTA Bookstore (13 Scantrons). Please keep a Scantron available for the beginning of each class for Pop-Quizzes. The instructor will not provide scantrons, therefore, failure to bring one to class will result in a zero for the Pop-Quiz for the day.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The course will be taught on-campus and incorporates a variety of learning modalities in an effort to engage all students and their needs. That is, the instruction of certain topics will be incorporated in the lesson material. Other lessons, however, will depend solely on the instruction provided in the text.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Assignment	Total Possible Points
Mid-Term Exam	100 points (20%)
Final Exam	100 points (20%)
Journal/Presentation	200 points (40%)
Attendance/Participation	100 points (20%)
Total Possible Points	500 points (100%)

The total points earned from the Online Examinations and Discussion Questions will be added and divided by **five**. Thus, a final course grade will be configured using the following scale:

- A** 450-500 (90% - 100%)
- B** 400-449 (80% - 89%)
- C** 350-399 (70% - 79%)
- D** 300-349 (60% - 69%)
- F** 299 and below

Requests to average grades for individual students throughout the semester will be denied/ignored. Student grades shall remain up to date in Blackboard for review by the student at any time.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2012 – SOCI 3313-02 – Course Syllabus

academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

UTA WRITING CENTER:

The goal of the UTA Writing Center Online Writing Lab is to help students become better writers. The UTA Writing Center provides supplemental, intensive, individual tutoring in writing; the Center does not proofread or evaluate writing. For more information, go to <http://www.uta.edu/owl>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students are expected to pursue their academic careers with honesty and integrity. Academic integrity will be defined in this classroom in accordance with UTA's policies and procedures, which can be found on the Division of Student Affairs web site, <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatis.html>

As discussed and defined by UTA's division of Student Affairs:

"Academic integrity...is a commitment on the on the part of the students, faculty and staff, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values:

- *Honesty*
- *Truth*
- *Fairness*
- *Respect*
- *Responsibility*

UTA defines **scholastic dishonesty** as
(<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatconstitutes.html>):

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion on an examination or an assignment being offered for credit.

Cheating

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion

- Without authorization, collaborating with another when preparing an assignment

Students suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty will be subject to the University's disciplinary processes, which are described online at: <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatconstitutes.html>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2012 – SOCI 3313-02 – Course Syllabus

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System (Rule 50101), institutional procedures regarding allegations of academic dishonesty are outlined in Part Two, Chapter 2, of the UT Arlington Handbook of Operating Procedures. This information is available by accessing the Student Judicial Affairs' Web site at www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicial_affairs.

Violations of Academic Integrity standards will be handled through the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Chair's Office. At a minimum, students will receive a failing grade ("F") for the course if substantial evidence exists to prove the allegation of misconduct. Additional penalties will be assessed through the process outlined by Student Judicial Affairs.

Should there be any question as to the integrity of online examinations, students may be asked to complete an exam in the traditional written format.

ADDENDUMS TO THE SYLLABUS:

All addendums to the course syllabus will be published via announcements within Blackboard and are effective from the date of publication. The course calendar is considered a part of the syllabus and is subject to change based upon the needs of the students and the course as determined by the professor. Students are bound by all information posted in the Announcements section of Blackboard as they are also considered to be an extension of this syllabus.

ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE LEARNING:

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Failure to sign in on the daily attendance roster will result in an absence for the class meeting. Excessive absences will negatively impact the Class Attendance/Participation portion of your grade. No student may sign in for another, even if the student is "on their way" to class. If a student is caught signing in for another student, this will be considered cheating, thus UTA's Academic and Integrity Policy will be enforced up to and including the student being issued an "F" for this course.

You are expected to fully participate in the class by engaging in discussion and completing assignments, tests, and any other assignment given by the instructor. The emphasis of this course is on active learning where students accept responsibility to engage with each other, their instructor, and course content towards the goal of mastering learning outcomes set forth in course material.

Active Learning at UTA

The [UTA Quality Enhancement Plan \(2007\)](#) has adopted this working definition of active learning: Active Learning places the student at the center of the learning process, making him/her a partner in discovery, not a passive receiver of information. It is a process that employs a variety of teaching and learning strategies to place the responsibility for creating and defining the learning environment on the instructor and the responsibility for effective engagement in the learning process on the students. Active learning encourages students to communicate and interact with course materials by reading, writing, discussing, problem-solving, investigating, reflecting, and engaging in higher-order thinking tasks such as application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. An active learning approach draws upon a continuum of teaching and learning strategies, including class discussion activities, undergraduate research, and community-based learning experiences (QEP Executive Summary 2007 p. 1).

DROP POLICY:

To avoid receiving a failing grade due to absences or failure to complete assignments, it is the student's responsibility to drop the class according to university guidelines and time frames.

COURTESIES AND DISRUPTIVE STUDENT CONDUCT:

Please **turn off cell phones, pagers, etc. before class begins!** In the event that work obligations or other personal situations require you to be able to be reached during class, your phone(s) should be set to **silent**, as vibrate and other similar settings may still disturb others. If it is ABSOLUTELY necessary to accept a phone call, please excuse yourself and step outside of the classroom as a courtesy to the instructor and other students.

Sending **text messages** and other disruptive behaviors including newspapers, crosswords, and magazines may also be distracting for other students and **will not be tolerated during class**. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to ask a student engaging repeatedly in disruptive activity to leave class. Our class meetings are very short and we do not want to miss any contribution from students during class. Therefore, every effort should be made to address your personal needs prior to class.

UNIVERSITY CLOSINGS:

In the event that the University is closed due to weather or other circumstances, students should be prepared to cover all assigned material due on the date when classes resume. Please check your UTA email and the UTA website for information regarding campus closings.

EXTRA CREDIT:

1) Criminological Theory Chart (10 Bonus Points - Detailed instructions will be provided in class.)

2) Quizzes:

Throughout the semester, there will be **ten** "Pop-Quizzes" posted or given in class that cover any information that is presented in the course materials. These quizzes will be graded to facilitate extra points on your final grade. **This is a mandatory activity and failure to complete it will result in the student being counted absent for a class date on or surrounding the date the quiz is due.** Completion of "Pop Quizzes" is **optional**, however –

ALL QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE EXTRA CREDIT POINTS ON YOUR FINAL GRADE!

The following points will be added based upon the total of all quiz grades:

- 1 (95 - 100) – 3 points added to your final grade
- 2 (90 - 94) – 2 points added to your final grade
- 3 (85 - 89) – 1 point added to your final grade
- 4 (84 and below) – 0 points added to your final grade

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS:

- Each exam will cover the chapters from your textbooks as listed in the course calendar and the lecture notes
- Supplemental readings (as listed in the course calendar or assigned by the professor) will be included at the discretion of the instructor
- Exams may be either online using the Blackboard exam features or in class where Scantrons will be required.
- All in-class exams are closed book while on-line exams are open-book – both formats will be timed.
- Each exam is worth 100 points (20%).

Make-up Policy

There are no make ups for missed exams—unless you become seriously ill. You must provide documentation substantiating your illness. In short, make ups are only given if you become very ill and will be administered at a date and time set by the instructor.

THEORY JOURNAL / PRESENTATION:

Detailed instructions will be provided in a separate document and discussed in class.

Journal = 125 points

Presentation = 75 points

Total points = 200 points (40%)

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend all class periods prepared to engage in discussion of the assigned material for the day. At the beginning of every class period, an attendance roster will be circulated where students are expected to initial as proof of their attendance for the course. Students arriving in class after 9:15 a.m. will be counted absent for the day unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor in writing (preferably e-mail). No student may sign-in for another student at any time for any reason.

For example, if there are 43 class periods excluding days where exams are given, the student's attendance/participation grade will be calculated by using the following formula:

Number of days attended / 42 (TENTATIVE)

As you can see, you are given at least one free pass to miss class for emergencies, etc. Excused absences are determined on a case-by-case basis under consultation with the professor.

Total Points = 100 points (20%)

FAQs ABOUT EXAMS, DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADES:

How many exams are there, and are they open book exams?

There are two exams for this course. If the exams are given online, you will be allowed to use any materials to aid you in completing the exam. In other words, if in-class exams are given, the exams will be closed-book. If the exam is given on-line, it will be open-book.

What should you know?

There is some variation in the number of questions for each exam. The exam questions are all multiple choice and true/false. You must read the chapters closely. There are no trick questions as such. If you plan your study time accordingly, you will do well on the exam. You are strongly encouraged to prepare for the exams by familiarizing yourself with the key terms in each chapter and by also answering the questions at the end of each chapter. You should know that I have tried to purge from most of the exam questions any answer that requires an exact date, year or number. I am mostly interested in definitional terms, themes in the literature, etc. I have tried to stay away from dates, and questions that require too many numbers.

Will the final exam be cumulative?

The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will cover specific course content.

What if I miss the deadline for the exam?

You must take the exam on the designated day. Any other situation will be dealt with according to the make-up policy on a case-by-case basis.

How much is each exam worth?

Each exam will be worth 100 points (20% of final grade). It is critically important that you complete the exams as scheduled.

How much time will I have for each exam?

Time limits will depend on the number of questions assigned for each exam. (TBA)

Is there extra credit?

Extra Credit may be offered at the discretion of the instructor but it is not guaranteed. It is therefore important that you immerse yourself into the course content and do the discussions as scheduled. My recommendation is that you read on a regular basis and take good notes for reference in your study for each exam.

Make-up policy?

There are no make ups for missed exams, unless you become seriously ill. You must provide documentation. In short, make ups are only given if you become very ill and will be administered at a date and time set by the instructor.

Questions about exam questions and answers?

All grades will be kept up to date in Blackboard. Please do not hesitate to contact me about your grades. I will do my best to answer your questions about the answers as quickly as possible. Remember to allow at least 48 hours to return e-mail questions.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

UTA LIBRARY INFORMATION:

Subject Librarian for Criminology & Criminal Justice:

Eric Frierson
frierson@uta.edu
(817) 272-7517

Library Website:

<http://www.uta.edu/library>.

Commonly Used Library Resources:

Library Home Page..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>
Subject Guides <http://libguides.uta.edu>
Subject Librarians <http://www-test.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>
Database List <http://www-test.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php>
Course Reserves..... <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>
Library Catalog..... <http://discover.uta.edu/>
E-Journals <http://utalink.uta.edu:9003/UTAlink/az>
Library Tutorials <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php>
Connecting from Off- Campus <http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus>
Ask A Librarian <http://ask.uta.edu>