

CRCJ 5350 Theoretical Criminology

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The University of Texas at Arlington

Instructor: Seokjin Jeong

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Office Hour: By appointment

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Fall Semester 2014

Classroom: UTASF 119

Class Hour: Monday/Wednesday

6:00 pm – 9:20 pm

Credit Hours: 3 Credit

Course Description:

This course will provide an in-depth review of the theoretical perspectives on the causes of crime. The course will cover several broad themes, including: the progression of criminology as an interdisciplinary field; the measurement of crime and delinquency; theory construction and evaluation; correlated of crime, such as age, race, gender, and socioeconomic status; theories of crime and delinquency; and approaches to preventing and controlling crime.

The course is intended to provide a strong foundation in criminology research and prepare students to advance successfully into doctoral programs and criminal justice management positions. The weekly readings, lectures, and discussions are drawn from current research articles by leading scholars from the fields of sociology, psychology, and criminal justice in the United States and other countries.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Materials:

Bernard, T. J., Snipes, J. B., & Gerould, A. L. (2010). *VOLD's Theoretical Criminology* (6th ed). New York: Oxford University Press. (Required)

Cullen, F. T., & Agnew, R. (2011). *Criminology Theory: Past to Present* (4th ed). New York: Oxford University Press. (Recommended)

Additional readings may be handed out in class when relevant.

Reading Assignments

Weekly reading assignments are indicated on the class schedule (See Below). For each class meeting, you are responsible for the readings listed next to that class topic. Participation in class discussion is expected of each student and full participation in group discussion requires that assigned reading is completed **prior** to each class meeting. Students should come to class prepared to answer questions and discuss the concepts covered in the readings. Notes taken on the readings will also be useful for class discussion and exams.

Grading:

Grades will be based on two exams, one writing assignment, and an in-class presentation. Each exam will count for 150 points. For the policy assignment, you will be asked to write a paper on a specific program, policy, or crime control strategy that reflects one of the theoretical perspectives covered in the class (worth 140 points).

Writing Requirements:

All papers must represent the work of the individual student. Papers are due at the beginning of class; late papers will be penalized points each day past the due date (papers submitted after the 7:00 pm on due date will be penalized one full day). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All papers should be typed, spell checked, and clearly written. Poorly written papers and excessive spelling and grammatical errors will be penalized.

The paper must conform with the APA guidelines for citing references and for constructing reference lists. Examples of in-text citations and reference formatting will be provided in a handout in class. For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition.

Exams:

Both exams will be comprised of short answers and essay questions.

Additional Notes:

Consistently coming to class late, leaving in the middle of lecture, holding private conversations, or sleeping during class are very distracting and may result in the lowering of your final grade in this course. Please follow general rules of courtesy and respect for others during discussion. Cell phones and other electronic equipment must be turned off or stowed away during class, unless permission to use such devices has been granted by the instructor.

If you need to get a hold of me, the best way to reach me is by appointment.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is described as (i) turn in an exam, paper or project that is not your work; (ii) copy answers from another student's exam or quiz; (iii) have another person take a test or complete assignments for you; and (iv) submit the same paper for two or more classes.

Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves representing someone else's work as your own, may include (i) copying sentences or phrases from the work of another without a citation; (ii) using someone else's original idea without citation; and (iii) failing to reference the source of data or facts.

Consequences of academic dishonesty and plagiarism can be severe. It may result in a zero grade in the course and removal from the program. If students are unclear about the Academic honesty policy, you are encouraged to consult the appropriate section in UTA resource.

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

Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

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.

Grading Schema

The following scale will be used for your grading:

Total Points (%)	Grade Point
91 – 100	A
81 – 90	B
71 – 80	C
61 – 70	D
60 or less	F

Course Schedule:

Date	Subject	Reading(s)
10/20	Course Introduction & Outline	
10/22	Classical and Positive Criminology	BSG: Chapters 1 & 2 CA: Introduction, Part I
10/27	Correlates of Crime I (SES & Race) & Correlates of Crime II (Age & Gender) Causality, Theory Construction & Evaluation	BSG: Chapter 5 & 14 CA: Part IX
10/29	Biological & Psychological Theories	BSG: Chapters 3 & 4 CA: Part II
11/3	Social Disorganization/Ecological Theories	BSG: Chapters 6 & 7 CA: Part III
11/5	Differential Association & Social Learning Theories	BSG: Chapter 9 CA: Part IV
11/10	Exam 1	
11/12	Strain Theories Social Control & Developmental Theories	BSG: Chapter 8, 10 & 15 CA: Part V & XII
11/17	Labeling & Conflict Theories	BSG: Chapters 12 & 13 Part VII & VIII
11/19	Research	
11/24	Theoretical Integration Contemporary Issues in Criminology	BSG: Chapter 16 & 17 Part XIV
11/26	Thanksgiving	
12/1	Crime Prevention/Intervention Strategies	Assigned Readings
12/3	Exam 2	

Course requirements are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. The class will be informed of any changes in scheduling, assigned readings, or grading policy by notice from the instructor.