

The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Theoretical Criminology - CRCJ 3300 – Section 002
Spring 2016

Meetings: Mondays and Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:50 pm **Class Location:** Pickard Hall Room 105
Professor: Marcus Lewis **Email:** Marcus.Lewis@uta.edu
Office Hours: Prior to/following class by appointment **Phone:** Office: 817-272-3318
Office Location: University Hall Room 362 Cell: 214-738-0813

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions: None

Required Textbook and Materials

Bernard, T. J., Vold, G. B. 1., Snipes, J. B., & Gerould, A. L. (2010). *Vold's theoretical criminology* (6th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press ISBN: 9780195386417

Note: In addition to the required text; handouts, journal articles, video documentaries, movies, and other sources of reference will be used to further enhance student's learning.

- *Additional Journal articles will be posted on Blackboard*

Access to a computer with internet connectivity for Blackboard access.

Course Description: The methodological and theoretical perspectives of the social and biological sciences as integrated into the criminal justice system. Both historical and contemporary explanations of criminal behavior will be considered and critically assessed.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how crime and deviance are defined.
2. Identify the basic concepts and principles of criminological theories.
3. Critically evaluate criminological theory.
4. Understand the nexus between criminological theories and criminal justice policies.

Course Requirements

Exams

There will be four (4) exams this semester. Exams will be administered via Blackboard. **Each exam will be worth 100 points** (or 20% of your final grade) and will be comprised of questions based on class lecture and assigned readings.

Makeup Exam Policy

Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a university recognized excused absence. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illnesses with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences), participation in official university activities. Final decision of excused absences is left to the discretion of the professor. In most instances, students will be required to provide written documentation for your absence. In addition, you **MUST** talk with me **prior to** the date of the exam in order to schedule a makeup. All makeup exams **MUST** be scheduled within one week of the original exam.

Writing Assignment

You will be required to write a five (5) page paper on a criminological theory that is either discussed in class or in your textbook. The paper should include a general discussion of the tenants of the theory and review three scholarly journal articles that empirically (scientifically) test the theory of interest. * *The paper should summarize each of the **three (3) articles** and discuss whether the theory is supported or refuted by the research.* **The paper is worth 100 points or 20% of your final grade.**

This assignment contains two parts that must be completed on the assigned dates in order to receive full credit.

* **Part I of the assignment:** You will need to turn in the topic of your paper (i.e., which criminological theory you'll be researching) along with the academic references for your 3 articles. **This part of the paper is due via Blackboard no later than 6:50 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2016.**

* **Part II:** The final complete paper is due **via Blackboard through SafeAssign** no later than **6:50 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.**

Both parts of the assignment are to be typed in a 12 point font, Times New Roman font. The final paper should be double-spaced with one inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). In addition, you are expected to provide references and in-text citations **in APA (American Psychological Association) format.**

The three (3) selected articles **MUST** be from peer-reviewed journals. Essentially, these are articles written by experts or scholars in the field which have gone through a peer-review process. This process utilizes blind review by other scholars in the field, the reviewers then will make recommendations to the journal editor whether the article should be accepted, rejected, or is in need of revision(s). The writing style and format is greatly different from popular periodicals. These articles typically: (1) deal with broad issues or topics in the field; (2) focus on a specific research question; (3) are 12-15 pages in length; (4) have an abstract; (5) have a data/methods/methodology section; (6) have a results/findings section; (7) have a conclusion section; (8) have references. If you are unsure if your article qualifies as peer-reviewed or if you have any further questions, please ask!

Note: textbooks, magazines, and newspapers are **NOT** acceptable!

Papers will be graded based on: (1) content including review and understanding of chosen theory; (2) clarity and organization of the discussion and analysis for each of the three related empirical articles; (3) discussion/conclusion with regard to the empirical studies of the theory – did the articles find support for the theory? Do they dispute the theory? Is the evidence mixed/inconclusive? In other words, was support found for some components but not all parts of the theory; (4) use of proper in-text citations and references; (5) grammar and spelling. *Note:* Late papers will NOT be accepted.

Attendance

At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required; therefore, attendance will NOT be taken. However, students are encouraged to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether you’re in class or not.

Grading Criteria

There are a total of 500 points which may be earned throughout the course. Students are encouraged to maintain a record of their grades.

Note: I will NOT curve nor barter your grade at the end of the semester.

Final Grades Your earned points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Range</u>
A	450 - 500
B	400 - 449
C	350 - 399
D	300 - 349
F	299 or less

Course Schedule

Note: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Marcus W. Lewis

<u>DATE</u>		<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
<u>Week of 1/18</u>			
Tuesday	1/19	First day of semester	
Wednesday	1/20	First day of class	
		Introduction – Course requirements and syllabus	
		Theory	
<u>Week of 1/25</u>			
Monday	1/25	Classical Criminology	Ch. 2
Wednesday	1/27	Biological Factors and Criminal Behavior	Ch. 3

<u>DATE</u>		<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
<u>Week of 2/1</u>			
Monday	2/1	Pyschological Factors and Criminal Behavior	Ch. 4
Wednesday	2/3	Crime and Poverty	Ch. 5
<u>Week of 2/8</u>			
Monday	2/8	Exam 1	
Wednesday	2/10	Work on Writing Assignment	
<u>Week of 2/15</u>			
Monday	2/15	Durkheim, Anomie and Modernization	Ch. 6
Wednesday	2/17	Durkheim, Anomie and Modernization cont.	
<u>Week of 2/22</u>			
Monday	2/22	Neighborhoods and Crime	Ch. 7
Wednesday	2/24	Neighborhoods and Crime Cont.	
<u>Week of 2/29</u>			
Monday	2/29	Strain Theories	Ch. 8
Wednesday	3/2	Strain Theories Cont. Review for Exam 2	
<u>Week of 3/7</u>			
Monday	3/7	Exam 2	
Wednesday	3/9	Learning Theories Learning Theories Cont.	Ch. 9
<u>Week of 3/14</u>			
Monday	3/14	Spring Break	
Wednesday	3/16	Spring Break	
<u>Week of 3/21</u>			
Monday	3/21	Part 1 of Writing Assignment Due	
Wednesday	3/23	Control Theories Control Theories Cont.	Ch. 10
<u>Week of 3/28</u>			
Monday	3/28	Conflict Theory	Ch. 12
Wednesday	3/30	Conflict Theory Cont.	
<u>Week of 4/4</u>			
Monday	4/4	Marxism and Postmodern	Ch. 13
Wednesday	4/6	Marxism and Postmodern Cont.	

<u>Week of 4/11</u>			
Monday	4/11	Developmental Theories	Ch. 15
Wednesday	4/13	Developmental Theories Cont.	
<u>Week of 4/18</u>			
Monday	4/18	Integrated Theories	Ch. 16
Wednesday	4/20	Integrated Theories Cont.	
<u>Week of 4/25</u>			
Monday	4/25	The Meaning of Crime	Ch. 11
Wednesday	4/27	Gender and Crime	Ch. 14
<u>Week of 5/2</u>			
Monday	5/2	Part II Writing Assignment Due	
		Assessing Theories	Ch. 17
Wednesday	5/4	Assessing Theories Cont.	
<u>Week of 5/9</u>			
Monday	5/9	Exam 4	

Lectures

Power Point presentations for each chapter in your textbook will be after the lecture of each topic.

- Students are required to check Blackboard for class announcements and course materials several times per week and prior to class so that you are prepared.

Please note that while I allow students to use laptops to take notes during class lectures. Abuse of this privilege will result in the revocation of the privilege.

Email Use

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>.

***If you need to email me, please do so directly from your UTA email and NOT in Blackboard and IDENTIFY the class that you are taking with me in the subject line.**

General Decorum

Part of becoming an educated person is the ability to consider (and sometimes endure) ideas counter to your own. In this course, we will discuss topics which bear directly on the core principles of our government and society. There is likely to be disagreement. That disagreement notwithstanding, students are required to treat each other (and the instructor) with respect and civility.

Disability Services

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.

Drop Policy (Last day to Drop is April 1, 2016)

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. ***Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.*** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available

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 visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at 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.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Librarian to Contact

John Dillard is the Criminology and Criminal Justice Librarian. He can be reached at (817)272-7517.

Writing Center

The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at www.uta.edu/owl/.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.</p>
