COURSE SYLLABUS
CRIMINOLOGY (SO/CJ 323 - 01)
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FALL 2010

READ THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY

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Office Hours: Tuesday: 9:30am - 11:00am
Thursday: 8:00am - 11:00am
Friday: 10:00am - 11:30am

E-mail: Always use the Angel e-mail system for this class on the course home page. Address your e-mails to the "course faculty" if you are e-mailing me. Look carefully each time you enter the course to see if you have unread e-mail (see "What's new").

Dept. of Sociology Website: http://www.una.edu/sociology. Check out the website to learn more about the department, the major, the faculty, our courses, careers, etc.

Course Description

Criminologists aim, through use of logic and reliance upon widely accepted procedures or methods that structure empirical observation, to understand the processes (physiological, social, and behavioral) determining criminal conduct and to develop and test explanatory theories of criminal and victim behavior in order to predict when criminal incidences might occur. Finally, criminologists aim to control the deleterious effects of crime through creation of enlightened public policy (i.e., whatever governments choose to do or not to do in the process of allocating valuable and limited resources). These are essentially the four goals of anything that calls itself "science". In this course I hope to expose you to a study of crime that captures all the above aims.
Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester students will:

- have developed critical reasoning skills in being able to apply scientific perspectives from multiple disciplines to the analysis of crime causation and management
- know the strengths and weaknesses of various methods of data collection as they relate to the study of crime
- have improved their data interpretation skills
- have improved understanding of specific expressions of criminal conduct (i.e., what is commonly called a typological approach) as well as the role of victims in criminal acts
- to critically examine crime control policy initiatives

Course Texts


Additional readings will be made available as needed.

Student Responsibilities

Course Preparation and Participation: I expect students to be active participants in this class and so you must attend class. Attendance is taken and graded for a total of 50 pts. Each time you miss class when I take a class roll, I deduct 2 points from your 50 pts. total. Visit the Angel course website and keep up with any communications from me and read your assigned chapters. Students must also remain mindful of their course obligations and requirements including assignments and test dates.

Assignments: Written assignments must follow the format specified for this class. We will use the APA format in this course. A link has been provided for you in Angel on the course homepage as well as under "Resources" to the UNA Center for Writing Excellence. A guide to the APA format can be found on the Center's website. Work that is inconsistent with the APA format and other expectations concerning format and professionalism of presentation will be returned to be resubmitted as late work. Please understand that not every assignment requires you to prepare internal citations or reference page/s. I will inform you in my assignment instructions when this is necessary. Failure to submit
assignments on time will result in a maximum 80% grade before grading begins. Late assignments must be submitted within 24 hours of the original due date. Late work will not be accepted after that point.

Written work must be typed (use either an 11 or 12 point font, always use a top, left, right, and bottom margin of 1" and **double-space** the work), grammatically sound, and paginated. Your work will be graded on the basis of content, grammar, adherence to the specified APA format, and conformance to standard expectations related to ethical writing. You must internally cite all your sources where required, avoid lengthy quotes, avoid plagiarism, and **work independently of other students enrolled in this course**. Your work will be returned for resubmission if the above expectations are not met.

This semester you will be responsible for the following assignments:

You will complete 4 mandatory written assignments on specific topics related to this course. Each assignment will count 50 points and the work you produce should NEVER exceed 5 (perhaps 6) typed pages of written text (excluding the APA formatted cover page and reference page/s). Since I expect exceptional content within a limited number of pages, you will have a little more than one week to complete and proof each assignment. Students will receive a three point bonus on these assignments after showing evidence they visited the UNA Center for Writing Excellence and received assistance in improving their written work.

**Examinations:** Examination dates are noted on the tentative course itinerary (see below) but if we deviate from that schedule I will always give you at least one week notice before rescheduling an exam. My examinations for this course are based on multiple-choice, True/False and essay questions.

Examination 1 will count 100 points. Examination 2 will count 100 points. Examination 3 is your final exam and is given during exam week. It will count 150 points and is comprehensive.

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor under extenuating circumstances and requests for make-up quizzes and exams must be made by the student within three days of the scheduled quiz or exam date. Illnesses and death of an immediate family member are the only non-university approved reasons that will justify make-up quizzes or exams. All make-up requests must be accompanied by official written notice and make-up work must be completed on the date defined by the instructor. Instructors are not responsible for informing students of missed work.

**Learning Disabilities Policy:** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or
psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services (RM. 111 in the GUC or 765-4214).

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**Grading**

The following grade point scale (A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and below 60%=F) is employed. No grades are dropped and there is no extra-credit work. Course averages may be calculated at any point in the semester by adding together the total number of points you accumulate from all graded work and then dividing that sum by the total number of points that could possibly have been earned. For example, if a student made 8 out of 10 on a quiz and 45 out of 50 on an exam, the student's grade would be 53 out of 60 or 88.3%. Please remember that your grades will be available through Angel.

Where do my course points come from?

1st. Examination = 100 pts.
2nd. Examination = 100 pts.
3rd. Examination = 150 pts.
4 Mandatory Assignments at 50 pts. each = 200 pts.
Class Attendance = 50 pts.

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**Course Itinerary**

**Date and Event/Subject** (Dates for examinations are tentative)

8/25 - Classes begin
9/6 - Holiday
9/24 - EXAM 1 (tentative date)
10/22 - Fall Break
10/25 - Last day of "W" period
10/29 - EXAM 2 (tentative date)
11/24 - 28 - Holidays
11/29 - End of "WP/WF" Period. Last day to completely withdraw
12/10 - FINAL EXAM (fixed date and time at 8:00am)
12/17 - Commencement

Final Comments

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please contact me. You owe it to yourself to talk with me since I can only help you if I know there is a problem.