

# **SOCI 4432: CRIMINOLOGY (online)**

**Fall 2012**

Professor: Dr. Jennifer McMahan-Howard

As your instructor, I am here to help you succeed. I can offer assistance through e-mail, phone, or in-person. Use GeorgiaVIEW Vista mail to set up an appointment if you need help with an assignment or if you would like to talk about the course content.

- Online Office Hours: By appointment only.
- In-person Office Hours: T/TH 11:00-12:00, SO Rm 4074
- Office Phone: [678-797-2643](tel:678-797-2643) (if I do not answer, please leave a message; voice messages are sent to my cell phone).
- Responses to your work: Unless you are notified otherwise, grades and feedback will be posted within one week of the assignment deadline. In general, grades will appear in MyGrades and feedback will be provided in the same place where you submitted your work.
- Responses to E-mails: I will respond to student e-mails within 48 hours Monday-Friday.

**Course Description:** Prerequisite: CRJU 1101 or SOCI 2201

This course provides an overview of theory and practice, the nature and cause of crime, and the etiology of criminal offenses and offenders. First, we will focus on the nature and extent of crime. We will start by establishing a definition of crime and exploring different methods of studying and measuring crime. Then, we will examine different types of crime (i.e., violent crime, property crime, etc.) in more depth. During the second part of the course, we will explore different theoretical perspectives on the causes of crime. To critically evaluate each of the theories of crime, we will review empirical tests of the theories and apply the theories to current situations and events.

**Course Objectives:** After completing this course, students should be able to:

- (1) Explain the difference between crime and deviance and discuss how laws are constructed and how/why they vary.
- (2) Critically evaluate different sources of crime data.
- (3) Compare and contrast the nature and extent of different types of crime (i.e., violent crimes versus property crimes versus public order crimes).
- (4) Integrate knowledge gained from multiple sources (i.e., text, course reserve articles, activities, etc) and effectively communicate their knowledge and understanding of a particular criminological issue to others.
- (5) Explain different theoretical perspectives that address the causes of crime and apply these theoretical perspectives to real-life events.
- (6) Critically evaluate theoretical explanations of crime.

**Required Readings:**

Criminology: The Core (4<sup>th</sup> edition) by Larry Siegel.

Course Reserve (CR) Articles: Course reserves can be found at <https://kennesaw.ares.atlas-sys.com/>. Login with your NetID and password. You may have to create an ares account if you have not done so already. Click on “search classes” and you can search by instructor or course. Enter the following class password: MJS8QKPRU.

*\*Note: Since we will be reading articles based on qualitative interviews with criminal offenders, some of these articles may contain offensive language.*

**Class Format:** This course is taught fully online. The course is broken up into several modules that must be completed *weekly* (see module due dates on the course outline on page 4). Each module will consist of textbook readings, powerpoints, course reserve readings, activities/discussion posts, and a quiz. In addition to completing the requirements for each module, students must complete two written assignments (3-5 pages each) and pass a midterm and final exam. All assignments, quizzes, discussions, activities, and exams are completed online. Modules will be available two weeks before the module due date and exams will be available one week before the due date. All work for this class must be completed individually. If you need help with an assignment/quiz/exam, ask the professor (not a classmate).

## **Course Requirements:**

(1) **Online Discussion Posts (10%)**: Each week, students must post scholarly discussions on the GeorgiaVIEW discussion board on given topics. Students must also post a response to another student's post. Therefore, for each discussion topic, each student must submit **2 separate posts**. For each weekly module, **students must submit the original discussion post by 10pm on Wednesday and submit the response to another student's post by 10pm on the module due date (Friday)**. **Late postings will not be accepted**. The grading criteria for the online discussion posts can be found in the "Rubrics" folder on the course content page. The posts will be **graded according to their relevance to our readings and the student's ability to display some analytical insight**. Since we will be discussing and debating a number of controversial issues in criminology, it is important to point out that students are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. **All arguments and critiques should be based on empirical evidence and logical reasoning**.

(2) **Module Quizzes (20%)**: Students must complete a 20 question multiple choice quiz at the end of each module. You have an hour to complete the quiz. **PLEASE** take the quiz *after* you have completed all of the readings and activities. I also suggest that you study for the quiz. If you try to look up the answer for each question, you will run out of time. Also, since it is timed, make sure that you will not have any interruptions (i.e., friends, kids, work, etc).

(3) **Exams (40%)**: There are two essay exams for this course and each exam accounts for 20% of your grade. The **first exam** is due by 10pm on 10/05/2012 and the **second exam** is due by 10pm on 12/07/2012. The exams are available a week before the due date. Each exam consists of 4 essay questions and you have 4 hours to complete the exam. Students must type their essay responses and submit their exams both on GeorgiaVIEW Vista **and on turnitin.com**. The turnitin.com class ID is 5342365 and the password is criminology. You should set up an account on turnitin.com before the exam due date.

(4) **Assignments (30%)**: Students must complete **two** assignments for this class each worth 15%.

**Assignment 1: Article Summary and Integration (15%)**: Students must select one of the assigned Course Reserve readings and write a short (3-5 page) paper according to the instructions for Assignment 1 posted in the Assignments folder. **Students must select and sign up for an article during the first week of class**. The grading criteria for this assignment can be found in the Grading Rubrics folder. The paper is due on the module due date (see course calendar). You must submit your paper in turnitin.com. The class ID is **5342365** and the enrollment password is **criminology**.

**Assignment 2: Theory Application** (15%): Students must select at least one criminological theory and apply that theory to a current criminal event (within the past two months) reported in a local newspaper (preferably the AJC). Students must write a short (3-5 page) paper according to the instructions for Assignment 2 posted in the Assignments folder. **Students must select and sign up for a theory during the first week of class.** The grading criteria for this assignment can be found in the Grading Rubrics folder. The paper is due on the module due date (see course calendar). You must submit your paper in turnitin.com. The class ID is **5342365** and the enrollment password is **criminology**.

## Grades and Evaluation

Grades for the course will be based on the following items:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Online Discussion Posts	10%
Module Quizzes	20%
Exams	40%
Assignments	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

A	90 and above
B	80 – 89.9
C	70 – 79.9
D	60 – 69.9
F	59.9 and below

A withdrawal after the midpoint withdrawal deadline (October 12, 2012) will result in a grade of WF.

### Disabilities:

Students with a documented disability should meet with the instructor during the first week of class to discuss any special classroom or testing accommodations needed. Also, a number of services are available to help students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students must visit the Office for disAbled Student Support Services and make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. In most cases, certification of disability is required.

### Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

### Disruption of Campus Life Statement

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/ or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

## Course Outline

Module	Due Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
Module 1	8/24/2012	Defining Crime	Siegel Ch. 1: Crime and Criminology
Module 2	8/31/2012	Measuring Crime/ Crime Rates	Siegel Ch. 2: The Nature & Extent of Crime
Module 3	9/07/2012	Violent Crime	Siegel Ch. 10: Violent Crime CR: <i>Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive</i> CR: <i>Serial Killers</i>
Module 4	9/14/2012	Property Crimes	Siegel Ch. 11 CR: <i>The Thrill of It All</i> CR: <i>Decision Strategies of Residential Burglars</i>
Module 5	9/21/2012	Enterprise Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 12 CR: <i>Denying the Guilty Mind: Accounting for Involvement in White Collar Crime</i> CR: <i>The "Myth of Organization" of International Drug Smugglers</i>
Module 6	9/28/2012	Public Order Crimes	Criminology, Ch. 13 CR: <i>The Second Step in Double Jeopardy: Appropriating the Labor of Female Street Hustlers</i> CR: <i>The Drugs-Crime Connection Among Stable Addicts</i>
<b>EXAM 1</b>	10/05/2012		
Module 7	10/12/2012	Victims and Victimization	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 3 CR: <i>From Victims to Survivors to Offenders</i> CR: <i>Criminal Victimization During One's Life Course</i>
Module 8	10/19/2012	<a href="#">Overview of Theories of Crime</a>	
Module 9	10/26/2012	Choice Theory	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 4 CR: <i>A Descriptive Model of the Hunting Process of Serial Sex Offenders: A Rational Choice Perspective</i>
Module 10	11/02/2012	Trait Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 5
Module 11	11/09/2012	Social Structure Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 6 CR: <i>Code of the Street: Campaigning for Respect</i>
Module 12	11/16/2012	Social Process Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 7 CR: <i>A Test of Social Learning and Intergenerational Transmission Among BATTERERS</i> CR: <i>An Examination of Differential Association and Social Control Theory</i>
Module 13	11/30/2012	Developmental Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 9 CR: <i>Pathways Out of Crime</i> CR: <i>Self-Control, Violent Offending, and Homicide Victimization</i>
<b>EXAM 2</b>	12/07/2012		