

SOCI 4432: CRIMINOLOGY (online)

Fall 2015

Professor: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

As your instructor, I am here to help you succeed. I can offer assistance through e-mail, phone, or in-person. Use D2L email to set up an appointment if you need help with the course.

- Online Office Hours: By appointment only.
- Responses to your work: Unless you are notified otherwise, grades and feedback will be posted within one week of the assignment deadline. You can view your grades by clicking the “Grades” icon in D2L and feedback will be provided in the same place where you submitted your work.
- Responses to Emails: I will respond to student e-mails within 48 hours Monday-Friday.

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

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 (5th 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: -----.

**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. Click on the “Content” icon in D2L to get started. The course is broken up into several modules that must be completed *weekly*. Each module will consist of textbook readings, powerpoints, course reserve readings, activities/discussion posts, and a quiz. **The assigned readings and the due dates for each Module are posted in the “Course Calendar” file.** In addition to completing the requirements for each module, students must successfully complete a 5-7 page paper and pass a midterm and final exam (the due dates for the exams and the paper are posted in the “Course Calendar” file). All quizzes, discussions, papers, and exams are completed and/or submitted online. Modules will be open for two weeks prior to the module due date and exams will be open for one week prior to the due date. All work for this class must be completed individually. If you need help with a quiz, paper, or exam, ask the professor (not a classmate). All work for this class must be completed on time - there are no make-ups for missed discussion posts and quizzes.

Course Requirements:

(1) Online Discussion Posts (20%): *After completing all of the assigned readings*, students must post scholarly discussions on the D2L discussion board on given topics. You should access each discussion topic within each module. For each discussion topic, each student must submit **2 separate posts**: 1) their original post and 2) a response to another student’s post. For the original post (1st post), students should *use ideas/concepts from the assigned course readings* to address all of the questions/issues included in the specific discussion post instructions. **This first post must be submitted by 11:59pm on the Tuesday prior to the module due date (see Course Calendar for module due dates).** For the response to another student’s post (2nd post), students should *use ideas/concepts from the assigned course readings* to provide a critical assessment of the student’s post (agreeing or disagreeing with the post). **This second post must be submitted by 11:59pm on the module due date.** Although students must base their posts on the ideas/concepts from the assigned readings, the posts must be written in the students’ own words (do not copy sentences/paragraphs verbatim from the chapters/powerpoints/articles). **Late postings will not be accepted and there are no make-ups for missed/late discussion posts.** 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 (it is due by 11:59 pm on the module due date: **see Course Calendar for due dates**). The quizzes will include questions from all assigned readings (textbook chapter, powerpoint slides, and course reserve article(s)) for the module. You can access each quiz within each module or by clicking on the D2L “Quizzes” folder at the top of the page. You have 40 minutes 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 (in the text, powerpoint slides, and course reserve article(s)), you will run out of time. Since it is timed, make sure that you will not have any interruptions (i.e., friends, kids, work, etc.). Also, since each quiz is available for two weeks prior to the module due date, **there are no make-up quizzes**; however, I will drop your lowest quiz grade when calculating your quiz average.

(3) Exams (40%): There are two exams for this course and **each exam makes up 20% of your grade.** The exams are due by 11:59 pm on the posted Exam Due Date (**see Course Calendar for dates**). You can access each exam by clicking on the D2L “Quizzes” folder at the top of the page. The exams are available for one week prior to the due date. Each exam consists of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students must answer short answer questions using their own words (you cannot copy/quote verbatim from the readings to answer these questions). Students have 2 hours to complete each exam.

Do not wait until the last minute to complete the exam. Since each exam is “open” for an entire week, make-up exams will only be permitted on a very limited basis (i.e., extreme illness/hospitalization during the entire week). To be considered eligible for a make-up exam, the student must contact the professor *prior to* the exam and provide documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note) to support their request for a make-up exam.

(4) Theory Application Paper (20%): Students must write a 5-7 page theory application paper. For detailed instructions for the paper as well as the grading criteria, click on D2L “Dropbox” folder. Then, click on the “Theory Application Paper” and open the associated PDF document. Students must follow all of the instructions to receive full credit on the assignment. Students must submit their papers in the D2L Dropbox folder by 11:59 pm on the paper due date (**see Course Calendar for the due date**). There is a 10-point penalty for each day (24 hour period) the paper is submitted late. NOTE: D2L includes a plagiarism detection application (turnitin.com), which will be used for this assignment.

Grades and Evaluation

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

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Online Discussion Posts	20%
Module Quizzes	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Theory Application Paper	20%
Total	100%

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 (see Course Calendar) 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.