

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

SOCI 4432/03 CRIMINOLOGY
FALL 2016

Instructor: Ellen Ballard
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Office: Social Science Room 2021

Class Times: Tuesday 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
Thursday Online
Social Science Room 3030
Office Hours: By Appointment

Text:

Cullen, F.T., Agnew, R., & Wilcox, P. (2014). *Criminological theory: Past to present* (5th ed.).
New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Course Description:

This course presents an overview of classical and contemporary criminological theory. Through the examination of original works, students will explore the etiology of criminal offending and desistance from crime. Theoretical explanations of the nature and causes of offending from a variety of disciplines will be presented.

Learning Outcomes:

This class is designed to be an upper-level seminar in which information in various forms will be presented and discussed by both the instructor and students. Through active participation in class, the goals of the course include:

1. Recognize and articulate the key assumptions, central arguments, and core hypotheses of highlighted classical and contemporary criminological theories.
2. Distinguish between micro- (individual) and macro-level explanations of criminal offending and desistance from crime.
3. Identify the key correlates of offending and desistance.
4. Develop critical thinking skills through the assessment and evaluation of course readings.
5. Improve communication skills through formal presentations and participation in class discussions.

Note Regarding Student Learning Outcomes: Each student is different than the next. Depending on several factors outside of the instructor's control (including individual student proficiencies, study habits, and contextual factors), individual student's success in achieving these outcomes may vary.

Course Requirements:

Regular class attendance is expected. Students are expected to stay for the entire class time. Excessive tardiness or early departures will be counted as absences. Students are permitted three absences. Students will have their final grade reduced by one full letter grade for each absence thereafter, regardless of the reason for their absence. Students who miss six or more classes will receive an automatic failure for the course.

Participation (25%): Class discussion will largely take place online using D2L's course discussion board. Each week, 1 discussion question will be posted (totaling 13 questions). Students will comprise an original response to each question. Responses should be no more than 250 words. You must respond to a minimum of 10 discussion questions. The combined total of all discussion question responses is worth 25% of your final grade.

Reaction Papers (25%): Students are responsible for completing 4 reaction papers. In each reaction paper, students will respond to the week's readings. Students will choose which weeks' readings they will respond to. Each reaction paper should be typed, double spaced, with Times Roman 12-point font, and 1" margins). Complete guidelines will be provided in class. The combined total of all reaction papers is worth 25% of your final grade.

Exams: There will be two exams – a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will cover material from in class lectures and discussions, videos, handouts, and the textbook. The final is not cumulative. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Extra Credit: Students can receive up to 10 extra credit points by completing an additional reaction paper for the following texts:

Laub, J.H., & Sampson, R.J. (2003). *Shared beginnings, divergent lives: Delinquent boys to age 70*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

-or-

Maruna, S. (2001). *Making good: How ex-convicts reform and rebuild their lives*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Please note: Extra credit points will be added to students' final point total for the class.

Grading:

The final grade will be assigned as a letter grade, based on the following scale:

A	= 90-100
B	= 80-89
C	= 70-79
D	= 60-69
F	= 0-59

INSTRUCTOR'S CLASS POLICIES

Check DESIRE2LEARN/Brightspace often. Class cancellations and any important announcements will be posted there.

Absences will only be excused when a valid excuse is accompanied and corroborated by sufficient documentation.

If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to get with a classmate to find out what you missed, copy notes, check for any missed announcements, etc. Please do not expect to be provided a private lecture.

No cell phones, laptops, iPads, MP3 players, etc. are allowed in class. All of these devices should be turned to silent or vibrate and stored properly away. If you need to answer a call or text, please quietly step outside. If you have to be asked to store your device more than twice, you will receive an automatic failure for the course.

You are expected to follow the Kennesaw State University's Student Code of Conduct at all times. In addition, side conversations are disruptive and will not be tolerated. Frequent repeat violations will result in the automatic failure for the course.

You are expected to treat fellow students and the instructor with respect. Yelling, name calling, or other aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the course. The instructor reserves the right to further engage the university's Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

No extra credit will be afforded to individuals above and beyond opportunities presented to the entire class. If extra credit is offered at a time when you are unavailable, special provision will not be made.

Final Grades are **NOT** negotiable. Rather than waiting until the end of the term, you should be concerned about losing HOPE, other financial assistance, or eligibility for club sports or athletics from the onset of the course. If you think there has been a legitimate mistake, please do not hesitate to ask.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Last day to withdraw: October 5th

Fall Break: November 21st – 27th

Midterm Exam: October 13th

Last Day of Class: December 1st

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Reading Assignment</u>
August 16 th	Welcome & Syllabus / Criminal Thinking
August 18 th	Online Discussion 1
August 23 rd	The Origins of Modern Criminology (pp. 21-33)
August 25 th	Online Discussion 2

August 30 th	Biosocial and Trait Theories (pp.34-94)
September 1 st	Online Discussion 3
September 6 th	The Chicago School – Social Disorganization (pp. 97-126)
September 8 th	Online Discussion 4
September 13 th	Learning to Be a Criminal (pp.127-165)
September 15 th	Online Discussion 5
September 20 th	Anomie and Strain Theories (pp. 166-211)
September 22 nd	Online Discussion 6
September 27 th	Varieties of Control Theories (pp.212-250)
September 29 th	Online Discussion 7
October 4 th	Catch-Up & Review
October 6th	MIDTERM (ONLINE)
October 11 th	Labeling, Interaction, and Crime (pp.253-283)
October 13 th	Online Discussion 8
October 18 th	Critical Criminology (pp.284-324)
October 20 th	Online Discussion 9
October 25 th	Feminist Theories (pp.325-374)
October 27 th	Online Discussion 10
November 1 st	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories (417-453)
November 3 rd	Online Discussion 11
November 8 th	Environmental Criminology (454-508)
November 10 th	Online Discussion 12
November 15 th	Developmental Theories: Crime and the Life Course (pp.511-557)

November 17 th	Online Discussion 13
November 22nd	FALL BREAK ☺
November 24th	FALL BREAK ☺
November 29 th	Catch-Up & Review
December 1st	FINAL EXAM (ONLINE)

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course and is for planning purposes only. It is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. However, every effort will be made to keep changes to a minimum.