

Missouri State University
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Fall 2018 Syllabus
CRM 320 - 900: Criminological Theory

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Office Hours: MW – 8:45 to 11:15
(Also Available by Appointment)

Course Description:

CRM 320 – 900 is a *blended* course, meaning there is both an online and a seated component. We will meet Monday and Wednesday in class and Friday will be conducted online via our course site “Friday Forums” in Blackboard.

Throughout this course, we will attempt to make a clear distinction between criminal behavior and deviant acts, by defining crime and delinquency within the context of justice, law and society. We will approach the study of criminal and delinquent behavior by understanding the complexity and interconnection between social problems, social definition, personal responsibility, and crime causation. This course will allow you to gain an understanding of the role of criminological theory in understanding the study of crime and its impact on the outcome of social reaction, public perception, and legal response to crime and delinquency.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- To develop a better understanding of the definitions associated with the study of crime and delinquency and to identify the limits of a "legal definition" of crime
- To learn about the immense variety of perspectives, paradigms, and theories concerning crime and criminals in order to appreciate the concepts of diversity within criminal justice administration
- To be able to use tools and concepts of critical thinking/reasoning in order to better assess the variety of issues we will encounter in an effort to increase cultural awareness and sensitivity by applying theory to real life situations
- To gain knowledge of the different methodologies of measuring crime and delinquency and take into account the major sociological variables that influence crime and delinquency rates
- To better understand and analyze methods of controlling criminals and delinquents and be able to evaluate the effectiveness of crime/delinquency control methods using research methodologies
- To increase the ability to collaborate on group projects evaluating criminal justice policy and practice and be able to orally present those findings

Required Text:

Criminology: Connecting Theory, Research and Practice 2nd Edition by Hass, Maloney, & Chambliss. Routledge: NY. 2017.

Course Assessment:

Examination I (Consists of multiple choice, matching, T/F)

Examination II (Consists of multiple choice, matching, T/F)

Examination III (Consists of multiple choice, matching, T/F)
(Examinations comprise **75%** of your overall grade)

Class Attendance and Participation

Participation in class discussions, debates, and assignments will comprise this portion of your grade. A total of 10 group activities/individual assignments will be distributed in class throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to encourage critical thinking, enhance communication skills, and allow you to apply course material to real life experiences. Each activity is worth 10 points, and you will be given full credit for the activity if it is completed in a timely and thorough manner. We will go over specific grading rubrics for each activity as it is distributed. We will also be viewing several films for discussion and reflection on its pertinence to our theories.

(Class Attendance and Participation comprises **25%** of your overall grade)

****Missed assignments/exams will be made up by prior approval and arrangement**

****Grades are based on a 10 point scale, where 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D**

Attendance Policy:

This class is designed to be an integrative experience which allows you to gain a unique understanding of the subject matter through an approach which emphasizes class discussion, group activities, experimental opportunities, and visual components, that go beyond textbook assigned readings. Tests will be overwhelmingly a reflection of class lectures and interaction. Therefore, attendance is essential to positive test outcomes, and will also be reflected in the class attendance/participation component of your grade. Excused absences will not result in automatic grade reduction. However, consistent attendance will benefit the outcome of your grade.

Test Dates:

TEST 1 (Chapters 1-4): ***September 26, 2018***

TEST 2 (Chapters 8-11): ***November 5, 2018***

TEST 3 (Chapters 12-15): ***December 5, 2018***

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

PART I: CRIME, CRIMINAL LAW, AND CRIMINOLOGY

📖 Chapter 1: Crime, Deviance, and Criminology: A Brief Overview

📖 Chapter 2: Crime and Criminal Law

📖 Chapter 3: How Much Crime Is There?

📖 Chapter 4: Doing Criminology: Research and Theory

PART II: AN OVERVIEW OF CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY

📖 Chapter 8: Crime As Rational Behavior: Classical and Rational Choice Theories

📖 Chapter 9: Biological Theories: Crime is in the Brain

📖 Chapter 10: Psychological Theories: Crime in in the Mind

📖 Chapter 11: Social Structure Theories: Crime is in the Structure of Society

📖 Chapter 12: Social Process Theories: Crime is Socialized Behavior

📖 Chapter 13: Social Conflict Theories: Crime is in the Conflict Inherent in Society

PART III: TYPOLOGIES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

📖 Chapter 14: Interpersonal Crimes of Violence

📖 Chapter 15: Crimes Against Property

PART IV: A LOOK AHEAD

University Policy on Nondiscrimination:

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the [Office for Equity and Diversity](#), Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity/.

University Policy on Disability Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library and can also be found at: www.missouristate.edu/assets/provost/AcademicIntegrityPolicyRev-1-08.pdf. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

University Policy on Emergency Response:

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information, you can visit the website at <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>. Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Services. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For additional information students should contact the *Office of Disability Services*, 836-4192 (PSU 405), or Larry Combs, Interim Assistant Director of *Public Safety and Transportation* at 836-6576. For further information on Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan, please refer to the following website: www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm.

University Policy on Cell Phones:

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Facebook

The Department has a Facebook site where we frequently highlight student and faculty accomplishments, as well as provide updates on criminal justice job opportunities and other exciting events happening in the field. You can find our Facebook site at: <https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

Accelerated Master's Program

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers an accelerated Master's program for qualified undergraduate criminology majors. Through this option, you may take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework which simultaneously count as both Bachelor's and Master's credit. By pursuing the accelerated Master's, it is possible for a student to graduate with both his or her Bachelor's Degree and a Master's level certificate in Homeland Security or Community Corrections in a 4-year period. Learn more about our accelerated program at <http://criminology.missouristate.edu/master/accelerated.htm> or contact Dr. Patti Salinas, the Graduate Program Director, at PattiSalinas@MissouriState.edu.
