Introduction to Criminology (SOCl 211)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will examine the field of criminology. We will address the nature, extent and reasons for crime and deviant behavior. In addition, the policy implications of each theoretical model will be discussed. Our inquiry will address three primary questions:

I. How do we measure and define crime?
II. Why do people engage in crime?
III. Why do people choose to not commit crime?

The student will develop a deeper understanding of crime as a form of deviant behavior, as well as the past and present theoretical explanations for deviant and criminal behavior.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students’ final grades will be based on assignments and exams.

| Assignments (10 @ 15 points) | 150 points |
| Exams (3 @ 100 points)      | 300 points |
| Total                       | 450 Points |

Plus/minus grading will be used in this class. Based on the number of points achieved, final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 419 and greater  A- = 405 - 418
B+ = 396 - 404     B- = 360 - 373
C+ = 351 - 359     C- = 315 - 328
D+ = 306 - 314     D- = 270 - 283
F = 269 and lower

Online Assignments

You will be asked to complete an online assignment each week (except for exam weeks). All assignments will be due at 11:00pm on the Friday of the week they are assigned. Further assignment instructions will be given at the beginning of each week. All assignments must be submitted to Moodle as a PDF or Word Document.

The instructor of this course will make all materials for the week available by 11:00pm on the preceding Sunday.

Exams

This course will be broken up into three units (listed below) and each will have an associated exam. Exams will be non-cumulative and will consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching and short answer/essay questions. Exam questions will be taken from the text, PowerPoints, and any other supplemental content provided in that unit.

Unit One: Defining Crime, Criminological Origins, Classical and Biosocial theories of Crime
Unit Two: Psychological, Ecological, and Learning Theories
Unit Three: Strain, Conflict, and Control Theories, Theoretical Evaluation

You will have 60 minutes to complete each exam, and must submit the exam before time expires. While you do have access to your book and notes, it is important to study before taking the exam in order to answer all questions within the given amount of time. Exams must be completed by 11:00pm on Friday of the week they are assigned.

I will provide a study guide one week prior to each exam.
Missed Exam Policy
If a student is unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, they must notify the instructor prior to missing the exam. If the student fails to notify the instructor, they will receive a failing grade for that exam. No makeup quizzes will be permitted. In the case of an illness (verified by a doctor’s note) or other documented emergencies, the instructor will make appropriate accommodations for a make-up quiz.

Extra Credit
There are no extra credit opportunities available in this course, except for the Fun Quiz in week 1.

Expectations of Students

Students with disabilities
Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me on the first day of class. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

Academic misconduct
All students must practice academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, collaboration on assignments and exams is considered academic misconduct and will result in a failing grade for the course. According to the Mansfield library website, “Plagiarism is defined in the UM Student Conduct Code as representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own. Consequences include failing an assignment, failing a course, or even expulsion.”

Student-instructor email communication
To protect privacy, the instructor of this course is only able to communicate to students through university email. This is your official University of Montana account. I will not reply to any other account with personal information.

When contacting me through email, be professional and courteous. Please include the course number or course name (SOCI 211 or Intro to Criminology) in the subject line of your email. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours. It is your responsibility to review the materials and assignments at the beginning of the week and ask questions in a timely manner. If I have not responded within 24 hours, please send me an email at my alternate email address (sarasraschi@gmail.com), as it could be possible that my university email is not working.

If you have general questions about the syllabus, assignments or course content that you think are pertinent to other students, you can post these questions on the Q & A discussion board. If you have a question that only pertains to you, please email me.

UMOnline-Moodle
This course requires that you be able to navigate the UMOnline platform-Moodle. I will do my best to make course navigation very clear, but for those with more technical issues, I will be of little help. If you need assistance with this platform, please contact the UMOnline team at umonline-help@umontana.edu, or call 406-243-4999 (866-255-1641- toll free).

Student success expectations
To be successful in this course, students should:

- Carefully read and print out this syllabus to keep as a reference
- Log on to Moodle and check your email everyday to check for new announcements and content
- Keep up with readings and course content (while the course content for each week will not be posted until Sunday evening, you can start reading the chapters in your text as specified by the course schedule). Complete the readings before working on your assignments.
- Review study guides before taking the exam.
• All assignments should be grammatically correct, and written in paragraph form. Failure to submit a professional and academic assignment will result in point deduction
• Submit all assignments and exams on time. No credit will be given for late assignments
• Maintain contact with the instructor of the course. Do not feel like you are “bothering” me with emails. I encourage communication to ensure that you have a clear understanding of course content and assignments. Be sure to contact me immediately when you are having a problem.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Each week I will post a list of content items in a content folder that you should review before completing your assignment. The content types are listed below:

**Required Reading**


Supplemental readings will be made available on Moodle.

**PowerPoint**

I will post a PowerPoint presentation each week (except for week 1) to highlight certain points in the text, and to add content that the text may not cover. However, it is important to note that the PowerPoint presentation is NOT a substitute for reading the book. I will occasionally add audio to the PowerPoint. If a slide has audio, I will put an asterisk (*) at the end of the title of that slide. If you play that slide as a slideshow (and turn your volume up), you will be able to hear the content.

**Video Lectures**

From time to time, there may be information that needs to be communicated through a short video. I will upload these files directly to Moodle, and you should be able to play them on your computer.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1: JANUARY 26-30**

Content: Introduction
Readings: Moodle Content
**Fun Quiz:** Worth 5 extra credit points (Syllabus Review and Information About You!) due by 11:00pm on Friday, January 30

**WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 2-6**

Content: Theoretical Criminology and Measuring Crime
Readings: Chapter 1 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #1 by 11:00pm on Friday, February 6, 2015

**WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 9-13**

Content: Classical and NeoClassical Criminology
Readings: Chapter 2 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #2 due by 11:00pm on Friday, February 13, 2015

**WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 16-20**

Content: Biosocial Theories of Crime
Readings: Chapter 3 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #3 due by 11:00pm on Friday, February 20
WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 23-27
Content: No new content (Exam Week)
Exam #1 must be completed by 11:00pm on Friday, February 27, 2015

WEEK 6: MARCH 2-6
Content: Psychological Theories of Crime
Readings: Chapter 4 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #4 due by 11:00pm on Friday, March 6

WEEK 7: MARCH 9-13
Content: The Social Ecology of Crime
Readings: Chapter 5 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #5 due by 11:00pm on Friday, March 13

WEEK 8: MARCH 16-20
Content: Learning and Cultural Transmission Theories
Readings: Chapter 6 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #6 due by 11:00pm on Friday, March 20

WEEK 9: MARCH 23-27
Content: No New Content (Exam Week)
Exam #2 must be completed by 11:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2015

WEEK 10: MARCH 30 – APRIL 3    SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11: APRIL 6-10
Content: Strain Theories of Crime
Readings: Chapter 7 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #7 due by 11:00pm on Friday, April 10

WEEK 12: APRIL 13-17
Content: Control Theories of Crime
Readings: Chapter 8 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #8 due by 11:00pm on Friday, April 17

WEEK 13: APRIL 20-24
Content: Theories of Social Conflict
Readings: Chapter 9 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #9 due by 11:00pm on Friday, April 24

WEEK 14: APRIL 27- MAY 1
Content: Evaluating and Integrating Theory
Readings: Chapter 10 (Miller et al. text 2015) and other Moodle Content
Assignment #10 due by 11:00pm on Friday, May 1

WEEK 15: MAY 4-8
Content: No new content (Exam Week)
Exam #3 must be completed by 11:00pm on Friday, May 8, 2015