

Angelina College
Business & Technology Division
CRIJ 1307 – Crime in America
Spring 2019 – Wednesday – 6:00pm to 8:40pm
Syllabus

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:

A. Course Description:

CRIJ 1307 – Three (3) hours credit. American crime problems in historical perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime.

B. Intended Audience:

Freshman level course.

C. Instructor:

Name: Angel C. Eason, M.S.

Office Location: Room 133 – Technology & Workforce Building – Angelina College, Lufkin

Office Hours: All times by appointment only.

Phone: 936-633-5246 (division office)

E-mail Address: aeason@angelina.edu (best and preferred method of contact)

II. INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

A. Core Objectives:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

B. Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will gain familiarity with terminology that is common to the field of criminology
2. Students will develop an understanding of the science of criminology including its history and the development of criminological thought over time.
3. Students will understand the difference between criminal justice and criminology, but will also understand how criminal justice and criminology exist to support each other as both an academic discipline and means of practical application.
4. Students will develop an understanding of the various theories that address the causes of crime, including Classical, Rational Choice, Biological, Psychological, and Sociological theoretical areas.
5. Students will recognize and understand the various types of crime, including violent crime, property crime, enterprise crime and public order crime and how the various criminological theories can be used to explain and combat such crime types.
6. Students will understand how the practical components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections) and the governmental systems that support them use criminological theories to develop policies, practices, and laws that address crime and criminal justice matters.

III. ASSESSMENT MEASURES

A. Assessments for the Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking: Students will engage in assigned readings and will be presented with oral and visual lecture content. The student will be able to demonstrate the ability to think creatively, to innovate, inquire, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information. On multiple occasions during the course, students will divide into small groups of 2-3 individuals and will develop a working policy, practice, or law that could be applied to the real world of criminal justice that is based upon the ideas and assumptions of a given criminological theory that is being discussed in class at that time. This written assignment will assist in testing student knowledge, interpretation, and synthesis of comparative theories, current research, and social issues. Outcome will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Critical Thinking Skills.

2. Communication: Students will orally present a criminal justice policy, practice, or law that is based upon a criminological theory being analyzed in the course. Students will present their project to the class as a whole via an oral and visual presentation. Communication skills will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Communication Skills.

3. Personal Responsibility: Students will be required to make choices in the completion of course written assignments and/or exams that demonstrate their ability to connect choices and actions, engage in ethical decision-making, and understand its consequences. A rubric will be used to assess personal responsibility as demonstrated through embedded questions on standardized exams.

B. Assessments for Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be exposed to the terminology that is common to the field of criminology through assigned readings and course lectures. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of various projects and major exams.

2. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, and group projects will expose students to the history of criminology and inform them of criminology being a field of scientific research. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the history of criminology and its role as a field of scientific research via participation in questioning (Socratic) and successful completion of major exams and projects.

3. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, and group projects will examine the difference between criminal justice and criminology, and will explain how the two disciplines are interdependent of each other. Students will show their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of major exams and projects.

4. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, and group projects will inform students of the various theories that address the causes of crime. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the various Classical, Rational Choice, Biological, Psychological, and Sociological theories of crime via successfully answering embedded exam questions AND by developing a proposal for a law, criminal justice agency policy, or agency practice that is based upon the ideas of a theory or theories we have studied in the course. Students will orally present their proposals to the class as a whole. The Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Critical Thinking Skills and Communication Skills will be used for assessment.

5. Classroom lectures, assigned readings and group projects will inform students of the various types and classifications of crime as well as how various criminological theories can be used to explain and combat these various crime types and classifications. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic through group discussions, questioning (Socratic), completion and delivery of an oral presentation, and via successful completion of major exams.

6. Assigned readings and classroom lectures will address how the agencies of the criminal justice system and the governmental systems that support these agencies use criminological theories to develop, policies, practices, and laws to address crime and criminal justice matters. Students will demonstrate

their understanding of this important topic through group discussions, questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of major exams and projects.

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

Methodologies that may be utilized in presenting course content will include a combination of lectures, small group exercises, written assignments, oral presentations, videos, guest speakers, field-trips, reading assignments, and major exams. Internet research may be required for this course at various times. All criminal justice courses whether online or in-person will have an online Blackboard feature that allows students to access power-point presentations, assignments, the course syllabi and other relevant information.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

A. Required Textbook(s) and Recommended Readings, Materials and Equipment:

Required Textbook:

1. Akers, R.L., and Sellers, C.S. *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*. Most current edition. Oxford University Press, USA.

Recommended Books:

1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.
2. Current edition of either *Blacks Law Dictionary* or *Oran's Dictionary of the Law*

Other Materials:

1. Each student must have a Scantron Form 882-E and number 2 pencil for use on each exam.
2. Spiral notebook or binder for note taking
3. Highlighter for textbook review, etc.
4. Computer with internet access. Familiarity with Microsoft Word and Microsoft Power-Point

B. Course Policies:

Academic Assistance:

Educational Accommodations – If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you may fill out the Educational Accommodations application within your AC Portal, under the “Student Services” tab. A Student Success team member will contact you once the application is received. At a post-secondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability in order to receive services; for questions regarding the application process you can visit the Office of Student Success and Inclusion in the Student Center (205A); text 936.463.8078; or email access@angelina.edu. To report any complaints of discrimination related to a disability, you should contact Mr. Steve Hudman, Dean of Student Affairs, in Room 101 of the Student Center. You may also contact Dean Hudman by calling (936) 633-5292 or by emailing shudman@angelina.edu.

Attendance:

The official Angelina College attendance policy will be followed, meaning **a student can be dropped from class by the instructor after 3 consecutive absences or 4 cumulative (total) absences**. This does not include absences for college-authorized activities, but it does include absences for illness or any other reason. If a student obtains their 4th or additional absence after the drop date for the semester, automatic failure of the course will result. Once a student is dropped by the instructor readmission to the course is prohibited....regardless of the reason or excuse the student may or may not have. Additionally, **if you desire to drop the class, you should take the necessary steps to complete the drop on your own. Just because the instructor can drop you from the class, does not mean you can assume a drop will occur. This is a matter of personal responsibility you must take care of on your own.**

For the purposes of all Criminal Justice classes an absence is defined as follows: failure to attend class, failure to sign class attendance log, leaving class early, talking, sleeping, or any other disruptive behavior in class.

Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor:

Student Behavior:

Criminal Justice is an academic discipline and career choice that requires a high degree of professional character and moral conduct. Students are expected to engage in pro-social, ethical, and legal conduct both on campus and in private life. Additionally college is a time for personal growth and personal responsibility. All students who are going to be successful in Criminal Justice courses will be required to display observable qualities that display personal responsibility.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Please see the Student Handbook for Angelina College's definition of and policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students engaging in any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty – which is the unacknowledged use of anyone else's work (published or unpublished) or **cheating of any kind, will result in immediate and irrevocable failure of the entire course.** Criminal Justice is not a major or profession for cheaters and such behavior will not be tolerated at Angelina College.

All cell-phones must be turned off upon entering the classroom. If an emergency situation requires the monitoring of a cell phone during class time, prior notice to the instructor is required. During exams, nothing will be allowed in proximity to the student except the exam and Scantron. **If any student is observed using a cell phone, iPod, computer, headphones, or any other unnecessary object/device during an exam, the student will be excused from the classroom and will receive a zero on the exam in question.**

Other Rules:

Students are expected to properly dispose of all trash in the appropriate receptacle adjacent to the door.

It is the policy of this instructor and of Angelina College that you not bring children or other guests to class.

If I am talking or another student is talking as it pertains to class assignments, you do not.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

A. Grading Criteria:

Grades in this course will be derived from scores earned on three (3) exams, and five (5) group projects discussed as follows:

1. Exams:	<u>Point Value:</u>
a. Exam #1	100 points (25%)
b. Exam #2	100 points (25%)
c. Final Exam	100 points (25%)

All exams are usually (but not exclusively) multiple choice and/or true-false questions. You will need a Scantron 882-E and pencil to complete all exams. In the event of essay or discussion questions, you may need notebook paper to write and submit your exam answers.

2. Theory to Policy Development Group Projects	Five (5) assignments during semester worth 20 points each for 100 points total (25%)
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Five (5) times throughout the semester, students will divide into groups of two (2) students to complete a Theory to Policy Development exercise in class. In this course we will be discussing various criminological theories in the class lectures. Theories by themselves are mostly useless, they only become useful when they are used to create some policy, practice, law, regulation, or program that can be applied in the 'real world' to prevent or reduce the effects of crime. Each group will be required to create and draft a written policy based on a theory we have been discussing and then orally present their idea to the class as a whole. Additionally, students will complete summaries during the group work of the theories discussed – as an aid for studying. Grades will be derived based on assignment participation, attendance, completeness, and the potential utility of the policy in the real world. Additionally, each project will be graded on how well the proposal adheres to the ideas of the theory used to create it. Each group project will be worth twenty (20) possible points. At semester's end, the five (5) grades on the policy development exercises will be added together to determine this portion (25%) of your overall semester grade. Since each of the five (5) policy development assignments are worth twenty (20) points, it is possible to earn up to 100 points – this total will then be averaged with the three (3) exam scores (which are worth 25% each) to determine your final average. If you miss class on the day of, or otherwise fail to complete the requirements of this assignment you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment in question. No make-ups are available for missed Theory to Policy Exercises.

3. Late Assignments or Missed Exams (**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**):

There will be **no make-up exams given in ANY criminal justice class**. Additionally, in courses where other assignments are required, **no late assignments will be accepted for any reason**. There will be no exceptions to this policy, regardless of the reason. Failure to take exams or complete assignments as scheduled, will result in a zero for the exam/assignment in question. All students should pay careful attention to the syllabus, exam dates, and be attentive in class as it relates to the discussion of important dates for assignments and/or exams. **If you intend to be in this class and earn college credit hours upon its completion, you MUST be present on key dates when the exams are given or assignments are due.**

B. Determination of Grade:

The three (3) exams given throughout the semester will count equally (25% each) toward your final course grade. The remaining 25% comes from the point total of the five (5) policy development exercises. The three exams and final point total from the 5 policy development grades will be added together and divided by 4 to determine the overall final course grade. This final average will lead to the following letter grades:

Computation of Course Grade:

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

Additional Information on Determination of Grade:

Your grade will be a strict interpretation of your earned exam / assignment scores. There will be NO extra credit opportunities available in ANY criminal justice course. Your grade will reflect what you earn; this then is a reflection of the work you put into class attendance, class participation, and studying.

VII. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made. These changes may take place at any time for any reason as determined by the instructor.

VIII. ANGELINA COLLEGE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION STUDENT INFORMATION:

As a student enrolled in a Technology & Workforce program, you will encounter certain risks while you are in a classroom, laboratory experience, or in a clinical or practicum setting. In the event that you sustain an injury and/or require any medical testing or care, all resulting medical expenses (hospital, ambulance, or physician fees), are your financial responsibility and not the responsibility of Angelina College or the clinical/practicum site.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE:

The following is a tentative schedule of topics, assignments, and exams to be covered during the semester. You will be notified in class of any calendar changes. Also, please be sure to log in to Blackboard regularly for additional information regarding this course – such as access to this syllabus and all in class power-point lectures that supplement each of the following topics.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment / Topic</u>
Wednesday January 16	First Class Day; Syllabus Review; Introductions; etc Chapter 1 – Introduction to Criminological Theory
Wednesday January 23	Chapter 2 – Classical, Deterrence, and Rational Choice Theories Theory to Policy Development – Group Assignment #1
Wednesday January 30	Chapter 3 – Biological and Biosocial Theories Chapter 4 – Psychological Theories
Wednesday February 6	Chapter 5 – Social Learning Theory Theory to Policy Development – Group Assignment #2 Wrap up Chapters 1-5; Review for Exam #1
Wednesday February 13	Exam #1 (Chapters 1-5) Chapter 6 – Social Bonding and Control Theory
Wednesday February 20	Review Exam #1 Results Chapter 7 – Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory
Wednesday February 27	Theory to Policy Development – Group Assignment #3 Chapter 8 – Social Disorganization Theory
Wednesday March 6	Chapter 9 – Anomie and Strain Theories Chapter 10 – Conflict Theory
Wednesday March 13	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Wednesday March 20	Wrap up Chapters 5-10; Review for Exam #2
Wednesday March 27	Exam #2 (Chapters 5-10) Theory to Policy Development – Group Assignment #4
Monday April 1	Last Day to Drop with a "W" (Not an April Fools' Joke)
Wednesday 3	Review Exam #2 Results Chapter 11 – Marxist Theories

Wednesday April 10	Chapter 12 – Radical and Critical Theories Chapter 13 – Feminist Theories
Wednesday April 17	Theory to Policy Development – Group Assignment #5 Chapter 14 – Developmental and Life-Course Theories
Wednesday April 24	Chapter 15 – Integrating Criminological Theories Final Exam Review (Chapters 11-15)
Wednesday May 1	Final Exam <u>will be given this day</u> (Last Class Day) Final Exam for CRIJ 1307 will cover Chapters 11-15
See AC Final Exam Schedule	http://www.angelina.edu/final-exam-schedule/

***ALL Dates, Assignments, and Topics are subject to change.**