

## **Criminology** *Spring 2010*

Course: **CRJ 106 00 2**  
Credits: 3  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

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### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the systematic study of crime and the criminal justice system, including the police, courts and prisons. This course will examine ideas such as social control, the social causes and social definitions of crime as well as society's reaction to crime and criminal behavior. It also focuses on the impact issues such as race, gender, ethnicity and social class have on crime. Policy decisions regarding the police and law enforcement, the courts, juvenile offenders, crime victims, and the various functions of punishment including retribution, social protection, rehabilitation and deterrence are also examined.

The course is designed to be taught in three distinct units. The first unit will examine what is crime; how is it defined; why is it measured; and how is it measured. The second unit will deal with the study of crime theory. We will discuss the origins of crime theory, and evaluate the major biological, psychological, sociological and environmental theories. The third and final stage will examine crime typologies. This course will be conducted as a hybrid. Students, in lieu of some classes, will be responsible for lectures, tests, readings and exercises found at [www.prenhall.com/c1](http://www.prenhall.com/c1) and access the site with your access code.

### **Course Objectives**

Through this course, the intent is to assist the student to develop and use critical thinking skills to:

1. Gain a greater understanding of how the definition of crime and criminality effects its measurement and its theoretical framework.
2. Develop an understanding of how "classical" and "positivist" theorists have impacted the study of crime.
3. Distinguish between theories based on biological, sociological, psychological and economical attributes.
4. Develop an ability to critically analyze individual theories to establish their strengths and weaknesses.

## **Course Outcomes**

Students will demonstrate how defining crime and criminality establishes a baseline for the study of criminal behavior.

*Assessment:* Students will read selected chapters from Criminology Today, participate in class discussion and excel in a written examination.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of how “classical” and “positivist” theorists have laid the foundation for the modern day examination of crime and offender characteristics.

*Assessment:* Students will read selected chapters from Criminology Today, participate in class discussion and excel in a written examination.

Students will be able to describe the differences between biological, sociological, psychological and economical crime theories and provide insight into the criticisms of each.

*Assessment:* Students will read selected chapters from Criminology Today, participate in class discussions, excel in a written examination, and complete an oral presentation on the concepts of an assigned theory.

## **Texts and Readings**

Schmalleger, Frank (2009). *Criminology Today*, (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall. With website access [www.prenhall.com/c1](http://www.prenhall.com/c1)

## **Student Assignments**

Each student is expected to do high quality work in completing the following assignments:

1. To regularly attend all class periods and read all assigned readings.
2. Students will take 6 online examinations and 4 in-class examinations throughout the class term.

Students must complete ALL of the student assignments and may not ‘opt out’ of an assignment. By opting out of an assignment, the student will fail the course.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to

a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behavior that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest College education.

*Furthermore:*

Students are expected to have prompt and regular classroom attendance in accordance with the policy stated on the syllabus.

Faculty are expected to make clear on the first day of class reasons for specific classroom decorum and repercussions for non-compliance. Faculty should be aware of setting boundaries and procedures for exceptions to expectations stated in the syllabus.

Sleeping, or the appearance of sleeping is strictly prohibited. Any student who is observed sleeping will receive a zero for the class participation portion of the course. Repeated events will result in any student failing the course. Any student who is observed sleeping during a guest lecture will fail the course without question.

Cell phones AND text messaging are strictly prohibited.

Students need to understand that open discussion is encouraged and expected in order to foster an advanced learning environment. However, all students should use caution when sharing personal information. There is a point to which personal experiences are detrimental to the learning environment.

### **Honor Philosophy**

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy is based upon the principle that, as a self-governing body, students have the ability to create an atmosphere of trust and support. Within this environment, individuals are empowered to make their own decisions, develop personal regard for the system under which they live, and achieve a sense of integrity and judgment that will guide them through life.

### **Grading**

Participation	10 %
Written Examinations	<u>90 %</u> (9% for each)
	100 %

## **Attendance Policy**

Students may be absent without penalty to their grade on one occasion. Any student absent on 2 to 3 occasions will have their attendance grade reduced by 25%; any student absent on 4 or 5 more occasions will receive a zero for class participation; and any student absent on 6 or more occasions will not pass the course. All absences must be discussed with the instructor in advance, with the exception of medical emergencies.

Attendance at guest lectures is mandatory unless previously discussed with the instructor. Any student missing a guest lecture without prior permission will receive a zero for class participation.

## **Course Outline**

### ***Week 1 (1/19)***

#### **CONTENT:**

- Introduction
- Introduction to Criminology
- Website
- What is Criminology?
- What is Crime?
- Social Context of Crime

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 1/21 Chapter 1  
Web: Intro to Theory  
What is Theory?
  - What is Theory?
- 1/26 Chapter 2  
Web: Intro to Crimes
  - Definitions and Measuring Crime
  - Crime Analysis
  - Exercise #1

## ***Week 2 (1/26)***

### **CONTENT:**

- Patterns of Crime
- Crime Statistics
- Patterns of Charge
- Major Crimes
- Unreported Crime
- Social Dimensions of Crime

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/2 Chapter 3
  - Web: Intro to Theory
    - What is Theory?
  - Definitions, Concepts, Statements
  - Variable Relationships
  - Hypothesis, Theory, Research and Policy
    - Build a Theory
    - Exercise (test)

## ***Week 3 (2/2)***

### **CONTENT:**

- Theory
- Theory Building
- Research, Experimentation

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/9 Chapter 4
  - Web: Theories of Crime
  - Classical School
    - 1. Theory explained
    - 2. Theory in action
  - Case files 1 and 2

**Week 4 (2/9)**

**CONTENT:**

- Classical and Neoclassical

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/11 Web: Theory of Crime  
Classical School
- Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - Review
  - **TEST 1**, Essay section test, DUE 2/11

**2/11 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/16 Chapter 5  
Web: Theory of Crime  
Biological Theories
- Theory explained

**Week 5 (2/16)**

**CONTENT:**

- Biological Results of Criminal Behavior

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/18 Web: Theory of Crime  
Biological Theories
- Theories in Action  
Case files 1 and 2
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - **TEST 2**, Essay section test

**2/18 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/23 Chapter 6  
Web: Theory of Crime  
Psychological Themes
- Theory explained

**Week 6 (2/23)**

**CONTENT:**

- Psychological Foundations of Criminal Behavior

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 2/25 Web: Theory of Crime  
Psychological Theories
- Theory in action
  - Case files 1 and 2
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - **TEST 3**, Essay section test

**2/25 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/2 Chapter 7  
Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Structure Theories
- Theories explained

**Week 7 (3/2)**

**CONTENT:**

- Social Structure Themes

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/4 Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Structure Themes  
Theory in action
- Case files 1 and 2
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - **TEST 4**, Essay section test

**3/4 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/16 Chapter 8  
Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Process Theory
- Theory explained

**Week 8 (3/16)**

**CONTENT:**

- Social Process Theories

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/18 Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Process Theory
- Theory in action
  - Case files 1 and 2
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - **TEST 5**, Essay section test

**3/18 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/23 Chapter 9  
Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Conflict Theory
- Theory explained

**Week 9 (3/23)**

**CONTENT:**

- Social Conflict Theories

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/25 Web: Theory of Crime  
Social Conflict Theory
- Theory in action
  - Case files 1 and 2
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - **TEST 6**, Essay section test

**3/25 No Class**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 3/30 Chapter 10  
Web: Types of Crime  
Violent Crime
- Crime explained



***Week10 (3/30)***

**CONTENT:**

- Crimes Against Persons

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 4/1 Web: Types of Crime  
Violent Crime
- Identifying crimes exercise
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - Review

***4/1 No Class***

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 4/8 Chapter 11  
Web: Types of Crime  
Crimes Against Property
- Crime explained

***Week11 (4/8)***

**CONTENT:**

- Crimes Against Property
- In-Class **TEST 7** – Violent Crime

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 4/13 Web: Types of Crime  
Crime Against Property
- Identifying crimes exercise
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - Review

***4/13 Crimes Against Property, continued***

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 4/15 Chapter 12  
Web: Types of Crime  
White Collar Crime – Organized Crime
- Crime explained

**Week12 (4/15)**

CONTENT:

- White Collar Crime – Organized Crime
- In-Class **Test 8** – Crimes Against Property

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 4/20 Web: Types of Crime  
White Collar Crime – Organized Crime
- Identifying crimes exercise
  - Readings, Research and Key Terms
  - Review

**4/20** White Collar Crime – Organized Crime, continued

ASSIGNMENTS:

4/22 Chapter 13

**Week13 (4/22)**

CONTENT:

- Public Order – Drug Crimes
- In-Class **Test 9** – White Collar Crimes

ASSIGNMENTS:

4/27 Chapter 14

**4/27** Technology & Crime

ASSIGNMENTS:

4/29 Chapter 15

**Week14 (4/29)**

CONTENT:

- Globalization / Terrorism

ASSIGNMENTS:

5/4 Study for Test 10, Chapters 14 and 15

5/4

- **Test 10** – Tech & Crime / Globalization & Terrorism