Criminology  
Spring 2010

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

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Office hours: By appointment

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**


**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>10 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Examinations</td>
<td>90 % (9% for each)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100 %</td>
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**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
  o Build a Theory
  o 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

ASSIGMENTS:
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

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

Week 7 (3/2)

CONTENT:
- Social Structure Themes

ASSIGMENTS:
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

ASSIGMENTS:
3/16 Chapter 8
Web: Theory of Crime
   Social Process Theory
   - Theory explained
Week 8 (3/16)

CONTENT:
- Social Process Theories

ASSIGMENTS:
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

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

Week 9 (3/23)

CONTENT:
- Social Conflict Theories

ASSIGMENTS:
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

ASSIGMENTS:
3/30  Chapter 10
      Web:  Types of Crime
      Violent Crime
      - Crime explained
Week 10 (3/30)

CONTENT:
- Crimes Against Persons

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

4/1 No Class

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

Week 11 (4/8)

CONTENT:
- Crimes Against Property
- In-Class TEST 7 – Violent Crime

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

4/13 Crimes Against Property, continued

ASSIGMENTS:
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

ASSIGMENTS:
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

ASSIGMENTS:
4/22 Chapter 13

Week13 (4/22)

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

ASSIGMENTS:
4/27 Chapter 14

4/27 Technology & Crime

ASSIGMENTS:
4/29 Chapter 15

Week14 (4/29)

CONTENT:
- Globalization / Terrorism

ASSIGMENTS:
5/4 Study for Test 10, Chapters 14 and 15
- **Test 10** – Tech & Crime / Globalization & Terrorism