

Course Syllabus

CJ& 112 Introduction to Criminology

Winter 2011

Dr. Michael Caldero

Office: Online

Office Hours: Monday through Sunday (online)

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Class meets online

Textbook: Textbook: Criminology: A Sociological Approach, Beirne and Messerschmidt, Oxford University Press, 5th Edition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT:

The course is designed to make students aware that the objective of Criminology is the development of a body of general and verified principles and of other types of knowledge regarding the process of law, crime, and treatment or prevention. These bodies of knowledge are constructed from study and analysis conducted in accordance with the scientific principles of research methodology.

To accomplish these broad objectives, the course will be divided into three parts. Each part is necessary in order to adequately study crime and the theories that explain it.

1. The first part of the course will be dedicated to understanding what criminology is and how it came to be something that we study.

2. Second, we will examine all of the major theories in criminology. These theories explain crime as a social phenomena and individual criminal behavior in many different ways. Some theories explain criminal behavior as a deficiency in the individual, while others explain that crime occurs because of inadequacies within society.

3. The course will end with a more applied approach to study of crime. We will discuss different types of crime, and how these types can be explained using our theories from the previous section.

At the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of crime and criminology. This knowledge will enable you to view the relevant issues surrounding the question of criminal behavior from more than one perspective.

Syllabus test: During the **first week** of this course you will need to take the "syllabus test", it is worth ten points and can only be taken during the first week. Just click on the "syllabus test" icon **after** you have finished reading this syllabus.

You must have:

- Internet access
- Text
- An open mind

Technological Objective:

To master the simple use of any computer that happens to be available. Many of your assignments and readings will be located on the Internet. Outcomes: You will be expected to research information on a website. With that information, you will be expected to create a paper and to post your research in the discussion forum.

Praxis Objective:

To recognize differences between theory, factual knowledge, and the application and synthesis of that knowledge in praxis. Outcomes: You will apply theoretical discussions to examples within their own institutions, as they relate to race and ethnicity. Focus on conceptually linking criminological theory to current events and personal narratives shared in discussions.

What you can expect in this class:

Etiquette and Netiquette

Netiquette:

Threaded discussion posts in online course spaces are an integral part of online learning environments. A feeling of safety is basic for any collaborative dialogue. An overview of the process of creating and participating in a safe discussion environment is provided in the online course space.

Critical Engagement Criteria:

In addition to the netiquette guidelines for online collaboration, you will be expected to participate in the online discussions in a way that engages with the topic and with the other participants. An overview of the criteria used in this course to evaluate your participation through your original and response posts is provided in the online course space.

Critical Thinking-

The ability to think and write critically is essential skills in many walks of life. Critical thinking skills are developed and refined through practice, self-reflection, and the critique and support of peers and instructors. Throughout this course you will have many opportunities to exercise your analytical thinking, synthesize information, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

Deadlines/Due Dates - All due dates and deadlines are firm. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from me. The absolute final deadline for ALL course work is every Sunday no later than 11:55 PM PST.

Communicating - It is your responsibility to communicate to me any emergency and/or other situations in a timely manner prohibiting you from completing a task. Communicating to me your emergency is important for you to receive any extension on any assignments, exams, etc.

Groupwork: You may work in study groups on all exercises, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Cooperative learning groups are strongly encouraged. **However, you may not collaborate in any manner what-so-ever during the taking of exams, doing so will result in immediate failure of this class.**

WARNING: THIS IS NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL COURSE WHERE I LECTURE AND YOU QUIETLY TAKE NOTES. I ENCOURAGE A COOPERATIVE LEARNING APPROACH AS WELL AS SEVERAL EXPERIMENTAL AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING/LEARNING TECHNIQUES. GROUPWORK IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THIS COURSE!

What you can expect for assignments:

1. Assigned textbook reading (About 1 chapter a week)
2. Weekly Discussion Board
3. Five (5) **2+ page** Written Papers
4. One (1) Mid-Term Exam and One (1) Final Exam (timed)
5. One Final Paper (5 pages of text in length)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS: If you want to score the maximum possible points for all your papers and discussion here is some very important information. **First**, and most important is to be sure you utilize the APA referencing format in both the body of your paper and at the end which is a "**reference**" page not a "bibliography" or a "works cited" page. The instructions for the APA format can be found on the class website, or the Bellevue College website or in the bookstore. **Second**, utilize more than one reference. This means more than one outside source other than the text book. **Third, do not use WIKEPEDIA as a reference**, it is not a recognized source for any academic work. **Fourth**, do not copy a classmate's work and do not paraphrase from a reference source. If you copy someone's writings reference it properly in the body of your work and be sure to use proper quotation marks. In addition, when posting **discussions** remember that you must also respond to at least two other students discussions, **failure to do so will mean that your discussion will not earn you any (as in 0) points.**

The idea behind these assignments is to encourage the production of proper scholarly activity and the pursuit of course directed research and knowledge through writings and peer interaction. Properly done research papers are the heart of college level learning and something you must learn to master.

Weekly Discussions:

You will apply principles you are learning and participate in discussion with the online class on the information covered in the assigned reading. You must participate in each discussion and must respond to at least two (2) discussions.

Your Requirements:

You are responsible for writing (5) Five Essay papers, double spaced, and no more than a 12 font, on topics we will be covering. You must submit these papers on to the ASSIGNMENT ATTACHMENT.

PLEASE NOTE that your exam questions will be developed from **three sources**, your **textbook**, the **lecture material** and **Bulletin Board Postings**. So be sure to read all three carefully.

Grading:

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Your course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Mid-Term and Final Exam: 100 points (each)

Five (5) - Essay papers: 100 points

Discussion Board: 100 points

Final Paper: 100 points

Total 500 Points

Grades and Grading

Grades on assignments are calculated using a 100-point scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-
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100-95	94-90	89-86	85-84	83-80
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C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
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79-76	75-74	73-70	69-66	65-64	63-60	Below 60
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Due Dates:

All assignments are due on the dates listed in the course schedule:

All assignments must reach me through Assignment drop box or email by midnight on the due date. The final paper will be due by (before) **midnight on Friday March 11th**.

All assignments (discussions and papers) must be submitted on time in order to receive a score (grade). Under no circumstances will late work be accepted so please don't ask. If for

some unforeseen reason you will miss an **exam** I must be notified at least 24 hours in advance in order for a re-take to be scheduled.

Extra Credit Work: If you want to hedge your grade a bit, especially if you have missed an assignment and need to make up points, you can do so by following these directions. Check the Bulletin Board regularly (just click on the website icon) and you will see that I often post topics and questions for you to research. The first three students who do these three things will receive an extra credit grade point that will be added to your total grade score. **First**, research the topic. **Second**, post the reference you located concerning the topic. **Third**, write a paragraph or two discussing or describing what you found, you can even express your personal opinion on the subject, and post it. If your work follows these guidelines and is timely (one of the first three) I will notify you through the Bulletin Board. These extra points can be a real grade saver by the end of the course, grab them when you can.

The following is an estimated sample of each Quarter's schedule:

Module One / Assignment 1.1 and 1.2

Introduce yourself

In this module, you will be expected to create discussion of who you are and why you are taking this class. This module is taking place of introductions you would normally discuss in the classroom.

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Syllabus Quiz (1.2). This quiz is mandatory and worth 10 points.

Module Two

Readings:

Chapter 1•

Assignment• 2.1 (1) 2 Page Paper to be submitted via assignment drop-box.

Assignment• 2.2 - 2 gradable discussions topic with a minimum of two responses.

Module Three

Readings:

Chapter 2•

Assignment 3.1 (1) 2 Page Paper to be submitted via assignment drop-box.

Assignment 3.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Four

Readings:

• Chapter 3

Assignment 4.1 (1) 4 Page Paper to be submitted via assignment drop-box.

Assignment 4.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Five

Readings:

Study Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, along• with "Helpful Hints"

Mid-Term - Exam 1 on Chapters 1 thru 6 --- You will be able• to study as a group in the "Discussions" forum or in the "Chat" room.

• Chapter 4

Assignment 5.1 (1) 2 Page Paper to be submitted via assignment• drop-box.

Assignment 5.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Six

Readings:

Chapter 5•

Assignment 6.1 - Reflection Week

Assignment 6.2 - Reflection Week

Module Seven

Readings:

Chapter 6

Assignment 7.1 - No essay due.

Assignment 7.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Eight

Readings:

- Chapter 7

Assignment 8.1 (1) No essay paper due.

Assignment 8.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Nine

Readings:

Chapter 8•

Assignment 9.1• (1) 5 Page Paper to be submitted via assignment drop-box.

Assignment 9.2 - 2 gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Ten

Readings:

Chapter 9•

Assignment 10.1 (1) No essay paper due.

Assignment 10.2 - gradable discussion topics with a minimum of two responses.

Module Eleven

Study chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, along with "Helpful Hints" You will be able to study as a group in the "Discussions" forum or in the "Chat" room.

Final Exam – Exam #2•

Module Twelve

Final Paper: (1) 5 Page Paper referenced in APA (see Bellevue College Writing Lab below for instructions to reference in APA Format) to be submitted via assignment drop-box

For all modules there are indeed chapter readings consisting of about 1 chapter a week. All of the necessary material is contained in the "lectures" and demonstrations in each week's module.

Course Work

Assignments:

General breakdown and basic description of assignments. Refer to full description of assignments in each week's module.

Exam:

There will be one exam which will cover the course material. The exam is in multiple-choice or short answer format. For each, your score on the exam will be the percentage of questions you answered correctly. Grading follows a straight-scale format. In extraordinary situations a make-up exam will be made available to a student who misses a regularly-scheduled exam. This exam must be completed within one week of the original deadline date.

The exam is 90 minutes in duration, and are administered such that each question is shown on the screen. You can go on or return to a previous if needed. Further, should you not complete all questions before the 90-minute deadline, any unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect. This format makes it imperative that you begin the exam well-prepared.

Plagiarism

The BC Student Code is also very clear about the seriousness of cheating and the actions that faculty members are required to take in cases of plagiarizing: The BC Student Code prohibits cheating, stealing, plagiarizing, knowingly furnishing false information to the college, or submitting to a faculty member any work product that the student fraudulently represents as his or her own work for the purpose of fulfilling or partially fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of a program of instruction. All forms of cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Instruction.

Other Important Notes

BC Technical Support

Troubleshooting for WebCT or Vista

First: Check the WebCT Server Status page to find out if there are reported problems

Second: If the problem is with your class, not the system, contact your instructor to report the problem

Third: If you cannot reach your instructor, contact the Distance Education office at (425) 564-2438 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2438 end_of_the_skype_highlighting or landerso@bcc.ctc.edu

Guide to Documentation, APA Style

Bellevue College writing lab website address: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/APA.html>

The Academic Tutoring Center offers one-on-one and group tutoring sessions for college credit courses.

Location: D204

Phone: (425) 564-2468 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2468 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Students and community members can find career planning and job search assistance in the Career Center. The Center provides one-on-one career advising, classes and workshops, work-study and internship opportunities, and many computerized resources.

Location: B231

Phone: (425) 564-2018 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2018 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Academic, career, and personal counseling services and credit classes are available to all enrolled BCC students.

Location: B234

Phone: (425) 564-2212 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2212 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

DRC provides advocacy and classroom accommodations, including specialized materials, technology and equipment for eligible students with disabilities.

Location: B132

Phone: (425) 564-2498 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2498 end_of_the_skype_highlighting or 564-4110 (TTY line)

The Childcare Center provides affordable, quality childcare to children ages 3 months to 7 years, an on-site Head Start program, and resources and classes for parents.

Location: Building Q

Phone: (425) 564-2240 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2240 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Educational Planning Resource Center

Advisors, counselors and resources are available for students who wish to transfer to a four-year university, pursue a career or are undecided about their major.

Location: B232

Phone: (425) 564-2437 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2437 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Learning & Computer Labs

Many academic learning labs and nearly 1,300 computers are dedicated for student use at BCC. View our complete list of labs including those located in the library and across campus.

Location: Various

Library Media Center

In addition to traditional library resources, the LMC provides access to electronic periodicals, research assistance, books and publications, computers with Internet connections, material reservation, media lab, study rooms and other helpful resources.

Location: D124

Phone: (425) 564-225

Multi-Cultural Student Services (B233)

MCS provides culturally-sensitive academic and support services to BCC students. MCS services include outreach, advising, counseling, cultural events planning, and curriculum and policy development.

Location: B233

Phone: (425) 564-2208 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (425) 564-2208