Theories of Criminal Behavior

CCJ 3117

Spring 2017

Wednesdays 5:00pm-7:45pm

Location: CHE 103

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Office Hours  Wednesdays by appointment only

Description

This course is an introduction to and comparison of major historical and contemporary theories that seek to explain crime and criminal behavior. Beyond understanding the main explanations for crime, students will also evaluate issues in crime and justice and identify strengths and weakness in both theory and policy. This is a Team-Based Learning (TBL) course, where students will critically, constructively, and cooperatively apply course concepts to theoretical and real-world issues in permanent teams.

Required Materials

Bundle: Criminology: Theories, Patterns and Typologies, Loose-Leaf Version, 12th + MindTap Criminal Justice, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card

Author: Larry J. Siegel

ISBN: 9781305700062

Publisher: Cengage

Edition: 12

Notes: you may choose any format of this text (e.g., Hardcover, Paperback, Loose-leaf, Digital), but you must purchase MindTap Access, either as a bundle, an add-on, or a digital-only purchase.

If you purchase a digital version, please bring a laptop, e-Reader, or other device for in-class activities.

A FREE TRIAL is available until 01/21/2017 (see “Resources” section of the syllabus).

The Other Wes Moore

Author: Wes Moore

ISBN: 9780385528207

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

• Articulate what a theory is and how it is applied and assessed.
• Understand and articulate the underlying assumptions, key theoretical concepts, and theoretical propositions of each of the historical and contemporary theories of crime.
• Understand, articulate, and critically assess the logical construction of each theory.
• Identify and critique the public policy implications of each theory.
• Apply criminological theory to both individual cases and broader patterns of crime.
• Evaluate the adequacy of each theory as an explanation of criminal behavior.
Requirements

To pass this course, you must:

- Complete module readings and homework assignments.
- Pass individual and team-based assessments (quizzes).
- Apply criminological theory to in-class activities and discussions.
- Write an essay applying criminological theory to a case study.
- Take two exams.

Evaluation

Grades will be awarded per the following grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% - 59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grades are composed of the following five assessments and weights:

- Homework/Assignments 10% of final grade
- Assessments/Quizzes (RATs) 25% of final grade
- Peer Evaluations/Participation 15% of final grade
- Term Paper 20% of final grade
- Exams 30% of final grade

Resources

Canvas

You should familiarize yourself with the various features in Canvas since we will be utilizing the course website on Canvas throughout the semester. You are encouraged to adjust your notification settings in Canvas so that your emails in Canvas are also sent to your USF student email account. You are expected to check the class Canvas page on a regular basis to stay informed of classroom information. Materials relevant to class such as the syllabus, assignments, grade postings, schedule changes and other announcements will be posted on Canvas.

MindTap

- All readings and homework assignments are delivered by MindTap via Canvas.
- You must register your MindTap course.
- Visit https://login.cengagebrain.com/course/MTPP2R1P8XMZ and enter your MindTap access code.
- You are entitled to a free trial through 1/21/2017 (visit the link above).

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center is a free resource for USF students. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you are writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.lib.usf.edu/writing, stop by LIB-125, or call 813-974-8293.
Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend classes. This is a team-based learning course. Just like the workplace, if you are absent, your team will have to pick up the slack. If this becomes habitual, your participation/peer-evaluation grade will suffer, just as your annual evaluation (and possibly your salary) would suffer in the workplace. If you will be absent, communicate with your team members. Habitual absenteeism will have natural consequences with your team members.

Late Work Policy

These policies apply regardless of the reason for missed work.

Except for drop/add week, there will be no make-ups for the chapter assignments. You may choose to work ahead.

There will be no makeups for quizzes (RATs). However, your lowest individual and team RAT scores will be dropped, allowing you to miss one without penalty.

Papers will be accepted at a 10% penalty per day late.

You may make up an examination with documented proof of hardship (e.g., hospitalization, death in the family), but makeups will be in a significantly different format (for example, essay questions instead of multiple choice).

Laptops, Phones, and other Mobile Devices

Mobile devices may be used during classroom activities. Devices should be silenced at all times. If they are used inappropriately (e.g., during lectures, videos, or for non-class purposes, such as Facebook) you can expect your participation/peer-evaluation grade to suffer. Just like the workplace, habitual misuse of technology will have natural consequences with your team members.

University Policies

Academic Integrity of Students

Academic integrity is the foundation of the University of South Florida System’s commitment to the academic honesty and personal integrity of its university community. Academic integrity is grounded in certain fundamental values, which include honesty, respect, and fairness. Broadly defined, academic honesty is the completion of all academic endeavors and claims of scholarly knowledge as representative of one’s own efforts. The final decision on an academic integrity violation and related academic sanction at any USF System institution shall affect and be applied to the academic status of the student throughout the USF System, unless otherwise determined by the independently accredited institution.

Disruption to Academic Process

Disruptive students in the academic setting hinder the educational process. Disruption of the academic process is defined as the act, words, or general conduct of a student in a classroom or other academic environment which in the reasonable estimation of the instructor: (a) directs attention away from the academic matters at hand, such as noisy distractions, persistent, disrespectful or abusive interruption of lecture, exam, academic discussion, or general University operations, or (b) presents a danger to the health, safety, or well-being of self or other persons.

USF Policy on Religious Observances

Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor in writing by the second class meeting.
Grades of "Incomplete"

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. An “I” grade may be awarded to a student only when a small portion of the student’s work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade. The time limit for removing the “I” is to be set by the instructor of the course. For undergraduate students, this time limit may not exceed two academic semesters, whether or not the student is in residence, and/or graduation, whichever comes first. “I” grades not removed by the end of the time limit will be changed to “IF” or “IU,” whichever is appropriate.

Disability Access

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least 5 business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting

USF is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence (USF System Policy 0-004). The USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report. Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. Contact the USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention: (813) 974-5757.

Professionalism Policy

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

End of Semester Student Evaluations

All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

Campus Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor the Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, college, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Assignments due by 4pm before class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11th</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminological Theory</td>
<td>Read Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18th</td>
<td>Rational Choice Theory</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>Trait Theories</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Trait Theories continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8th</td>
<td>Social Structure Theories</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15th</td>
<td>Social Structure Theories continued</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22nd</td>
<td>Social Structure Theories continued</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>Reading &amp; Writing Week</td>
<td>Read <em>The Other Wes Moore</em></td>
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<td>Writing Skill Builder Assignments (on Canvas)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WORK ON TERM PAPER</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>NO CLASS MEETING</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>Social Process Theories</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29th</td>
<td>Social Process Theories continued</td>
<td>MARCH 25TH LAST DAY TO DROP WITH “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>Social Process Theories continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12th</td>
<td>Critical Criminology</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>Developmental Theories</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Check Canvas for Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Developmental Theories continued</td>
<td>COMPLETE PEER EVALUATIONS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>TERM PAPER DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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