Course: Introduction to Criminology - CCJS 105; Sections 0101-0108
Class Time: 10 – 10:50am; Monday and Wednesday
Professor: Dr. Jean M. McGloin
Office Hours: Wednesday 11am – 1pm or by appointment
Contact Information: Office: 2220 L LeFrak Hall; Phone: (301) 405-3007; Email through Canvas/Elms only
Course Website: http://elms.umd.edu (log on and select 105 from your courses)

Teaching Assistants:
Daniel Jang
Discussion Sections: 101, 102, 103, 104
Office: 2163 LeFrak Hall
Office Hours: Friday 12-2pm or by appointment
Phone: 301-405-1709
E-mail through Canvas/Elms only

Benjamin Acquisto
Discussion Sections: 105, 106, 107, 108
Office: 2163 LeFrak Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 1-3pm or by appointment
Phone: 301-405-1709
E-mail through Canvas/Elms only

COURSE OVERVIEW:
This course will begin with an overview of the philosophical foundations for the two schools of criminological thought. The course focus will then shift to specific biological, psychological, and sociological positivist theories as well as classical theories. We will also review integrated and developmental theories of criminology. At the conclusion of this course, each student should have a comprehensive knowledge of criminological theory.

READING MATERIALS:

- Selected articles posted on the Elms/Canvas course website.
GRADING SCHEMA:

- 2 Exams: 40% (20% each)
- 2 Quizzes: 20% (10% each)
- 2 Papers: 28% (14% each)
- Class Participation: 12%

Exams: Each exam will test the student on material covered during the previous portion of the course. The student will be held responsible for all assigned readings, lecture materials, as well as class discussions. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will not be cumulative.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the semester and will contain multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. As with the exams, material on the quizzes may come from readings, lectures, and/or class discussions. Quizzes will not be cumulative. Quizzes will be given during the first 15 minutes of the specified class.

Papers: All papers must be typed, stapled, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, and have 1-inch margins. The papers should also have the student’s name, date, course number, section #, and student ID#. Failure to abide by these requirements will result in losing points. Papers are due at the beginning of class; papers submitted after 10am will be considered late. If you are unable to attend class, papers must be submitted to the Professor either via the Elms/Canvas email or by placing a hard copy in her departmental mailbox by 9:30am on the due date (if you select the latter option, you must have the paper time stamped by the departmental secretary).

1. For the first paper, each student will select an article from a newspaper or a news magazine (i.e., The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time Magazine, Newsweek – NOT an internet-only source, or a popular magazine like People, etc…) about an offender. The student will then select one of the following theories, which s/he believes is particularly applicable to the case: social learning theory, general strain theory, differential opportunity theory, middle class measuring rod theory, social disorganization theory, or the general theory of crime. The paper should make a compelling argument that this theory can explain the incident/offender under focus. The paper should be 2-3 pages and the article must be attached to the paper. I strongly advise students to ask their TA or the Professor whether their article choice is appropriate before writing the paper. Papers that do not have an appropriate article source or that do not have the article attached will be considered incomplete and will receive a grade of zero.

2. For the second paper, a student will select one of the following theories: social learning theory, the general theory of crime, social disorganization theory, routine activity theory, rational choice theory, or general strain theory. The student will then obtain two peer-reviewed empirical articles (from criminal justice/criminology peer-reviewed journals) that test the respective theory (or a particular portion of it). Using these articles, the student will present and support a thesis regarding the robustness and accuracy of the theory. The paper
should be 3-4 pages and the first two pages of each article must be attached to the paper. I strongly advise students to ask their TA or the Professor whether the articles they select are appropriate before writing the paper. Papers that do not have an appropriate article source or that do not have the article attached will be considered incomplete and will receive a grade of zero.

More specific guidelines for each paper are provided on the course website.

**Class Participation:** This is a very large class, but I encourage participation during lectures. I also expect you to attend every discussion section and participate with frequency during these sessions. Every student will receive a participation grade for each discussion section, which will be summed at the end of the semester for a portion of the final grade.

**Extra Credit:** If a student is concerned about his or her grade and wants to pursue an extra credit project, the following option is available: Write an additional paper that is similar to the second one specified above. It must be on a different theory than the one you choose for your assignment. The extra credit assignment is due on December 8th at the start of class and will be worth up to an additional 5 percentage points on your final grade.

**If discussion wanes and the TAs or I suspect that students are not doing the reading, we reserve the right to administer unannounced quizzes.**

**CLASS POLICIES:**

- **Attendance:** Except during a Major Scheduled Grading Event, students may be excused from a single lecture one time per course per semester for a medically necessitated reason. The student should make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class, and present his or her instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of his or her illness. This note must include an acknowledgement: (a) that the information provided is true and correct, and (b) that the student understands that providing false information to University officials is a violation of Part 9(h) of the Code of Student Conduct. Any more absences will be not be excused unless the student provides documentation of a medical or family emergency, which the professor will verify. Because exams and quizzes will cover reading and in-class discussions, missing multiple classes will likely affect your ability to perform well in this course. If you do miss class, you should copy notes from a classmate. The professor and the TAs will not share their notes or any Power Point slides. In addition, students are expected to attend every discussion section; because participation is assessed in every class, being absent will directly affect your grade. If you must miss a particular discussion section, you must inform your TA prior to the time of your discussion section. Excused absences (e.g., due to medical emergency, death in the immediate family) require written documentation and you should attempt to determine with your TA which “make-up” section you can attend. Proper written documentation includes an obituary/death notice, a doctor’s note or hospital records. If you must miss a discussion section due to a religious holiday, you must inform the TA by September 10th and determine which discussion section you can
attend for that week. Unexcused absences in discussion section will result in a participation grade of “zero” for that week.

• **Class Seating:** You are free to sit where you like, except for a few circumstances. If you arrive late or use a laptop, please sit in the back rows of the class. Also, if you consistently talk with people around you, the Professor will ask you to change where you sit.

• **Missed Exams/Deadlines:** Make-up exams/quizzes or extensions for papers will not be given except in cases of a significant medical problem, a death in the immediate family, or a religious holiday. Proper written documentation is required. In such cases, the student must contact the Professor before the exam or paper due date. In the case of religious holidays, you must inform the Professor of a conflict by September 10th. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a grade of zero on the assignment/exam/quiz.

• **Late for an Exam:** If you arrive late for an exam, you will only be allowed to take it if no one has yet completed it. If, prior to your arrival, any student has completed and handed in the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a zero.

• **Late for a Quiz:** Quizzes will be given during the first 20 minutes of class. If you arrive late, you will only have until 10:20 to complete the quiz. If you arrive after 10:20, you will not be allowed to take the quiz and will receive a zero.

• **Reading:** Students are expected to complete all reading assignments on time. The relevant materials can be found either in the required textbook or on the course website (see [http://elms.umd.edu](http://elms.umd.edu)). Be sure to bring all relevant reading materials to class and to discussion section.

• **Discussion Sections:** You have registered for a particular discussion section and this is the one that you are expected to attend. “Switching” discussion sections is only allowed when you have an excused absence (with prior notification and proper documentation submitted to your TA) and you have determined with your TA which discussion section can be your “make-up” for that single absence. If you arrive unannounced at a discussion section for which you have not registered, you will be asked to leave.

• **Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any violations will be reported to the Honor Council. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Honor Council, please visit the following website: [http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/Default.aspx](http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/Default.aspx)

• **Students with Disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability (it must be documented by Disability Support Services–DSS) must provide this documentation to the Professor by September 10th. These students must also schedule quizzes and exams by this date. In most cases, students must begin the quiz/exam in Shoemaker at the same time other students are taking their exam in Skinner.

• **Athletes:** Official athletic schedules must be submitted to the Professor by September 10th. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the TA of upcoming discussion section absences. Practices do not count as an excused absence; in cases of an excused absence (i.e., a game), students are expected to determine with their TA which other discussion section they can attend as a “make-up.” Papers that are due on game days must be submitted before the due date. Athletes who miss exams/quizzes/discussion section/paper deadlines due to games or other commitments yet never submitted an official athletic
schedule by 9/10 and never spoke with the Professor and/or TA will receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment.

- **Classroom Behavior:** Students are required to be courteous to each other, to the TAs, and to the professor. Any student who engages in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and will have 2 points deducted from his or her final grade for every day this occurs. Being disruptive includes repeatedly coming late to class or leaving the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, sleeping, speaking without being recognized, reading outside material, using a laptop for purposes other than note-taking, and talking on cell phones or text-messaging. At the same time, students should feel that they are being respected. If fellow students or the TAs are not acting in a respectful manner, please inform the Professor.

- **Laptops:** You are free to use laptops to take notes about the lecture and discussion section. If you use your laptop for activities other than note-taking (e.g., looking at Facebook), you will be asked by the TAs to stop. If you are caught for a second time, you will not be allowed to use a laptop in class or discussion section for the remainder of the semester.

- **Sending emails:** Due to the volume of emails that both the professor and TAs receive, please use the subject line “CCJS 105” whenever you send an email, which will increase the probability of us not considering it junk mail.

- **Grade disputes:** If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe the TAs and/or the professor should review them, you must submit a written request over email to both your TA and the Professor that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated.

- **Copyright:** The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lecture notes in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for this class. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

---

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**September 3**
- Course Overview
- Lecture Topic: What is criminology?
- Reading for 9/8: Chapters 1 and 2

**Discussion Section:** No discussion section this week.

************************************************************************
September 8
- Lecture Topic: Measuring Crime
- Reading for 9/10: Chapter 2 and review information on the UCR via this link:
  http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr

September 10
- Lecture Topic: Measuring Crime
- Reading for 9/15: Chapter 2

Discussion Section: Measuring and studying campus crime.
************************************************************************

September 15
- Lecture Topic: The Correlates of Crime
- Reading for 9/17: Chapter 3

September 17
- Lecture Topic: The Classical School
- Reading for 9/22: Chapter 3

Discussion Section: Review for quiz #1 and starting to read an empirical article.
************************************************************************

September 22
- Lecture Topic: The Positivist School
- Reading for 9/24: Chapter 4, pages 79-91

September 24
- QUIZ #1
- Lecture Topic: Biological Determinism
- Reading for 9/29: Chapter 4, pages 91-108

Discussion Section: How to read an empirical article
************************************************************************

September 29
- Lecture Topic: Psychological Determinism
- Reading for 10/1: Article on Elms/Canvas

October 1
- Lecture Topic: Psychological Determinism
- Reading for 10/6: Chapter 5, pages 109-124
Discussion Section: Socialization/selection models and review for quiz #2.

************************************************************************

October 6
- Quiz #2
- Lecture Topic: Beginning of Sociological Determinism & Elements of Strain
- Reading for 2/26: Chapter 5, pages 109-124

October 8
- Lecture Topic: Strain Theory continued
- Reading for 3/5: Chapter 5, pages 125-130 [the section on social disorganization theory] and article on Elms/Canvas

Discussion Section: The connection between the economy and crime rates

************************************************************************

October 13
- Lecture Topic: Social disorganization theory
- Reading for 10/15: Pages 134-135 from Chapter 5 and pages 193-195 from Chapter 8

October 15
- Lecture Topic: Conflict Theory
- Reading for 10/20: Chapter 6

Discussion Section: Immigration and crime

************************************************************************

October 20
- Lecture Topic: Subcultural Theories
- Reading for 10/22: Chapter 6

October 22
- Lecture Topic: Subcultural Theories continued
- No reading for next class; STUDY FOR EXAM #1

Discussion Section: Exam and paper #1 review

************************************************************************

October 27
- EXAM #1
- Reading for 10/29: Chapter 7

October 29
- Lecture Topic: Control Theories
- Reading for 11/3: Chapter 7 and article

Discussion Section: Religion and social control

************************************************************************
November 3
- Lecture Topic: Control Theories
- Reading for 11/5: Chapter 9

November 5
- Paper #1 Due
- Lecture Topic: Classical theory and applications
- Reading for 11/10: Chapter 9

Discussion Section: Paper #2 Review
************************************************************************

November 10
- Lecture Topic: Deterrence
- Reading for 11/12: Chapter 8

November 12
- Lecture Topic: Environmental criminology
- Reading for 11/17: Chapter 8

Discussion Section: Situational crime prevention on campus.
************************************************************************

November 17
- Lecture Topic: Labeling theory
- Reading for 11/24: Article on Elms/Canvas

November 19 – NO CLASS

Discussion Section: Labeling theory in action
************************************************************************

November 24
- Lecture Topic: Developmental theories
- Reading for 12/1: Chapter 12

November 26 – NO CLASS

Discussion Section: No discussion sections this week
************************************************************************

December 1
- Paper #2 due
- Lecture Topic: Do We Need Crime Specific Theories? White Collar Crime
- Reading for 12/3: Article on Elms/Canvas

Decemeb 3
- Lecture Topic: Policing and theory
- Reading for 12/8: Article on Elms/Canvas

Discussion Section: Drug use and “victimless” crime
*************************************************************************

December 8
- Lecture Topic: Corrections and theory
- No reading for next class
- Last day extra credit assignments will be accepted

December 10
- Review/make-up class

Discussion Section: Final Exam Review
*************************************************************************

Final Exam: Determined by University Scheduling