

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

Fall 2026

Instructor:	Codey Carr	Time:	MW 4:30 – 5:45
Email:	ccarr21@umd.edu	Place:	Tawes 1107

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Criminology
COURSE/SECTION: CCJS105: Section FC01
CREDITS: 3

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Codey Carr (he/him/his)
OFFICE: 2220Z Lefrak Hall
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 10:00am - 12:00pm, by appointment
EMAIL: ccarr21@umd.edu

Required Readings: Posick (2018) is the main textbook that we will refer to over the course of the semester. All other readings will be posted to ELMS.

- Chad Posick, *The Development of Criminological Thought: Context, Theory, and Policy*, 2018

Course Description: This course will provide a general introduction to the study of crime. We will overview crime types, how crime is measured, criminological theories from the Enlightenment era to present, and how to apply theory in the context of modern criminal justice policy and crime prevention.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Define and differentiate types of crime
- Describe the primary methods and data sources that criminologists use to measure crime
- Identify and accurately apply credible scholarly sources
- Describe how criminological theories relate to one another and have evolved over time
- Explain criminological events using the theoretical frameworks presented in class

Course Policy: The University of Maryland has created a web page on course-related policies that will be adhered to. Students can find more information regarding undergraduate-relevant course policies using the following link: [UMD Course Policies](#)

Course Format: Lectures for this course will be delivered in an in-person format, barring emergencies. Lectures will not be recorded and there is not an option to Zoom. In the case that the instructor falls ill or cannot make it to one of our scheduled class times, they may record and post the missed

lecture on ELMS or host class using Zoom. Content covered in any posted online lectures will not be on your reading quizzes, but will be fair game for your final exam. All information regarding changes to class format will be communicated by the instructor ASAP.

Lecture slides will be posted to ELMS *after* each class. It is expected that students not share lecture material with anyone not presently enrolled in CCJS105 Freshman Connections during or after the semester.

I may cover content in lectures that is not explicitly included in the posted lecture material. Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one peer so that they have access to lecture notes in the event that they miss class. Opportunities will be provided in class to exchange contact information with one another. Please note that students are not allowed to take audio and/video recordings of class unless they have a specific ADS accommodation.

Office Hours: Students are strongly encouraged to attend office hours. Office hours can be used for any purpose, including:

- Reviewing missed lecture material
- Discussing note-taking, studying, and course management skills
- Connecting students to university resources

Office hours time is entirely dedicated to helping you succeed in this course and at UMD!

Evaluation and Assessment of Course Learning Outcomes (Grading):

At the end of the semester, percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below. Grades will be rounded up using a 0.45 point threshold. All other grade changes are at the instructor's discretion.

Grade	Grade Range	Grade	Grade Range
A+	97%-100%	C+	77%-79%
A	93%-96%	C	73%-76%
A-	90%-92%	C-	70%-72%
B+	87%-89%	D+	67%-69%
B	83%-86%	D	63%-66%
B-	80%-82%	D-	60%-62%
F	60%		

Grading Policy:

Participation	10%
In-Class Assignments	15%
Annotated Bibliography	25%
Test #1	15%
Test #2	20%
Final Exam	15%

Assignments

Participation: Attendance alone is not sufficient to earn a 100% in the participation category of your grade. To receive full credit for your participation grade, students are expected to be on time, stay throughout the entire class, and participate in discussion.

Students who are not engaged, are disruptive, on their cell phone, or conducting any other unprofessional behavior will have participation points deducted at the end of the semester. For further details on what constitutes "unprofessional behavior", please refer to the Classroom Conduct Policy section of this syllabus.

In-Class Assignments: Throughout the semester, in-class activities will be regularly assigned. These may show up in the form of practice exam questions, worksheets, group presentations, and reading quizzes.

Instructions will be provided on all in-class assignments provided. All assignments are designed with the expectation that they will be completed and turned in within the class period they were assigned. The instructor may push the due date for assignments to the beginning of the next class period depending on a holistic assessment of the class' progress. Students are welcome to request their assignments back after they've been graded for study material and exam preparation.

I will give approximately five reading quizzes at the beginning of class to test your engagement with the previous reading assignment(s). The dates for these quizzes are not set; any class that is not a review or test day is eligible for a reading quiz. **Each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the gradebook.**

Annotated Bibliography: Annotated bibliographies are an assignment format where reference list entries are followed by short overviews of the research. For this assignment, you will choose one type of crime that interests you and explore existing empirical (data-driven) research on that subject. You will be expected to provide summaries for **at least five articles** as well as a brief summary that synthesizes the findings of these works. You must bring this assignment to the Writing Center at least once. Further instructions on this assignment can be found on ELMS and will be discussed in class.

Exams: You will take three exams during this class. The first exam is worth 15% of your final grade and will consist of entirely multiple choice questions. The second exam is worth 20% of your final grade and will consist of hand-written essay questions. The final exam is worth 15% of your final grade will be a cumulative take-home exam. More details regarding each exam will be provided by the instructor in-class.

Grade Disputes: All disputes over grades must be done in person via my office hours or scheduled appointment. Any dispute must be conducted within one week after the grade has been posted to ELMS.

Late Work Policy: All assignments, papers, and homework are due in ELMS by the date and time indicated in the ELMS assignment list. If an ELMS assignment is due at 11:59 p.m., students have until the instructor logs onto ELMS the following morning to submit their assignment without late penalties/point deductions. Assignments, papers, and homework will lose the equivalent point value of one letter grade for each day they are late.

Make-Up Policy:

Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes can be made up for 100% of its score so long as the quiz is taken within one week of its original assignment. Students are responsible for attending Instructor Carr's office hours or scheduling an appointment to make up the reading quiz.

Exams 1 and 2: If you are going to miss an exam, it is your responsibility to reach out within at least one week in advance of the scheduled exam time to schedule a time to make this exam up. Retakes will not be permitted if the instructor is not notified within this one week time frame. All scheduled make up exams must be taken by the last day of class. Emergencies and illness-related excuses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.

Final Exam: This course's final exam takes place on the last day of the semester, December 21st, 2026, there will be zero opportunities to make-up the final exam in the case of an absence. Students who face exceptional circumstances and miss the final exam should reach out to Instructor Carr via email to discuss possibilities for an Incomplete grade marking.

Important Dates:

Test 1	October 5th, 2026
Annotated Bibliography	December 11th, 2026
• Citation List	October 21st, 2026
• Progress Report	November 23rd, 2026
Test 2	November 16th, 2026
Final Exam	December 21st, 2026

Communication Policy: I welcome all questions and comments by email! When you email me, you should compose your email as you would any piece of professional correspondence. I will respond to your emails as quickly as possible, typically within the same day or 24-hour window, but do not expect a quick response to emails sent on weekends or after 5pm on any day. In accordance with university policy, your university issued email (either @umd.edu or @terpmail.umd.edu) must be used for all correspondence. In addition, all emails regarding this class should include the course title (CCJS105 FC) in the subject line.

Extra Credit: There will be one guaranteed opportunity to earn extra credit to improve your grade throughout the semester. The instructor will present the extra credit at least one month in advance of the final course of the semester. Extra credit is added to your final grade and will be worth 2% of your overall grade in this course. More information about the extra credit assignment can be found on ELMS. Other extra credit assignments may be added at the instructor's discretion over the course of the semester.

ELMS: This course will rely heavily on ELMS as a delivery platform for its learning material. Readings, assignments, and other course documents will be posted on the Canvas course site. Students

should:

- Become proficient in utilizing ELMS as a Learning Management platform
- Check the CCJS105 course page regularly for changes, updates, and learning materials
- ***Set notifications in ELMS*** which automatically notifies students of instructor announcements, submission comments, grades, and new assignment additions

Attendance Policy: Attendance of lectures is not required, but is *strongly encouraged* for students' success in this course. If you will be absent for a class *you do not need to contact the instructor*. Students are responsible for catching up on lecture material and assignments if they miss a class.

While attendance does not factor into your final grade, it may impact your ability to make-up assignments, quizzes, and/or tests. If you have a religious or sports-related excused absence, please email the instructor as soon as possible with the date of your absence(s).

Classroom Conduct Policy: Students are expected to behave professionally in the classroom, be respectful towards their instructor and fellow classmates, and ensure their behaviors do not disrupt class activities. To that end, repeated violations of classroom conduct expectations will result in deductions to student's participation grade. Students are expected to ...

- Arrive to class on time
- Be attentive throughout the class period
- Do not engage in side conversations with other students during lecture
- Act in a mature and adult manner at all times
- Be respectful of everyone in class
- Treat yourself and your other classmates with dignity
- Do your best to succeed
- Ask the instructor for clarification or further explanation if you feel you do not understand the material being discussed or read (Chances are someone or everyone else has the same question!)
- Question the instructor using evidence and reasoned logic if you disagree or are unsure about something the instructor says
- Keep your cellphone on silent and out of sight

Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect your final grade in the course.

Instructor Conduct Policy: Students can expect me to...

- Treat them with respect and dignity
- Provide feedback in a timely manner on assignments (ideally, within two weeks of the assignment deadline)
- Provide extensive feedback and assistance to students as they learn
- Respond to emails and student communications in a timely manner (ideally, within one business day)
- Be honest in response when I do not know something
- Enforce the standards I have established for grading and the learning outcomes of the course

Self-Identification: The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and I am committed to fostering an equitable classroom environment. I invite you, if you

wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow classmates.

Laptops and Other Electronics: Numerous studies confirm that students who take notes by hand retain more information over time and that laptop bans improve student engagement in smaller classes. It is also far less distracting to others when there is not typing and visual distraction going on during a lecture/discussion. Only electronics that can be placed flat (e.g., iPad, tablet, kindle) on the desk may be used during class *unless otherwise approved by the Instructor*.

If you have a documented condition that is helped by typing your notes, contact me and I will be happy to consider an exception. Furthermore, if you have *very compelling* reason why you strongly prefer to take notes during lecture with an upright laptop, you may write me an email letting me know, and we can discuss the matter individually. Any laptops approved for use in class must not be used for web surfing during class.

Academic Integrity and AI Policy: Academic dishonesty of any form will NOT be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty encompasses behavior such as the use of un-permitted technology during exams, cheating, giving false statements, as well as the possession or reviewing of previous semester's exams and computer assignments.

AI assistance (TerpAI, ChatGPT, Gemini, Grammarly, etc.) is not permitted for research, writing, editing, or any other part of the assignment or exam completion process. Even though you may use these tools in the future, this approach will help you build a solid understanding of the subject matter in an introductory-level course. If you have questions or suggestions for potential exceptions, please contact the Instructor. Any student discovered to be plagiarizing or using generative AI will immediately be referred to the Student Honor Council for violation of course academic integrity policies.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. We are all responsible for upholding the standards established by those code for this course. Students are expected to be knowledgeable of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit: [The University of Maryland Code of Academic Integrity](#)

Accessibility and Disability Support: I will make every effort to accommodate students' needs throughout this course. Many accommodations, however, are not available for me to offer if you do not register with the Accessibility and Disability Support Services (ADS) Office and provide a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2026 semester. ADS cannot assist retroactively, so it is generally best to request accommodations several weeks before the semester begins or as soon as a disability becomes known. Any student who needs accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that I have sufficient time to make arrangements.

For assistance in obtaining an accommodation, contact Accessibility and Disability Service at

301-314-7682, or email them at adsfrontdesk@umd.edu.

Students with ADS accommodations who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Center need to provide me with the link to the testing form **at least 1 week, or 7 days, before each exam**. Students are responsible for organizing their own testing times with ADS. If you have test tasking accommodations, you are expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class. Students can find more information on ADS Accommodations at UMD here: [UMD ADS Accommodations](#).

Tentative Course Outline:*

* This schedule is subject to change depending on the speed that we work through the course material. Students will be notified of any changes to the schedule as soon as possible.

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Reminders
Week 1			
August 31	Course Introduction	No Reading	FDOC!
September 2	What is Criminology?	R1; R2	
Week 2			
September 7	NO CLASS	No Reading	
September 9	Measuring Crime	R3; R4	
Week 3			
September 14	Types of Crime (Pt. 1)	R5; R6	
September 16	Types of Crime (Pt. 2)	R7; PE1	
Week 4			
September 21	Drug Crime	R8; PE2	
September 23	Introduction to Scientific Literature	R9; R10; R11	
Week 5			
September 28	Conducting Literature Searches	R12	Annotated Bibliography Assignment Overview
September 30	Exam Review	No Reading	
Week 5			
October 5	Test # 1	No Reading	
October 7	Classical School	R13; R14	
Week 6			
October 12	NO CLASS	No Reading	Fall Break
October 14	Bio-Positivist School	R15; R16; R17	

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Reminders
Week 7			
October 19	Social-Positivist School (Pt. 1)	R18; R19	
October 21	Social-Positivist School (Pt. 2)	R20; R21; R22	AB Citations Due
Week 8			
October 26	Pysch-Positivist School	R23; R24	
October 28	Neo-Classical School (Pt. 1)	R25; PE3	
Week 9			
November 2	Neo-Classical School (Pt. 2)	R26; PE4	
November 4	Critical Criminology	R27; R28; R29; PE5	
Week 10			
November 9	Victimization	R30; R31	
November 11	Exam Review	No Reading	
Week 11			
November 16	Test # 2	No Reading	
November 18	NO CLASS	No Reading	ASC Conference
Week 12			
November 23	Writing Workshop	No Reading	AB Progress Report Due
November 25	NO CLASS	No Reading	Thanksgiving
Week 13			
November 30	Crime Policy & Prevention	R32; R33	
December 2	Contemporary Issues in Criminology (Pt. 1)	R34; PE6	
Week 14			
December 7	Contemporary Issues in Criminology (Pt. 2)	No Reading	
December 9	Semester Recap & Exam Review	No Reading	LDOC!

Complete Reading List (in order of class schedule) Note: *Textbook readings are marked with a star. The remaining readings are available on ELMS under each week's module.*

- (R1) The normal and the pathological (Durkheim, 162-164)
- (R2) Science, theory, and empirical investigations (Posick, Ch 1) *
- (R3) The future of crime data (Strom 2017, 1030-1041)
- (R4) The Federal Statistical System: An Overview (Knoedl 2024)
- (R5) Property Crime (Hagan 2010, Ch 5, 150-167; 197-199)
- (R6) Violent Crime (Hagan 2010, Ch 4, 105-119, 131-135, 140-146)
- (R7) Disorder and crime (Skogan 2012, Ch 9, 173-187)
- (PE1) When the "elite" offend: White-collar and corporate crime (Criminology Academy Ep. 30)
- (R8) Drug prohibition: American style (MacCoun & Reuter 2001, Ch 2, 15-38)
- (PE2) Fentanyl w/ Prof. Jon Caulkins (The History of Drugs in Society Ep. 7)
- (R9) How to read and understand a scientific article (Raff)
- (R10) Types of Scientific Literature (Swoger)
- (R11) A Very Brief Introduction to the Scientific Literature (Swoger)
- (R12) Cannabis decriminalization and racial disparity in arrests for cannabis possession (Gunnadi & Shi 2022)
- (R13) Pre-Enlightenment theories (Posick, Ch 2) *
- (R14) On crimes and punishments (Beccaria, 88-92)
- (R15) Biological studies of antisocial and violent behavior in children and adults (Raine, 119-127)
- (R16) Lombroso and early biological theories (Posick, Ch 3) *
- (R17) Biosocial criminology (Posick, Ch 11) *
- (R18) Anomie and strain theories (Posick, Ch 5) *
- (R19) Social structure and anomie (Merton, 165-169)
- (R20) The city and social disorganization theories (Posick, Ch 4) *
- (R21) Differential association and social learning theories (Posick, Ch 6) *
- (R22) Social and self-control theories (Posick, Ch 8) *
- (R23) Developmental criminology (Posick, Ch 10) *
- (R24) Adolescent-limited and life-course persistent antisocial behavior: A developmental taxonomy (Moffitt, 807-817)
- (R25) Deterrence and rational choice theories (Posick, Ch 9) *
- (PE3) Perceptions of Risk w/ Timothy Barnum (Criminology Academy Ep. 107)
- (R26) Social change and crime rate trends: A routine activity approach (Cohen & Felson 1979, 588-608)
- (PE4) The Criminology of Place and Crime Concentration w/ David Weisburd (Criminology Academy Ep. 90)
- (R27) Labeling and critical criminology (Posick, Ch 7) *
- (R28) Criminology in international perspective (Posick, Ch 12) *
- (R29) Dire forecast: A theoretical model of the impact of climate change on crime (Agnew 2011, 21-42)
- (PE5) Women, Inequality, and Crime (Criminology Academy Ep. 126)
- (R30) Crime and victimization (Posick, Ch 14) *
- (R31) Crime victims' decisions to call the police: Past research and new directions (Xie & Baumer 2019, 217-234)
- (R32) Science, politics, and crime prevention: Toward a new crime policy (Welsh & Farrington 2012; 128-133)

- (R33) Adverse childhood experience and offending (Baglivio 2024; 131-135)
- (R34) Has COVID-19 Changed Crime? Crime Rates in the United States during the Pandemic (Boman IV & Gallupe 2020, 537-545).
- (PE6) Choose from the following options:
 - Urban Green Spaces & Crime (Criminology Academy Ep. 110)
 - Uber, AirBnB, & Crime (Criminology Academy Ep. 115)
 - Convictions and Voting Rights (Criminology Academy Ep. 120)
 - Policing, Protests, & Race (Criminology Academy Ep. 121)
 - Mass Shootings & their Consequences (Criminology Academy Ep. 127)
 - Correctional Officer Drug Smuggling (Criminology Academy Ep. 129)
 - Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Criminology Academy Ep. 130)