

**CCJS 105: Introduction to Criminology**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Sections 0101-0108**  
**MW 10:00-10:50am**  
**SKN 0200**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Jessica Morabito

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Phone: (301) 405-4732

Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 11:00am-1:00pm, or by appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

0101-0104 Michael Lebron | [mlebron@umd.edu](mailto:mlebron@umd.edu) 2163 LEF Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-3:00pm

0105-0108 Veyli Ortiz Solis | [vortizso@umd.edu](mailto:vortizso@umd.edu) 2163 LEF Office Hours: Th. 4:00-6:00pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a general introduction to the study of crime. We will cover correlates of crime, crime measurement, crime trends, criminological theory from the Enlightenment era to recent decades, and how theory relates to criminal justice policy and crime prevention.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Walsh, Anthony, & Jorgenson, Cody. (2020). *Criminology: The Essentials* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781544375373

Please be sure to obtain a copy of the textbook as soon as possible. You may use either the print or electronic version of the textbook. You may not use a previous edition of the textbook.

Readings that are not from the textbook will be posted on the course website for you to download.

**COURSE WEBSITE**

This class uses Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. I will use it to make announcements to the class, post reading material that is not in your textbook, and update your grades. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. You are able to adjust your individual settings to receive email notifications when new content is posted, if you wish. Please be sure to check this site regularly, as you are responsible for knowing the material that I post. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please contact the support desk at 301-405-1500.

**GRADING POLICY**

Your final grade will be determined according to the following assignment categories:

25% Exam One

25% Exam Two

25% Final Exam

15% Discussion Activities

## 10% Writing Assignment

*\*I reserve the right to adjust the points/requirements if necessitated by a health emergency as declared by the University.\**

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+   96%-93% A   92%-90% A-  
89-87% B+   86%-83% B   82%-80% B-  
79%-77% C+   76%-73% C   72%-70% C-  
69%-67% D+   66%-63% D   62%-60% D-  
59% and below F

\*Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point at the 0.45% threshold. Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course.\*

## EXAMS

There are three exams in this course, which will be given in-person. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will be based on lecture and reading material. You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, your textbook) while taking the exam. Please make sure to bring a #2 pencil, an eraser, and your University ID to each exam. The final exam will not be cumulative. Please be on time for all exams. **Once the first student has turned in the exam, no other students will be allowed to sit for the exam.**

## DISCUSSION

A weekly discussion will be held by one of the teaching assistants (TA) in the course. Please make sure you attend the discussion section you registered for or no credit will be granted for your participation and/or completion of assignments. Discussion will **not** be held during the first week of class so please start attending discussion in week two. In addition, discussion will not be held in weeks 5, 9, 12, 13, and 16.

Participating in discussion is critical to your success in the course. Discussion is not a replacement for attending lecture as course material will be presented in a different format than lecture. Instead, you will be evaluated through a variety of discussion assignments (this may also include online assignments) and activities which will enable you to further analyze and process the overall course material. Simply attending discussion this semester will not result in a favorable grade as you will not be graded on attendance alone, per University policy. To receive full credit in discussion, you will be expected to attend class on time, stay for the duration of the entire class, and actively participate in the weekly activities set forth by your TA. Students who are not engaged in class or who engage in disruptive behavior, such as cell phone use during class, will lose points in discussion, per the discretion of the TA. Please review the makeup policy below in the syllabus should you miss a discussion session this semester. You will be required to notify your TA in writing prior to the start of your registered discussion section with documentation for your excused absence for a makeup assignment to be provided to you. Your TA will provide you with additional information on their expectations for discussion. Your lowest discussion activity grade will be dropped.

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

You will be required to complete an individual writing assignment that promotes further exploration and analysis of criminological theory. Detailed instructions will be provided to you by your TA who will be grading the writing assignment. The writing assignment will be due on ELMS by **11:59pm on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.** If you miss this deadline, you will have up to 5 days after the initial due date to submit a late writing assignment on ELMS for a 10% deduction per day it is late with a maximum of a 50% grade reduction. No writing assignments will be accepted after 5 days beyond the due date. Email submissions will not be accepted.

## **GRADE DISPUTES**

If you have a concern about a grade on an exam or assignment and believe that I should review it, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. Upon receiving your email, I may ask you to meet with me in person to further discuss your concern. You have **one week** after the assignment/exam grade is posted to submit a grade dispute.

## **MISSED CLASSES/MAKEUP POLICY/MISSED EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. Excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, technical/internet problems, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify the instructors (Professor Morabito and TA) in writing **prior** to missing an exam, major graded assignment and/or discussion section for a makeup to be scheduled. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify us at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to take the exam or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

**Lectures:** Students may miss lectures without notifying me, as attendance is not taken. However, repeatedly missing lectures is not advised. If you miss a class, you must obtain the lecture notes from a classmate. I will not post my lecture notes online, nor will I provide them to students regardless of circumstances. Once you have obtained the lecture notes, I am happy to go over any questions you have during my office hours.

**Exams:** Makeup exams will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require **prior** written notice to the start of the exam and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam and notify me after the start of the exam, you will **not** be able to reschedule the exam. Please contact both your TA and me immediately (before the start of the exam) to let me know if you will not make the exam so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather documentation. All makeup exams must be completed **as soon as you are able to return but no later than one week of the missed exam.** Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam. Makeup exams will be a different format (e.g., short-answers and essay questions) and contain different questions than the original exam.

**Discussion:** Makeup assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior written notice to the start of your registered discussion section as well as official documentation. If you contact your TA after the start of your registered discussion section, you will not be able to schedule a makeup assignment. Please provide us with a copy of your documentation to keep in our records. All makeup assignments for a missed discussion section, due to an excused absence, must be completed within one week of the missed assignment and/or discussion section. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment.

Students may, one time per course per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of a medically necessitated absence from a single discussion section that does not coincide with a major graded assessment or assignment due date. Students must still provide prior written notice of their absence before the start of class.

**Writing Assignment:** A late writing assignment without a documented excused absence will receive a grade reduction of 10% per day it is late, with a maximum of a 50% grade reduction. No writing assignments will be accepted after 5 days beyond the due date. Grade reductions start immediately after the deadline has passed and weekends count toward this calculation. If you have a documented, excused absence for the writing assignment due date, you will be expected to turn the paper in by the next day, unless other arrangements are made with the TA. You must provide your TA with prior notification that you are unable to turn your writing assignment in on time due to the documented, excused absence in order to avoid grade reductions.

We reserve the right to verify all documentation of absences. If you are found to have fabricated documentation, you will be referred to the Student Honor Council.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

On occasion, the University may cancel classes due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on a day that a graded assignment is scheduled to be due or an exam is scheduled to be given, the graded assignment or exam will be rescheduled for the next class day that the University is open. Please note that the course schedule, including reading assignments, may need to be adjusted as a result of inclement weather-related class cancellations. I will keep you updated via ELMS of any such changes.

### **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service office (ADS) and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS form which has been updated for Fall 2021. You must provide me with this form **by September 14, 2021** in person so that we can discuss how I may best help you. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by ADS. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS testing office in Shoemaker Hall need to make arrangements to do so through the ADS website and must provide me with a testing form online **at least three business days prior to the exam**; failure to do so will mean that the student must take the exam with the rest of the class. Any student taking an exam at the ADS office is expected to take the exam on the same day and at the same starting time as the rest of the class; if you feel that you are unable to take the exam at the same

day due to a scheduling conflict (i.e., another class), you must discuss this with me prior to submitting your request to the ADS testing office and submit documentation of your conflict.

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS & ATHLETICS**

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss class, a paper due date, a quiz, or an exam, please let your TA and me know **by September 14, 2021**. If you will be missing an exam, you will be expected to take it prior to the exam date. If you will be missing a due date, you will be expected to turn your assignment in prior to the due date. If you will be missing a discussion, you will be expected to turn in an alternate assignment prior to the date of your missed discussion.

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONDUCT**

The success of this class is dependent on our ability as a class to maintain an environment conducive to everyone's learning. As a department and a university, we expect both faculty and students to be prepared for class. We also expect students to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated in my classroom. Disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, using cell phones or prohibited technological devices, leaving class early, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting other students while they are speaking. Disruptive behaviors may result in being asked to leave the class. In addition, this class will cover subjects that may personally affect you, someone you know, or other students; some of the material presented may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable in the classroom. Students must treat each other and me with respect, particularly when discussing these topics. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or to attack another member of this class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave class and will be subject to referral to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

I am committed to making this class a positive experience for all students. You can expect the following of me:

1. I will start class on time and will not keep you past 10:50.
2. I will be prepared for class.
3. I will adhere to my email policy as stated in the syllabus.
4. I will be at my office hours during the times specified on the syllabus and this document, beginning the second week of the semester. If I must cancel them for an emergency or reschedule them, I will give as much notice as possible.
5. I will stick to the assignment deadlines and exam dates that appear on the syllabus, unless the University is closed for an emergency.

Please visit [www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

I will allow the use of laptops in class for note-taking and class activities only. Your TA will set their own policy for technology use in discussion sections. I do not allow the use of cell phones in my classroom. If inappropriate use of technology becomes a repeated infraction, you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day. I reserve the option to rescind laptop privileges for the remainder of the course if these problems continue to occur. If any technological devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from you and you will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as zero and you will be referred to the Student Honor Council.

## **EMAIL POLICY**

Email is the University's official form of communication. As such, I expect that you will check your email daily to ensure that you receive important announcements relating to this class. In addition, I expect your emails to me to be professional. Please do not use chat-speak in your emails to me. You must email me from your University email address, not a personal email and not through ELMS. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please be sure to include CCJS105 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in.

I will make every effort to respond to your emails as quickly as possible. My general policy is to provide a same-day email response to emails received during business hours, Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I do not respond to emails over the weekend or on holidays and will respond to any emails by 5:00pm the next business day. Keeping these guidelines in mind, if you do not receive a reply from me within 24 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

I take academic integrity very seriously. The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> for further information about the Code of Academic Integrity, what constitutes academic dishonesty, and the Student Honor Council.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours are a good opportunity for you to get some individualized assistance. The TAs and I hold weekly office hours and we encourage you to take advantage of them any time you need help with this course. If you are planning to attend office hours at the times listed at the top of the syllabus, you do not need to let us know that you plan to come by.

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Your feedback about this course is very important to me. At the end of the semester, you are encouraged to fill out the online evaluation, which you can access via

[www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu). As an incentive, students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester are able to access the posted results of the evaluations for any course that has a response rate of at least 70%.

### **COPYRIGHT**

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. You are permitted to take notes on lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may NOT record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. You may NOT take pictures of my lectures/notes for your own personal use or 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 and Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date on the schedule.

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments
1	M 8/30 W 9/1	Course Introduction What is Criminology?	Syllabus Chapter 1
2	M 9/6 W 9/8	No Class – Labor Day Research in Criminology	No reading
3	M 9/13 W 9/15	Crime Measurement Crime Trends and Correlates of Crime	Chapter 2 No reading
4	M 9/20 W 9/22	Victimology Classical School of Criminology	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
5	M 9/27 W 9/29	Early Positivist School of Criminology <b>EXAM ONE</b>	Chapter 5
6	M 10/4 W 10/6	Strain Theories Theories of Crime and Place	pp. 108-112 Wilson & Kelling
7	M 10/11 W 10/13	Learning Theories Subcultural Theories	pp. 125-129 Anderson
8	M 10/18 W 10/20	Social Control Theories Labeling Theories	pp. 130-134 No reading
9	M 10/25 W 10/27	Conflict and Feminist Theories <b>EXAM TWO</b>	Chapter 8
10	M 11/1 W 11/3	Developmental/Life-Course Theories Modern Classical & Deterrence Theories	Chapter 11 pp. 87-93
11	M 11/8 W 11/10	Modern Classical/Deterrence, Part 2 Modern Psychosocial Theories	pp. 87-93 Chapter 9
12	M 11/15 W 11/17	Modern Biosocial Theories No Class – ASC; <b>Writing Assignment Due</b>	Chapter 10
13	M 11/22 W 11/24	Violent Crime No Class – Thanksgiving	Chapter 12
14	M 11/29 W 12/1	Property Crime Public Order Crime	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
15	M 12/6 W 12/8	Other Crime Types Crime Prevention	No reading No reading
16	M 12/13	Catch-Up Day	

**FINAL EXAM: TBD; will be announced mid-semester. Please DO NOT schedule travel during exam week until the date of the final exam has been announced.**