Course Title: Seminar in Criminology
Course Number: CCJS 651
Class Time: 3-5:45pm
Professor: Jean M. McGloin
Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone: 301-405-3007
E-mail: jmcgloin@umd.edu
Office: 2220L LeFrak Hall

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course provides a general introduction to the study of the causes of crime from an interdisciplinary perspective. The central focus centers on the major theories of crime causation developed over the past two hundred years. We will also discuss key advancements in theory and related research over recent years.

**Dr. John Laub will be offering several brown bag lectures/discussions throughout the semester. I strongly urge you to attend these lectures, which will be focused on life-course criminology. The dates of these sessions are: January 29, February 12, March 11, April 15, May 6. All sessions will be 1-3pm in the Wellford Conference Room (2165 LeFrak Hall).

REQUIRED READINGS:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) The first exam on March 8, which will account for 28% of your final grade. More information on this exam will be provided in class.

(2) A paper is due at the start of class on April 19, 2016. This paper will account for 28% of your final grade. For this paper, students should select one of the four correlates of crime (age, gender, race, SES) and write a paper that considers how well theory can account for that correlate. Specifically, the paper should begin with a discussion of the evidence on the extent to which this factor is a correlate of crime. Then, the student should select two
theories that are able to account for this correlate, offering a compelling argument that draws on existing literature and research. Then, the student will select one theory and explain why it is ill-equipped to explain this correlate. Finally, the paper should end with a brief discussion of what the student believes are the most important “next steps” for future research with regard to this correlate. There is an expectation that students will use existing literature and research to support their arguments in this paper. Simply relying on the course materials, class discussion and personal thoughts will almost certainly result in a bad grade. If you encounter difficulty while working on the paper, be sure to talk to the professor. The paper should be 10-15 pages, not including references. There is no need for a separate title page or abstract. In terms of formatting, please use 12 point Times New Roman Font, double space the text, and follow APA guidelines.

(3) A second exam on May 10, which will account for 28% of your final grade. More information on this exam will be provided in class.

(4) Class participation will count for the remaining 16% of your grade. Class participation is measured by class preparation (e.g., completing the assigned readings prior to class), and active participation during class discussions (e.g., asking questions, answering my questions, and not sleeping, reading a newspaper, surfing the web, etc.).

CLASS POLICIES:

- **Attendance:** On May 10, 2011, the Campus Senate amended the University of Maryland Policy for A Student’s Medically Necessitated Absence from Class V-100 (G). Under this new policy, instructors are expected to accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class for the semester, but this DOES NOT apply to days of major grading events (the day of the midterm and your presentation). Please note that multiple unexcused absences will affect your participation grade.

- **Missed/Late Assignments:** Make-up exams 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. If a completed paper assignment is late without my prior approval, it will lose one letter grade for every 24 hours past the due date/time. 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. If no one has yet finished the exam, you will have the remaining class time to complete the exam.

- **Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form and any violations will be reported to the Office of Judicial Programs. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another.
CLASS SCHEDULE

  - Reading: Bernard et al. Chapter 1; Cullen et al. Introduction

- **February 2** – The Positivist and Classical School; Rational Choice and Deterrence
  - Reading: Bernard et al., pp 14-26; Cullen et al, Chapters 1, 33, 34.

- **February 9** – Biological & Psychological Theories of Crime
  - Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 3-4; Cullen et al., Chapters 4-6.

- **February 16** – Social Disorganization Theory and Collective Efficacy
  - Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 7; Cullen et al., Chapters 7-9.

- **February 23** – Strain Theories
  - Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 5-6, 8; Cullen et al., Chapters 13, 15-16.

- **March 1** – Cultural Deviance Theories
  - Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 184-189; Cullen et al., Chapters 12, 14

- **March 8** – **EXAM 1**

- **March 15** – No Class; Spring Break

- **March 22** – The Origins of Learning Theory and Differential Association
  - Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 177-184; Cullen et al., Chapters 10 and 17

- **March 29** – Social Learning Theory, Symbolic Interactionism and Opportunities

- **April 5** – Control Theories
  - Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 10; Cullen et al., Chapters 18-19.
• April 12 – Environmental Criminology, Routine Activity Theory and Situational Crime Prevention
  o Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 26-27; Cullen et al., Chapters 36-38

• April 19 – Labeling, Conflict, Critical and Feminist Theories
  PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 11-14; Cullen et al., Part VII and Part IX.

• April 26 – Labeling, Conflict, Critical and Feminist Theories Continued, Start of Life course, Developmental and Interactional Theories
  o Reading: same as prior week

• May 3 – Life course, Developmental and Interactional Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 15; Cullen et al., Chapters 40-42, 45

• May 10 – EXAM 2