UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DEPT. OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SPRING SEMESTER -- 2018

Course Title: Seminar in Criminology
Course Number: CCJS 651
Class Time: Tuesday 3-5:45pm
Professor: Jean M. McGloin
Office Hours: Tuesday 10am -12pm
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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.

REQUIRED READINGS:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) The first exam is on March 13 and will account for 28% of your final grade. This exam will require students to complete four essays.

(2) A paper is due at the start of class on April 24. This paper will account for 28% of your final grade. For this paper, students should select either age, gender, or SES and write a paper that considers how well theory can account for that correlate of crime. 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. 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. Students must submit a 1 page proposal, which details their proposed correlate and theoretical choices by April 3.

(3) A second exam on will be given on May 15 and it will account for 28% of your final grade. As with the first exam, it will require students to complete four essays. This exam will not be cumulative.

(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, offering insights).

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 excuse 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. 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 10 points 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 Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another.

CLASS SCHEDULE
  o Reading: Bernard et al. Chapter 1; Cullen et al. Introduction

• February 6 – The Positivist and Classical School; Rational Choice and Deterrence
  o Reading: Bernard et al., pp 14-26; Cullen et al., Chapters 1, 33, 34.

• February 13 – Biological & Psychological Theories of Crime
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 3-4; Cullen et al., Chapters 4-6.

• February 20 – Social Disorganization Theory and Collective Efficacy
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 7; Cullen et al., Chapters 7-9.

• February 27 – Strain Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 5-6, 8; Cullen et al., Chapters 13, 15-16.

• March 6 – Cultural Deviance Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 184-189; Cullen et al., Chapters 12, 14

• March 13 – **EXAM 1**

• March 20 – No Class (Spring Break)

• March 27 – The Origins of Learning Theory and Differential Association
  o Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 177-184; Cullen et al., Chapters 10 and 17

• April 4 – Social Learning Theory, Symbolic Interactionism and Opportunities
    o **One page paper proposal due**

• April 10 – Control Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 10; Cullen et al., Chapters 18-19.

• April 17 – Environmental Criminology, Routine Activity Theory and Situational Crime Prevention
  o Reading: Bernard et al., pp. 26-27; Cullen et al., Chapters 36-38

• April 24 – Labeling, Conflict, Critical and Feminist Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapters 11-14; Cullen et al., Part VII and Part IX.
    o **PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS**
• May 1 – Labeling, Conflict, Critical and Feminist Theories Continued, Start of Life course, Developmental and Interactional Theories
  o Reading: same as prior week

• May 8 - Life course, Developmental and Interactional Theories
  o Reading: Bernard et al., Chapter 15; Cullen et al., Chapters 40-42, 45

• May 15 – **EXAM 2**