

**SPRING SEMESTER 2018**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY**

**UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE**

**SOC 322: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Nicholas Athey

**OFFICE:** Hoover 114

**OFFICE HOURS:** M & W, 3:00-4:00 pm (or by appointment)

**OFFICE PHONE:** (909) 448-4364

**EMAIL:** [nathey@laverne.edu](mailto:nathey@laverne.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will examine sociological theories of crime and deviance that have marked the development of the discipline of criminology. Theories will be situated in their historical, social and political contexts of emergence and development. Students will be asked to reflect upon and discuss the theories' underlying assumptions, their strengths and weaknesses, the links and contrasts between them, their research implications, and their practical applications.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course introduces students to the discipline of criminology and teaches them to think about the causes, consequences, and (social) construction of crime and deviance through the lens of a sociologist. Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Critically exam and apply social theories to crime and deviance,
- Describe the historical development of criminology from a sociological standpoint,
- Distinguish between and link macro- and micro-level perspectives of criminal and deviant behavior,
- Describe the various classifications of criminal behavior and their elements,
- Define important sociological terminology used to understand and explain crime and deviance, and
- Critically analyze and critique criminological research.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Beirne, P. & Messerschmidt, J. S. (2015). *Criminology: A Sociological Approach* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Note: Supplementary academic journal articles will be assigned as part of the weekly reading list and for the term paper. All articles will be accessible through La Verne's electronic journals.

**PREREQUISITE:**

## Completion of SOC 250 AND Written Communication B

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a midterm and final examination, construction of a concept map and course journal, participation in weekly online discussions, and a written assignment based on the textbook and **at least** three additional peer-reviewed sources. The University of La Verne operates on a letter-grade system, with the following range of possible outcomes: A+ (98-100%), A (94-97%), A- (90-93%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63-66%), D- (60-62%), and F (0-59%). Grades will be allocated as follows:

Participation in weekly discussions	10%
Concept map	5%
Mid-Term Examination:	25%
Term Paper (10-12 page essay)	20%
Course Journal	15%
Final Examination	25%

**NOTE: Any student requesting an “incomplete” (INC) must first communicate with the instructor and complete the “Incomplete Contract” form through their MyLaverne system (see for more details: <https://sites.laverne.edu/registrar/student-information/mylaverne-information/student-information-system/how-to-request-an-incomplete-inc-grade>).**

Final grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

A+	98-100%
A	94-97%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

### **A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously at the University of La Verne. Plagiarism and cheating on examinations are considered to be major offenses. Plagiarism consists of buying term papers or essays, submitting an essay or term paper that you did not write yourself, paraphrasing the works of others without acknowledging (citing) your source or sources, using direct word-for-word quotations without putting them in quotation marks and acknowledging (citing) your source or sources, submitting an essay or term paper that

you have written for another course (i.e., a double submission), etc. Cheating on examinations consists of copying from the work of other students, allowing other students to copy from your work, surreptitiously using aids—e.g., class notes, cheat sheets, cell phones, i-phones, i-pods—during examinations, etc. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty can expect one or more possible penalties. The penalties for academic dishonesty generally include a written account being submitted to The Registrar, where it is retained on the student’s file, and a failing grade for the examination or assignment on which cheating took place (i.e., 0%). Other possibilities (on an escalating scale) include a failing grade for the course in which the cheating occurred, expulsion from the course, and, in egregious cases (or in cases where there is a repeated pattern of academic dishonesty), suspension or expulsion from the university.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with one or more physical, medical, psychological, attention-deficit, and/or learning disabilities may qualify for certain reasonable accommodations and services to help them maximize their learning potential. Some examples of the services available to qualifying students include priority registration, assistance in scheduling classes in accessible locations, testing in a distraction reduced testing environment, reader and/or transcriber, Sign Language interpreters and/or captionists, and many others. If you would like more information about The Disabled Student Services Department (DSS) and the services they provide, visit the webpage here: <https://sites.laverne.edu/disabled-student-services/>.

### **TERM PAPER AND CONCEPT MAP:**

Students are required to complete a term paper totaling approximately 8-10 pages (not including cover page and references cited page) by the end of Week 9 (May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 p.m.). Papers should follow APA format and make reference to all required readings (i.e., textbook and at least three additional peer-reviewed journal articles).

Further instructions about the term paper are available in the “term paper handout.”

Students will also construct a concept map outlining their approach to the term paper, which will be submitted for a grade and peer review in Week 4 (April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:30 pm.). A template will be available for review; however, students should ensure each of the following components are addressed in their concept map:

- **Topic:** Which topic has been selected;
- **Organization:** Provide headings and subheadings detailing the major points or themes that will be addressed throughout the paper;
- **Supporting details and examples:** Provide details and examples that will be used to support claims/arguments made under each (sub)heading;
- **Conclusion/Take-home message:** One sentence clearly summarizing the aim or objective of the paper;
- **Reflection:** A brief (written) reflection addressing anticipated difficulties and strengths of the current approach.

### **COURSE JOURNAL:**

Students will track their progress throughout the online program by keeping a journal. Journal entries will vary from week-to-week, but will require that students (1) reflect on the course material and its relevance to their personal lives; (2) make reference to required readings and lectures; and (3) demonstrate knowledge of weekly lesson plans and objectives. Journal entries should include a combination of personalized written and media entries, such as photos, short video clips, drawings/art, quotations and many other forms of expression that effectively convey how the course information was interpreted and “connected” to the student’s own life. Completed journals will be submitted during the final week of class (June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 p.m.); however, the instructor will review and provide comments on a weekly basis. In total, journals will be worth 15% of the final grade, but a half point (0.5% of the total grade) will be awarded for completing entries during the week they are assigned. Therefore, the final grade breakdown is:

- 0.5% (x 10 weeks = 5%) for completing journal entries during the week they are assigned and
- 10% for submitting a completed journal no later than June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:30 p.m.
- Total = 0.5% x 10 weeks (5%) and 10% for completed journals (total 15%).

(Note: These figures are the *possible* number of points that can be received; completing tasks on time and in full does not guarantee that full marks will be rewarded)

### **WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS:**

You should look through this syllabus on a regular basis, as it contains a full listing of course topics and required readings for the semester on a week-by-week basis. Weekly discussions for this course will require students to first complete the assigned reading(s) and online lecture(s). Discussion topics will become available at 8:00 a.m. Monday and remain open until Sunday at 10:30 p.m. Students must participate *meaningfully* in the online discussion at least twice during the week it is available; while the discussion forums will remain open for students to use as a study aid, contributions made to the discussion after the week has ended will not receive credit. The first entry must demonstrate a degree of reflection on that week’s prompt or question and reference the assigned reading(s), lecture(s), or both. The second entry must be a response to a classmate’s first entry and either challenge its merit (respectfully) or progress the dialogue in a meaningful way by making reference to relevant course content. Note that outside sources, such as current events in the media and personal anecdotes, can be used, but are not considered adequate substitutes for the course content.

Lectures will selectively emphasize essential issues, themes and content, and will introduce ideas and information that supplement and extend beyond the required readings. The schedule, lecture topics and assigned readings for the ten weeks of the course are as follows:

**WEEK 1:** (March 26-April 1, 2018)

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Crime Problem and The Measurement and Classification of Crime.

Readings: Chapter 1 ('The Problem of Crime') & Chapter 2 ('The Measurement of Crime').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #1 & Journal entry #1.

**WEEK 2:** (April 2-8, 2018)

Lecture 2: Introduction to Criminology, Social Thought, and Deterrence Theory.

Readings: Chapter 3 ('Inventing Criminology: Classicism, Positivism, and Beyond') & Higgins et al. (2005). 'An application of deterrence theory to software piracy' (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>).

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #2 & Journal entry #2.

**WEEK 3:** (April 16-22, 2018)

Lecture 3: Social Structure, Anomie Theory, and White-Collar Crime.

Readings: Chapter 4 ('Social Structure, Anomie and Crime') & Chapter 12 ('White-Collar Crime').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #3 & Journal entry #3.

**WEEK 4:** (April 16-22, 2018)

Lecture 4: The Chicago School, Social Disorganization, Subcultures, and Labeling Theory.

Readings: Chapter 5 ('Delinquent Subcultures, Subcultures of Delinquency, and the Labeling Perspective') & Bursick and Grasmick. (1993). 'Economic deprivation and Neighborhood Crime Rates, 1960-1980' (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>).

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #4 & Journal entry #4.

**Assignment due:** Term paper 'concept map' is due by 10:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**WEEK 5:** (April 23-29, 2018)

Lecture 5: Social Learning Theory and Social Control Theory.

Readings: Chapter 6 ('Social Learning Theory and Social Control Theory') & Becker. (1953). 'Becoming a marihuana user' (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>).

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #5 & Journal entry #5.

**Mid term examination:** The midterm examination, worth 25% of your final grade, will be available the entire week. Exams must be completed in one sitting at any time during the one week period they are assigned. The exam will include 15 multiple choice, 10 true/false, 5 short answer, and 2 long answer questions and total 50 points, which will then be divided by 2 to give a raw percentage score (out of 25%).

**WEEK 6:** (April 30-May 6, 2018)

Lecture 6: Conflict Theory and Inequality and Crime.

Readings: Chapter 7 ('The Conflict Tradition') & Chapter 9 ('Inequality, Crime, and Victimization').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #6 & Journal entry #6.

**WEEK 7:** (May 7-13, 2018)

Lecture 7: Feminist and Critical Criminology and Political Crime.

Readings: Chapter 8 ('Feminist and Critical Criminology') & Chapter 13 ('Political Crime').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #7 & Journal entry #7.

**WEEK 8:** (May 14-20, 2018)

Lecture 8: Property Crime and Interpersonal Violence.

Readings: Chapter 10 ('Property Crime') & Chapter 11 ('Interpersonal Violence').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #8 & Journal entry #8.

**Draft due:** The final date to submit a term paper draft for feedback from the instructor is Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m.

**WEEK 9:** (May 21-27, 2018)

Lecture 9: Age and Crime: Life-Course Criminology.

Readings: Moffit. (1993). 'Adolescent-limited and life-course persistent antisocial behavior: A developmental taxonomy.' & Sampson and Laub. (2003). 'Life-course desisters? Trajectories of crime among delinquent boys followed to age 70' (available through the University of La Verne online library at: <http://library.laverne.edu/>).

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #9 & Journal entry #9.

**Term paper due:** The final date to submit term papers without receiving a late penalty is Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m.

**WEEK 10:** (May 28-June 3, 2018)

Lecture 10: Comparative Criminology and Transnational Crime.

Readings: Chapter 14 ('Comparative Criminology').

Assignments/Activities: Online discussion #10 & Journal entry #10.

**Final examination:** The final examination, worth 25% of your final grade, will be available the entire week. Exams must be completed in one sitting at any time during the one week period they are assigned. The exam will be cumulative and include 15 multiple choice, 10 true/false, 5 short answer, and 2 long answer questions and total 50 points, which will then be divided by 2 to give a raw percentage score (out of 25%).

**Completed journal due:** The final date to submit course journals without receiving a late penalty is Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 p.m.