



## CRJ500: CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Contact Hours:** This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

**Faculty Information:** Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the major schools of thought about crime causation (sociological, psychological, and biological) and identify the primary positions of each theoretical approach. In addition, students will examine the role of theories in reasoning and organizing studies of crime and control, and discerns policy implications of various theories. In completing the course, students will gain/improve their library research skills and acquaint themselves with APA style and citing sources.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course examines the role of theories in the studies of crime and control. It surveys the major schools of thought related to crime causation (sociological, psychological, and biological) and particular theories about crime and delinquency, places these theories in the historical context, and reviews the primary propositions of the theories as well as conclusions reached in criminological research. Students of this course will gain an understanding of how deviance, criminal behavior and crime control co-evolve.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Critically evaluate the historical and contemporary theoretical models of criminology.
2. Analyze the political and ideological significance of cultural constructs of crime and crime control policy.
3. Evaluate the difference between empirical, professional, and popular resources as literature.
4. Assess the CSU Global library databases to conduct a literature review.
5. Describe societal rationale to justify efforts toward punishment and treatment.
6. Discuss the social, economic, and political correlates of crime in the United States.
7. Analyze criminological theories to explain crime and crime control policies.

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### PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

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Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

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## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required:

Brown, S.E., Esbensen, F., & Geis, G. (2015). *Criminology: Explaining crime and its context* (9th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN-13: 9780323356480

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

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### Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

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## WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

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### MODULE 1

#### Readings

- Chapters 1 & 2 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- CSU-Global Library. (2018). CSU-Global guide to writing & APA: Acceptable sources. Greenwood Village, CO: Colorado State University-Global Campus.
- CSU-Global Library. (2018). Video tutorials repository: Source selection & evaluation. Greenwood Village, CO: Colorado State University-Global Campus.

#### Discussion (25 points)

#### Critical Thinking (75 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

#### **Option #1: Types of Information Sources**

Researching issues surrounding crime is contextual. The theoretical frameworks discussed in this module come from information sources such as textbooks (which represent a compilation of research that is

published in scholarly journals). For this assignment, develop a well-written essay to address the following questions:

- How can other information sources contribute to your knowledge of these frameworks?
- What role does empirical literature have in evaluating theory and program effectiveness?
- How may policy makers use the information from peer-reviewed sources in developing policy and practice?
- What value do international journals provide in terms of providing a global context of policy and application of theory?

Be sure and refer to the CSU-Global Library Guides to access resources on information sources.

You are encouraged to review the following tour of the CSU-Global library.

Your paper should meet the following requirements including any assessment tools you used in the References page.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA. Include at least [two] scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.

### **Option #2: A Comparison of Information Sources**

For this assignment, identify at least two differences between peer-reviewed, professional, and popular sources. Compare and contrast the information sources. Develop a well-written essay to address the following questions:

- In the graduate classroom, which types of sources are expected?
- What role does empirical literature have in evaluating theory and program effectiveness?
- How may policy makers use the information from peer-reviewed sources in developing policy and practice?
- What value do international journals provide policy makers in terms of providing a global context of policy and application of theory?

Be sure and refer to the CSU-Global Library Guides to access resources on information sources.

You are encouraged to review the following video regarding information sources.

Your paper should meet the following requirements including any assessment tools you used in the References page.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA. Include at least two scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.

### **Portfolio Reminder (0 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1:**

Students will be required to select the type of crime that will be your topic by Week 4 and share this choice with the instructor and fellow learners in the Portfolio Project Milestone discussion board. Because you will be supporting your work with peer-reviewed and professional sources (like those we covered in this module), begin your literature review in the CSU Global library to insure that there are significant resources on your topic. So, be sure to begin work on this project during the next couple of weeks.

You can find credible sources in the CSU-Global Library. Document formatting and source citations should be in conformity with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

**Option #2:**

Students will be required to select the type of crime that will be their topic by Week 4 and share this choice with the instructor and fellow learners in the Portfolio Project Milestone discussion board. Because you will be supporting your work with peer-reviewed and professional sources (like those we covered in this module), begin your literature review in the CSU Global library to insure that there are significant resources on your topic. So, be sure to begin work on this project during the next couple of weeks.

You can find credible sources in the CSU-Global Library. Document formatting and source citations should be in conformity with CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## MODULE 2

### Readings

- Chapters 3 & 4 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*

### Discussion (25 points)

### Critical Thinking (75 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Option #1: Global Comparison of Homicide**

View the video, *Student Perspectives: Murder Rates*.

Then read the following report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

In an essay of 2-3 pages, develop a critical analysis of the following:

1. Despite UCR data indicating that homicides are decreasing in the United States, develop a hypothesis explaining why homicides are still more likely to occur in the Americas.
2. Why are men more likely to be victims of homicide worldwide?
3. What do you think accounts for higher homicide clearance rates in Asia and Europe vs. the United States?

Support your post with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

### **Option #2: Understanding Measures of Crime**

You are an intern in research, planning, and analysis at your local law enforcement agency and have been given the task of explaining to a group of citizens how the recent crime data was compiled. For this assignment, you are to prepare a –10-15 slide PowerPoint or Prezi presentation with an overview explaining the: (1) Uniform Crime Report, (2) National Incident Based Reporting System, (3) National Crime Victimization Survey, and (4) International Crime Victims Survey. You will explain how each of these four measures of crime are compiled, the strengths and weaknesses of each crime source, and which gives the best indication of the true measure of crime in your locale.

Within your presentation, you will support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## **MODULE 3**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 5 & 12 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- Read, L. Rowley, R. Granatstein, S. (Director). (2016). Something in the water [Video file]. Divided Films. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTshmuCmDX32BBLgzrlsdF8VGU3dQx61M>

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (75 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

### **Option #1: Explaining Economically Motivated Crime**

Choose one of the following incidents:

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

<http://www.history.com/topics/triangle-shirtwaist-fire>

The Ford Pinto Case

<https://philosophia.uncg.edu/phi361-matteson/module-1-why-does-business-need-ethics/case-the-ford-pinto/>

The Imperial Foods Fire

<https://www.ncdcr.gov/blog/2013/09/03/hamlet-fire-among-states-worst-disasters>

In an essay of 2-3 pages, address the following prompts:

From a rational choice perspective, why are corporate executives willing to make decisions which may pose risks to human safety and life to maximize profit or economic gain?

What role does the government play in terms of enforcement of safety standards and workplace regulations? What can the criminal justice system do to promote adherence to these regulations?

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

### **Option #2: Deterrence Theory and Capital Punishment**

Rational choice theorists hold that actions result from the cost-and-benefit calculation of the actor. Therefore, the threat of punishment, with its potential pain, may discourage people from illegal behavior. Discuss from a perspective of deterrence theory, why or why not the death penalty serves as an effective deterrence for crimes it intends to punish. Insure your paper applies classical theory to explain why the United States is the only developed country which still utilizes the death penalty, but has among the highest homicide rates in the world.

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## **MODULE 4**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 6 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (75 points)**

### **Self-Knowledge**

This assignment is designed to give you the opportunity to assess your overall fitness for your ideal career in criminal justice. You may be able to review and draw on work you have already done using the Student Career Center. To complete this assignment, you will take another look at your Personal and Career Evaluation and begin talking to other professionals to assess how you can strategically cultivate the skills and gain the experiences you need that will allow you to conduct an effective job search and to begin your successful career.

Remember to add all of the work you do during this assignment to your Career Portfolio. All of this information may be useful in future career development assignments and during your job search.

### **Assignment Preparation/Activities**

- Go to the Student Career Center and review the assessments available in the section on Exploring Career Options.
- Create a list of questions that you have about what it's like to work in criminal justice.
- Make contact with a mentor, a friend, or an acquaintance who works in criminal justice, and initiate a conversation that will allow you to ask your questions. Do your best to ask open-ended

questions so that you can learn as much as possible about the criminal justice system. Alternatively, do an internet search using your questions to guide your search so that you can learn more about work life and career opportunities in criminal justice.

- Based on a more thorough self-evaluation of your strengths, weaknesses, and career goals, taken together with your research about working in criminal justice, create a strengths and weaknesses chart for each position that interests you and fill each one out with information about your skills, experience, personality, values, advantages, limitations, and any of your personal life situations that are important to having a job or establishing a career in criminal justice.

### **Assignment Requirements**

Develop a well-written 2-3-page paper that includes the following:

1. A summary of your strength and weaknesses self-evaluation. In your summary, include:
  - a. Key things that stood out to you when researching what it's like to work and/or have a career in criminal justice. Be sure to cite your sources.
  - b. Your greatest strengths and weaknesses as they relate to your professional interests.
2. An assessment of challenges that your unique life situation may present to your ability to complete your degree and/or to pursue a career in this professional area. You may be as specific or general as you like with this assessment to maintain your personal privacy.

Always follow CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA style and review the library material concerning APA style before turning in this assignment.

### **Portfolio Milestone (30 points)**

#### **Option #1: Proposed Topic**

Submit your proposed topic to your course professor using the drop box provided for the Portfolio Project Milestone. Your submission will be one to two paragraphs, describing your topic and the aspects of the behavior that you will address from a theoretical perspective.

In addition, you will also submit a minimum of three research articles that are related to your proposed topic. These research articles should be gleaned from CSU-Global Virtual Library on the crime of your selection.

Your topic selection, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

#### **Option #2: Proposed Topic**

Submit your proposed topic to your course professor using the drop box provided for the Portfolio Project Milestone. Your submission will be one to two paragraphs, describing your topic and the aspects of the behavior that you will address from a theoretical perspective. In addition, you will also submit a minimum of three research articles that are related to your proposed topic. These research articles should be gleaned from CSU-Global Virtual Library on the crime of your selection.

Your topic selection, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## MODULE 5

### Readings

- Chapter 7 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- Brezina, T. (2017). General Strain Theory. Oxford Research Encyclopedias: Criminology and Criminal Justice. Retrieved from <http://oxfordre.com/criminology/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.001.0001/acrefore-9780190264079-e-249>

### Discussion (25 points)

#### Critical Thinking (75 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

#### **Option #1: Human Trafficking**

For this assignment, you are a police officer, providing an educational session to hotel owners and managers in your city, about human trafficking. For this assignment, you are to prepare a –10-15 slide PowerPoint or Prezi presentation with an overview explaining:

- What human trafficking is as defined by federal law.
- An overview of human trafficking in the United States including the types of trafficking, extent of the problem, etc.
- Why human trafficking occurs according to at least two social structure theories from Chapter Seven of the text.
- An overview of what hotel staff should look for to identify possible instances of human trafficking.

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

#### **Option #2: Social Structure Theories Essay**

From the CSU Global Library, identify a peer-reviewed, empirical article which tests one of the Social Structure Theories discussed in Chapter Seven.

In a 2-3 page essay, you will then provide an overview of the article where you:

1. Explain what the author(s) sought to evaluate or determine in their research (purpose of the study).
2. Explain how the author (s) applied one of the Chapter Seven theories to explain the phenomenon.

Include a brief summary of the findings and the suitability of the theory to explain their hypothesis.

In addition to submitting your essay, you must also attach a PDF of your article.

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources (including the article you identified for this assignment) in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## MODULE 6

### Readings



- Chapter 8 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- Meltzer, L., and Dokoupil, T. (2017). Hate Rising: White supremacy's rise in the U.S.. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hate-rising-cbsn-on-assignment/>
- Laguerre-Wilkinson, M. and Hirschhorn, P. (2013). Pentagon battling military rape "epidemic". January 28, 2013. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pentagon-battling-military-rape-epidemic/>
- Sides, J. & Renzetti, C. M. (Speaker). (2015). *Claire M. Renzetti: stories of research to reality: how the social sciences change the world* [Streaming video]. Retrieved from <https://sk-sagepub-com.csuglobal.idm.oclc.org/video/claire-m-renzetti-stories-of-research-to-reality-how-the-social-sciences-ch>
- Stander, V. A., & Thomsen, C. J. (2016). Sexual harassment and assault in the U.S. Military: A review of policy and research trends. *Military Medicine*, 18120-27. doi:10.7205/MILMED-D-15-00336.
- Westmarland, N. (Academic). (2017). *The benefits of specialist police rape teams* [Streaming video]. Retrieved from <https://sk-sagepub-com.csuglobal.idm.oclc.org/video/the-benefits-of-specialist-police-rape-teams>

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (75 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

#### **Option #1: Explaining the Incidence of Sexual Assault in the Military**

The United States Department of Defense estimates that there are approximately 19,000 incidents of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, each year; yet only 3,000 are reported.

In an essay of 2-3 pages, provide a summary of Stander and Thomsen's review of existing literature to explain sexual assault in the military. Then, from a perspective of social learning/social process theory, critically analyze the observations found in the literature explaining sexual assault.

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources (including the article you identified for this assignment) in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

#### **Option #2: Security Threat Groups Intervention**

As a homeland security consultant, you have been asked to provide a training workshop explaining security threat groups, and recommend an intervention to prevent against extremism and radicalization of new members.

For this assignment, you are to prepare a –10-15 slide PowerPoint or Prezi presentation providing an overview of your chosen security threat group, including its 1) history, estimated current membership, 2) explaining the radicalization process utilizing two of the social process theories covered in the module, and 3) make a policy or practice recommendation to prevent the radicalization of new members.

Support your work with at least two peer-reviewed, academic sources (including the article you identified for this assignment) in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

## MODULE 7

### Readings

- Chapters 9 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- McCann, B. J. (2014). On whose ground? Racialized violence and the prerogative of “self-defense” in the Trayvon Martin case. *Western Journal of Communication*, 78(4), 480.  
doi:10.1080/10570314.2014.901552

### Discussion (25 points)

## MODULE 8

### Readings

- Chapter 13 in *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*
- Anderson, T. (2017). Curbing prescription opioid dependency. (2017). *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 95(5), 318.

### Discussion (25 points)

### Portfolio Project (320 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

#### **Option #1: Crime Research and Theory Application**

The Portfolio Project is a two-pronged inquiry into a category of criminal behavior, requiring students to select a type or category of criminal behavior and then apply research and theory to provide descriptive and theoretical analysis.

The choice of topic should be a narrowly-defined criminal behavior of interest to the student (e.g., domestic violence, stalking, a telemarketing fraud/security fraud, employee theft, date rape, illegal drug trade/use, etc.).

Students will select and share their choice of topic for feedback during Module 4.

For the crime research component of the project, students will conduct research in order to identify what are known in the field as crime factors—basically descriptions of the characteristics of the type of crime under investigation. The crime information should include at least one definition (legal or/and sociological), the distribution of the crime (locally, nationally, and globally [at least one other country]), and some or all of the following crime factors: an offender profile, victim profile, typical offender-victim relationship, situational factors (e.g., time, place, drug use and weapon . . .), social control factors (e.g., cultural values, public opinion/reaction, law enforcement and criminal sanction, and/or others).

The second component requires students to apply one or more criminological theories presented in the

course to a critical analysis of the selected type of crime. The analysis should explain what the theory or theories offer in analyzing the type of crime and discuss the strengths and limits of the theory's application to the selected type of crime.

Keep in mind that the focus of this paper is the type of crime and your analysis of it; while it is important that any research paper recognize the strengths and limits of the application of theory, the primary purpose here is not to critique the theory (or theories) itself.

More than one theory may be appropriate to various attributes of the crime. Theory application is not only naming the theory and summarizing its main elements, but must also present key concepts and propositions of a theory and make clear what aspect(s) of the crime can be explained by the theory.

Support your work with at least seven peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

### **Option #2: Criminal Justice Policy Analysis**

Identify a crime policy or legislation, enacted or implemented within the last 20 years (i.e., mandatory minimum sentencing; mandatory arrest policies for police calls for domestic violence; New York's Stop and Frisk Policies). You will then examine and critique the policy from a theoretical perspective and write a 7-8 page paper where you will address each of the following:

*Chosen policy.* You must clearly define your chosen policy and state what it is. Your policy must be specific (see the examples above).

Students will select and share their choice of topic for feedback during Module 4.

*Define the policy.* What is the purpose of your chosen policy? For example, what were mandatory minimum sentencing policies put in place to do? You will examine the social, governmental, or economic goals of the policy and its underlying assumptions about the crime and offenders and discern the underlying cause of crime and/or effective punishment with the policy.

*Development of the policy.* What were the social, economic, governmental, or policy challenges which led to the development of the policy? For example, in 2009, the Obama administration's White House Office of National Drug Control Policy shifted from a criminal justice focus to a public health focus, with a greater emphasis on rehabilitation.

*Theoretical model(s).* Given the intended goals of the policy, which specific theories from the course can be used to explain the criminal behavior that the policy sought to deter? Based on the tenets of the theory, are the specific goals of the policy based on theory? For example, can life imprisonment effectively deter offenders from committing crime?

*Effectiveness of the policy.* How effective are these policies? What does the empirical research state about the effectiveness of your policy? In turn, you are to analyze why the strategy is (or is not) effective based on specific elements of the chosen theory.

*Global comparison.* Have other countries implemented similar policies? How effective have these policies been in those countries? In turn, are there policies implemented abroad which can be adopted in the United States?

*Summary.* In this component of the paper, you are to summarily compare all of the policies you discuss (the original policy you examine as well as the alternative policies).

Support your work with at least seven peer-reviewed, academic sources, in addition to the course textbook. Your essay, reference list, and sources should be formatted according to CSU Global APA format according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA.

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## COURSE POLICIES

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### Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation  
45% Critical Thinking Assignments  
35% Final Portfolio Project

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

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## IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

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For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

### Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

### Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

### Disability Services Statement

CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email [ada@CSUGlobal.edu](mailto:ada@CSUGlobal.edu) for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### Netiquette

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.