

Saint Leo University
CRM426
Theories of Criminal Behavior

Course Description:

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the causes of criminal behavior. Case studies are used to illustrate the biological, psychological, social, and economic correlations of crime. The focus is on understanding the major theories and applying these theoretical models to improve our understanding of criminal motivations.

Prerequisite:

SOC121 or PSY121 and POL123 and CRM220

Textbooks:

Lilly, J.R., Cullen, F.T., and Ball, R.A., (2019). *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences (7th Edition)* Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications. Print: ISBN 978-1-5063-8730-7 / 1506387306: eText: ISBN: 978-1-5063-8728-4.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN-13: 978-1-4338-0561-5

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Saint Leo University core value of excellence as it relates to theories of criminal behavior.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of content and internal logic of the major theories and premises of criminal behavior.
3. Apply the theoretical models of criminal behavior to explain the conduct of criminal offenders.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the major sources of crime data upon which theoretical models are built and be aware of concerns of validity.
5. Determine the limitations and interdependencies of the numerous models of criminal behavior.

Core Value:

Excellence: Saint Leo University is an educational enterprise. All of us, individually and collectively, work hard to ensure that our students develop the character, learn the skills, and assimilate the knowledge essential to become morally responsible leaders. The success of our University depends upon a conscientious commitment to our mission, vision, and goals.

Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following

Assignment	Total Points	Score (%)
Discussions (8 at 10 points each)	80	20%
Written Exercises (5 at 20 points each)	100	25%
Seven Weekly Quizzes	70	17.5%
Final Exam (Module 8)	80	20%
Research Paper	70	17.5%
Total	400	100%

Grading Scale

Grade	Score (%)	Points
A	94-100%	400-378
A-	90-93%	375-360
B+	87-89%	359-348
B	84-86%	347-336
B-	80-83%	335-320
C+	77-79%	319-308
C	74-76%	307-296
C-	70-73%	295-280
D+	67-69%	279-268
D	60-66%	267-240
F	Below 60%	240

Assignments may be critiqued by your professor on the Discussion Board. The critique may include areas of deficiency and needing improvement, as well as positive attributes. The comments are to promote further student learning. No grade will be posted on any assignments where other students can see and will only be posted in the Gradebook within the class.

All work must be completed using Microsoft Office applications (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel). Word Perfect, Word Pad, and other similar products will not be accepted.

The assignments within this class are to be **your** original work. Your original work from previous courses is strictly prohibited. You are permitted to use no more than 25% of other's quoted or cited work when completing any assignment or project in this course of study.

Discussion Board Forums

Each week there will be a discussion pertaining to a topic related to that module's learning outcomes. The students must post their minimum 200-word original work on the Discussion Board for each module no later than Thursday. In addition to that requirement, the students must respond to at least two peers and provide each a minimum of 50 words in substantive feedback concerning their written product. The peer feedback posts must be posted no later than the Sunday of each module. Discussion input is not to be posted as attachments on the Discussion Board. This assignment is worth 20% of the course grade.

Weekly Written Exercises

Each week, the students are required to complete a Weekly Written Exercise. In each module, with the exception of Modules 1 and 7, the Written Exercise consists of a critical analysis of any one of the Module's required reading. You are required to complete all assigned readings, you may select an address one Chapter in your written exercise. Each weekly critique must be full APA style and format, a minimum of 600 words in length excluding the cover, abstract, and references pages. When writing your weekly papers, you should think in terms of discussing the critical overview, significant facts, and closing with a well-reasoned and informed conclusion. This assignment is worth 25% of the course grade.

A sample APA paper can be found at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090212013008_560.pdf

All Written Exercises are due on the Sunday of respective modules by 11:59 PM EST/EDT via the course Assignment box. (The Assignment box may be linked to Turnitin.)

Each Written Exercise is worth a maximum of 20 points for a possible total of 100 points or 25% of the final grade for five modules combined.

Quizzes and Exams: There are seven short quizzes assigned in Modules 1 through 7. Also, there will be one comprehensive Final Examination. The questions may be taken from any material covered in the course. In total, the quizzes are worth 17.5% of the course grade. The final exam is worth 20% of the course grade.

Research Paper: A major component of this class is a 2,250-word term APA style and formatted research paper. The 2,250-word requirement excludes the wording of the Cover, Abstract, and References pages. No more than 25% of the written assignment in this course may be attributed to referenced sources. Your paper must be 75% original thought. Again, your cited work and quotations must not exceed 25%. You must use and cite a minimum of five sources with no more than two being web sources. Peer-reviewed sources and scholarly articles are strongly encouraged as research sources. Do not use the course textbook as a source. Turnitin.com reports provide the instructor with the word count and the percentage of wording attributable to other sources. Papers may not be submitted from previous courses or classes to fulfill this requirement and will be referred for a potential Academic Code Violation. This assignment is due at the end of Module Seven. This assignment is worth 17.5% of the course grade.

Your research paper topic must address one of the following topics and the Saint Leo Core Value of Excellence must be integrated in the paper as well:

Theories of Psychopath and Violent Criminal Behaviors
Theories of Sociopathic Disorders
Antisocial Personality Disorders and Criminal Behaviors
Rational Choice Theory
Biological Theory
Social Learning Theory
Social Bonding Theory
Social Disorganization Theory
Differential Association Theory
Conflict Theory
Control Theory
Anomie and Strain Theories
The Theory of African American Offending
Labeling Theory
Feminist and Black Feminist Theories
Routine Activities Theory
Latino/Latina Critical Theory
Critical Race Theory
Asian Critical Theory
Life-Course or Developmental Theory
Victimization Theory
The Theoretical Motivations for Committing Homicide
The Theoretical Motivations for Serial Killings
The Theoretical Motivations for Joining Street Gangs
The Theoretical Motivations for Use of Excessive Force by Police Officers
The Theoretical Motivations for Elder Abuse
Postpartum Depression and Criminal Behaviors
The Theoretical Motivations for Spree Killers

Written Assignments and the APA Format:

The Department of Criminal Justice recognizes the value of excellence in writing for students in Criminal Justice. In part, each professor is expected to provide guidance on improving a students' writing skills. Students are required to use only the American Psychological Association (APA) format to write and develop a scholarly paper for submission in the Social Sciences. APA has been adopted by the Department as its writing standard for all academic written assignments. No other writing style is acceptable.

APA is the American Psychological Association, and the style is one of many in the academic world used to regulate the language, citations, procedure, and formatting of manuscripts and other examples of

writing in the social sciences. Please be consistent throughout each written paper. *Refer to APA Guide under Resources on the Course Menu for APA specifics.*

All projects, assignments, or papers submitted for grading will be required to include an abstract and reference page. All references are to be cited using the American Psychological Association (APA) format (6th ed.). Other formats will not be accepted. For each scholarly paper and group assignment(s), the work will be assessed using an individual grading rubric for each assignment. This tool and process helps the student identify and professor measure the key points necessary to successfully complete written or group assignments. Wikipedia is not an appropriate source for any scholarly writing and is not permitted for any assignment in this program.

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Crime and Criminal Behavior: A Perspective

- Objectives** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain criminological theory.
 - Differentiate between mainstream theories.
 - Describe how criminal behavior can be the consequence of a rational choice.
 - Explain criminal behavior as a function of life stages.

Reading Reach Chapter 1, 13 and 16 in the textbook.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin Research Paper	Module 7

Module 2 The Search for the “Criminal Man”

- Objectives** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain classical school.
 - Explain positivist school.
 - Apply the schools of thought in the context of criminal justice.

Reading Read Chapter 2 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #2). Each student will write a 600-word Written Assignment on a topic related to Module 2. Once completed, submit Written Exercise #1 in the D2L assignment submission folder.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Exercise 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Module 7

Module 3 Rejecting Individualism: The Chicago School

- Objectives** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Describe the Chicago School of Thought.
 - Explain anomie-strain theories.
 - Apply the criminological theories to specific crimes.

Reading Read Chapters 3 and 4 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #4). Each student will write a 600-word Written Assignment on a topic related to Module 3. Once completed, submit Written Exercise #2 in the D2L assignment submission folder.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Exercise 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Module 7

Module 4 Control Theory

- Objectives** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain control theory.
 - Describe the relationship between self-control and crime.
 - Identify major theorists.

Reading: Read Chapters 5 and 6 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #5). Each student will write a 600-word Written Assignment on a topic related to Module 4. Once completed, submit Written Exercise #3 in the D2L assignment submission folder.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Exercise 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Complete Quiz 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Module 7

Module 5 Labeling and Conflict Theory

- Objectives** When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain labeling theory.
 - Explain conflict theory.
 - Identify major theorists.

Reading Read Chapter 7 and 8 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #3 & #4). Each student will write a 600-word Written Assignment on a topic related to Module 5. Once completed, submit Written Exercise #4 in the D2L assignment submission folder.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Exercise 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Module 7

Module 6 Critical and Feminist Theories

- Objectives**
- When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Explain critical theory and feminist theory.
 - Describe feminist criticism of other theories of crime as being developed to explain only male crime.
 - Identify issues related to female offending.
 - Identify major theorists.

Reading Read Chapter 9 and 10 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #3 & #4). Each student will write a 600-word Written Assignment on a topic related to Module 6. Once completed, submit Written Exercise #5 in the D2L assignment submission folder.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Written Exercise 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 6	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Module 7

Module 7 **Crime, Economics, and Class**

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Apply criminological theories to white-collar crime.
- Explain conservative criminological theory.
- Identify the contributions of major theorists.

Reading Review Chapters 11 and 12 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #2 & #3) Each student will submit a 2,250-word research paper written in APA format. Once completed, submit the research paper in the D2L assignment submission folder. This folder is linked to turnitin.com.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 7	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Research Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8 **Biosocial Theory**

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain biosocial theories.
- Contrast biosocial and biological theories.
- Identify major theorists.

Reading Review Chapters 14 and 15 in the textbook.

Assignments: (Learning Objective #4) Complete final exam. Once completed, submit the final exam to the D2L final exam submission folder. This folder is linked to turnitin.com.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Research Paper Guidelines CRM 426

Step 1 Select a Topic

The purpose of this project is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct research on a topic related to criminal justice. A list of topics has been provided for you in the course syllabus. Once you have selected your topic you must get it approved by the instructor.

Step 2 Writing the Research Report

Your Research Paper should contain six major subsections (underlined) that should be labeled as follows:

The Abstract

An abstract is a single paragraph, without indentation, that summarizes the key points of the manuscript in 150 to 250 words. The purpose of the abstract is to provide the reader with a brief overview of the paper. The abstract, however, should be written last.

The Introduction

The introduction leads the reader from a general subject area to a particular topic of inquiry. It establishes the scope, context, and significance of the research being conducted by summarizing current understanding and background information about the topic, stating the purpose of the work in the form of the research problem supported by a hypothesis or a set of questions, explaining briefly the methodological approach used to examine the research problem, highlighting the potential outcomes your study can reveal, and outlining the remaining structure and organization of the paper. The introduction should be approximately ½ to one full page in length. You must include in-text and parenthetical citations in APA format.

Identify A Problem

A research problem is a definite or clear expression [statement] about an area of concern, a condition to be improved upon, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a troubling question that exists in scholarly literature, in theory, or within existing practice, that points to a need for meaningful understanding and deliberate investigation. The purpose of a problem statement is to:

1. Introduce the reader to the importance of the topic being studied. The reader is oriented to the significance of the study.
2. Anchors the research questions, hypotheses, or assumptions to follow. It offers a concise statement about the purpose of your paper.
3. Places the topic into a particular context that defines the parameters of what is to be investigated.
4. Provides the framework for reporting the results and indicates what is probably necessary to conduct the study and explain how the findings will present this information.

The problem statement should be a ½ page in length. You must include in-text and parenthetical citations.

The Research Question

A research question investigates a specific component of a broader topic. It is the question you are trying to answer when you conduct research on a topic. An example of a research question is as follows: Could the decriminalization of marijuana lead to less crime in the United States? You will be required to write one research question.

The Literature Review

A literature review surveys books, scholarly articles, and any other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by so doing, provides a description, summary, and critical evaluation of these works in relation to the research problem being investigated. Literature reviews are designed to provide an overview of sources you have explored while researching a particular topic and to

demonstrate to your readers how your research fits within a larger field of study. In this course, you must use and cite a minimum of five sources with no more than two being web sources (*i.e.*, government reports). Peer-reviewed sources and scholarly articles are strongly encouraged as research sources. Do not use the course textbook as a source. Papers may not be submitted from previous courses to fulfill this requirement. Your literature review should be three full pages in length.

The Theoretical Framework

Theory is that which explains how things are in reality, as opposed to what we might want them to be. You have been learning the various types of criminological and sociological theories in this course. Personal ideologies are of no value in criminological theory unless they can be evaluated scientifically. We define theory as “an attempt to explain why a particular social activity or event occurs.” A theory is a generalization about the phenomenon that is being studied.

You will select one to two criminological theories to explain the nature of crime. This section of the research paper should be one full page in length.

The Discussion

The purpose of the discussion is to interpret and describe the significance of your findings in light of what was already known about the research problem being investigated, and to explain any new understanding or insights about the problem after you have taken the findings into consideration. The discussion will always connect to the introduction by way of the research questions or hypotheses you posed and the literature you reviewed, but it does not simply repeat or rearrange the introduction; the discussion should always explain how your study has moved the reader's understanding of the research problem forward from where you left them at the end of the introduction. The discussion section of your paper will be one full page in length.

The Conclusion

The conclusion is intended to help the reader understand why your research should matter to them after they have finished reading the paper. A conclusion is not merely a summary of the main topics covered or a re-statement of your research problem, but a synthesis of key points and, if applicable, the place where you recommend new areas for future research. For most college-level research papers, one or two well-developed paragraphs is sufficient for a conclusion, although in some cases, three or more paragraphs may be required.

References

A citation is a formal reference to a published or unpublished source that you consulted and obtained information from while writing your research paper. The way in which you document your sources depends on the writing style manual your professor wants you to use for the class. All papers in this course are to be written in the American Psychological Association (APA) format.

Grading Rubric

Exceptional corresponds to an A- to A (90-100). Performance is outstanding; significantly above the usual expectations.

Proficient corresponds to a grade of B- to B+ (80-89%). Skills and standards are at the level of expectation.

Basic corresponds to a C to C+ (70-79%). Skills and standards are acceptable, but improvements are needed to meet expectations well.

Novice corresponds to a D to C- (50-69%). Performance is weak; the skills or standards are not sufficiently demonstrated at this time.

0 This criterion is missing or not in evidence.

Criteria	Ratings				
	0	Novice	Basic	Proficient	Exceptional
The organization and written quality of the report displays the core value of excellence					
The depth of work and research that when into the criminal behavior analysis					
The quality of the description of the theories to be used					
The accuracy and insightfulness of the application of the theories to explain the criminal behavior of the subject					
The professional quality of the Power Point presentation					

Score: _____ of 100

Comments: