

CRJ 3090: Theories in Criminal Justice

Shorter University

EXODUS 20:1-16

Instructor Information

Please see the course Moodle page for instructor information.

Course Information

- **CREDIT HOURS:** Three (3) hours credit
- **PREREQUISITE:** CRJ 2070 and one upper division course.

Course Description

This course will investigate the nature and causation of crime. Attention will be given to major sociological theories and research on social deviance and control. The course will explore both causes and consequences of deviance in contemporary culture in the United States as well as societal reactions to deviance.

Student Learning Expectations and Outcomes for This Course

Students in the Bachelor of Science/Arts Degree in Criminal Justice should have a working knowledge of various criminal theories. It is important the student is aware of the current trends, issues, and research pertaining to the various relationships that exist within the context of criminal theories and our justice system.

By the end of the course, the student will:

- 1) Explain and analyze the major criminological theories of crime (P. 2).
- 2) Utilize criminological theory to explain reasons for crime (P. 1).
- 3) Describe the difference in a variety of criminal activities (P. 6).
- 4) Effectively communicate about criminological theories (P. 2 & 4).
- 5) Be able to critically think through the impact and social context of crime and its causes (P. 2 & 5).
- 6) Critically assess explanations of crime (P. 1).
- 7) Identify the various uses of technology in crime analysis (P. 3).

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

Each student will be evaluated on his or her attainments of the following course learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrated mastery of concepts and perspectives as related to criminal theories.
 - Demonstrated through interaction and written expression utilizing the appropriate analytical tools applied to practical problems.
2. Demonstrated ability to analyze readings, provide insightful recommendations, critical of required reading and discussions.
 - Demonstrated through written analysis and thinking by incorporating materials in a conceptual way.
3. Ability to demonstrate through competence in problem-solving, critical thinking, group discussions, and writing experiences.
 - Demonstrated through written and verbal communication via presentations using multimedia, short essays, and quizzes and/or exams.
4. Demonstrated ability to analyze research, develop strategies for criminal theories.
 - Demonstrated through group project.
5. Demonstrated ability to utilize technology.
 - Demonstrated through the use of the Internet, PowerPoint presentations, and APA format.

Course Structure and Approach

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include, but are not limited to, lecture, face-to-face, multimedia, cooperative and collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, performances and learning experiences outside the classroom, guest speakers, group projects, and videos.

Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs. **THIS COURSE WILL BE TAUGHT TOTALLY ONLINE.**

Textbook and Required Materials

Cullen, F., Agnew, R., & Wilcox P. (2014). *Criminological theory: Past to present*.

New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Grading Scale

This course is based on total points. Each assignment will receive points both in and out of class. You need to make sure you keep all of your papers and work in class just in case there is a difference in scores.

The grading scale is:

90–100= A
80–89 = B
70–79 = C
60–69 = D
Below 59 = F

Total Points for the Course

There are 1380 points total for this course.

Course Requirements and Assessments

Discussion Boards: 7 Forums at 40 Points Each

Class participation is essential. You will be given **40 points** for each discussion board. The more you participate the more points you will receive. You are expected to complete all readings. If you do not have the readings completed, you will be unable to participate in class. Each member of the group is required to engage in discussion. You should understand that some students are shy and tentative while others are more outgoing. Every student must make an effort to include themselves and others in the group discussions and to allow other students to speak. All members of the class have something important to contribute as we all have different backgrounds and viewpoints.

1. Read all assigned materials
2. All assignments are due on the predetermined date and time. Papers received late without prior arrangements will be subject to a deduction of a letter grade for each day the paper is overdue.
3. Participate in discussion boards. This is part of your grade. You must post your response and then respond to four other people. This is a total of four responses. **EACH DISCUSSION BOARD IS WORTH 40 POINTS. DUE ON SATURDAY BY 11:55P.M.**
4. Read all assigned materials
5. All assignments are due on the predetermined date and time. Papers received late without prior arrangements will be subject to a deduction of a letter grade for each day the paper is overdue.
6. Participate in discussion boards. This is part of your grade. You must post your response and then respond to three other people. This is a total of four responses. **EACH DISCUSSION BOARD IS WORTH 40 POINTS. DUE ON SATURDAY BY 11:55P.M.**

The discussion board participation grade will be determined by the following categories:

1. Posting a response that adequately addresses the assigned topic.
2. Proper grammar, sentence structure, and sources are required in your communications on the discussion board.
3. The posts must be formatted according to the APA manual.
4. All posts are due on the listed date, **NO LATE WORK.**
5. **You must post your initial post then you need to participate in meaningful discussion in the forums of 3 of your peers. A total of four (4) posts.**
6. You cannot use "I agree" or "I disagree." Minimum of 150 words.

DISCUSSION BOARDS ARE WORTH 40 POINTS. DISCUSSION BOARDS ARE DUE ON SATURDAY BY 11:55. YOU NEED TO HAVE AN INITIAL POST, AND THEN RESPOND TO THREE OTHER STUDENTS. YOU MUST HAVE THE POST IN APA 6TH ED. FORMAT WITH SCHOLARLY REFERENCES.

Reading Assignments

You are responsible for all the readings assigned. In addition, you are responsible for the information that the instructor brings to the class that is not in the textbook.

Week 1	Parts 1,2, and 3
Week 2	Parts 4, 5, and 6
Week 3	Parts 7 and 8
Week 4	Part 9
Week 5	Part 10
Week 6	Parts 11 and 12
Week 7	Parts 13, 14, and 15
Week 8	Final project: Review all readings.

Assignments and Research

There will be eight writing samples for this class. All writing project must follow the **APA 6TH EDITION FORMAT**. If you have not purchased the APA manual, do so ASAP. You cannot use the short cut method of downloading, or the small booklet. **ALL WRITING SAMPLES MUST HAVE A TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT, AND THE NAME OF THE ASSIGNMENT. (See example.)**

Assignment 1: Scripture Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking about the nature of human behavior, specifically the deviant side of human behavior.

After a coversheet, you will write at least a 2-page essay on the sin nature. I would like you to choose 2 of the following to discuss in your paper:

- describe the sin nature
- describe how we get the sin nature
- describe how we overcome the sin nature

- describe the effects of the sin nature

Regardless of which of the 2 above you chose to write about, you **MUST** include or discuss the following items:

- Scripture **MUST** be used heavily through the paper to support your claims!
- Describe how the sin nature plays or does not play a role in criminal behavior.
- The question that I want you to answer clearly in your paper is:
 - “To what extent does the sin nature explain criminal activity?”

Since the only citations you will be using are Scripture, no reference page is required. However, you are still required to cite the Bible in-text!!! Consult APA manual for details on how to do that!

DUE THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 150 POINTS.

Assignment 2: Reaction Paper 1

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to effectively communicate about criminological theories.

This is a minimum two-page written summary of crime statistics in your hometown and your opinions as to why these crimes are occurring, following the classical school. You are to go to the [FBI website, Offences Known to Law Enforcement by state by city, 2014.](#)

This is the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports website that includes crimes known to the police as reported by local police departments. Click on your home state and then find your hometown (if your hometown is not listed, use the nearest town). Provide a summary of the crimes for your hometown. You are also to provide an explanation for the types and amount of crime in your hometown based on the classical school of criminology. In other words, you are to use the classical school ideas and concepts to explain why crime is occurring and why offenders are committing crimes in your hometown. Also, articulate whether or not you believe the classical school provides an accurate explanation for the crime occurring in your hometown. This paper should be a minimum of two pages of written text (not to include the cover page and reference page), double spaced, and should include the textbook and the website as your references. The sources should be cited within the text and on the reference page using standard APA format.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 100 POINTS.

Assignment 3: Unit test #1

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to explain and analyze the major criminological theories of crime

No writing assignment this week. Instead, there is a 30 question unit test on Moodle.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 100 POINTS

Assignment 4: Positivism Paper

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to utilize criminological theory to explain reasons for crime.

Based on your readings (Introduction, Part 1 and 2), you are to answer the following questions related to positivism, articulating your answers with supporting information from what you have learned:

- What are the major concepts of Positivism or biological theories of crime?
- What was Lombroso's contribution to the study of criminal behavior? What was his theory of crime and why was he known as the father of criminology?
- What purpose does punishment serve if crime is the product of biological traits?
- What is one local, state, or federal program that was created based on biological theories? Describe the program in detail.

This paper should be a minimum of 3 pages of written text (not to include the cover page and reference page), double spaced, and should include a minimum of 4 academically credible references (the textbook and .gov websites may count as academic references).

Sources should be cited within the text and on the reference page using standard APA format.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 150 POINTS

Assignment 5: Unit test #2

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to critically think through the impact and social context of crime and its causes.

No writing assignment this week. Instead, there is a 28 question unit test on Moodle.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 100 POINTS

Assignment 6: Cybercrime Paper

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to identify the various uses of technology in crime analysis.

Cybercrime is a new and expanding class of crimes that rely on electronic technology, such as computers and the Internet. In this paper, you are to provide a definition and example for each of the following types of offenses under the heading cybercrime: hacking, identity theft, child pornography, Internet fraud, and cyberstalking. Based on your learning of criminological theories, you will also identify one theoretical explanation for each of the cybercrimes listed above, concisely articulating the concepts of each theory that relate to the corresponding crime, and why you believe each particular theory effectively explains each particular crime (in other words, each crime should be defined and explained by a criminological theory).

In conclusion, identify which cybercrime you believe is the most damaging to American society and articulate why.

This paper should be a minimum of three pages of written text (not to include the cover page and reference page), double spaced, and should include a minimum of four academically credible references (the textbook may count as one academic reference).

Sources should be cited within the text and on the reference page using standard APA format.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 150 POINTS

Assignment 7: Unit test #3

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment the student will be able to critically assess explanations of crime.

No writing assignment this week. Instead, there is a 28 question unit test on Moodle.

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. AND WORTH 100 POINTS

Assignment 8: Theory Application

Learning Objective and Basis for Assessment: Successful completion of this assignment will show the student's knowledge and understanding of a particular criminological theory and it will demonstrate the student's ability to apply that theory to a current event.

You must write a theory application paper 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced Times New Roman 12-point font with a separate coversheet and reference page. The coversheet and reference page do NOT count in the 5-6 page criteria. The topic for this paper is theories of crime specific to a serial murderer. The student should select a serial murderer to research, write a brief biography (2-3 pages) and write an analysis (3 pages) of 3 theories that explain why the individual turned to serial homicide.

The research paper must have at least 5 citations and only 1 of those can be a book, the rest must be journal articles unless approved by the professor. The paper must adhere to the 6th Edition of the APA Manuscript Manual (copies are available in the library and bookstore).

DUE ON THURSDAY AT 6PM, AND WORTH 250 POINTS.

Class Attendance

Online courses are typically delivered asynchronously, meaning that there are no fixed times when students need to be online. While there is no standard attendance policy for online classes, students are expected to log in to class several times each week to check for updates and to communicate with the professor and/or with other students. There will also typically be deadlines for the completion of assignments, and there may be requirements that the student participate each week in online chats or forum discussions. In some cases, there may be a requirement for the student to log in at a particular time during the week to participate in a group

chat or discussion. As with any traditional course, a student cannot skip several weeks of online classes and expect to succeed! Students should consult each class syllabus for specific requirements.

No Show Policy

Students who fail to complete the mandatory introduction forum within the first nine class days from the start of the session will be automatically dropped from the class. PLEASE NOTE: Students must log in as well as complete mandatory introduction forum within this nine-day period. Simply logging in to a course will still constitute as a NO SHOW for the course if the mandatory introduction forum within the actual online course platform is not completed within the first nine class days from the start of the session.

Students who do login and complete the mandatory introduction forum within the first nine days from the start of the session, but who then stop participating in their online class will NOT be automatically withdrawn from the class. To withdraw from the class, the student must send an e-mail to their advisor and his or her instructor from his or her Shorter e-mail account requesting to withdraw. The withdrawal will be effective from the date of the e-mail request. An automatic F will be given if a student is not properly withdrawn.

Academic Integrity Policy

A Community of Honor

As a liberal arts university committed to the Christian faith, Shorter University seeks to develop ethical men and women of disciplined, creative minds and lives that focus on leadership, service and learning. The honor system of Shorter University is designed to provide an academic community of trust in which students can enjoy the opportunity to grow both intellectually and personally. For these purposes, the following rules and guidelines will be applied.

Academic Dishonesty

"Academic dishonesty" is the transfer, receipt, or use of academic information, or the attempted transfer, receipt, or use of academic information in a manner not authorized by the instructor or by university rules. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism as well as aiding or encouraging another to commit academic dishonesty.

"Cheating" is defined as wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material borrowed from another source—including the Internet by a student with the intent of aiding himself or another on academic work. This includes, but is not limited to a test, examination, presentation, experiment or any written assignment, which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade.

"Plagiarism" is the taking or attempted taking of an idea, a writing, a graphic, musical composition, art or datum of another without giving proper credit and presenting or attempting to present it as one's own. It is also taking written materials of one's own that have been used for a previous course assignment and using it without reference to it in its original form.

Students are encouraged to ask their instructor(s) for clarification regarding their academic

dishonesty standards. Instructors are encouraged to include academic dishonesty/integrity standards on their course syllabi.

Procedure

- A. It is the responsibility of an instructor to certify that academic assignments are independently mastered sufficiently to merit course credit. The responsibility of the student is to master academic assignments independently, refrain from acts of academic dishonesty, and refuse to aid or tolerate the academic dishonesty of others.
- B. If an instructor determines that the student is guilty of academic dishonesty, the instructor must discuss the matter with the student. In the event the instructor cannot reach the student in a timely manner, such as when the student has gone home at the end of a semester, the instructor may assign a grade of I (incomplete) until the student can be contacted and the matter of academic dishonesty discussed. The instructor then completes the academic violation form (see "Appendix A"), which should include evidence and other necessary documentation. The instructor will determine the appropriate remedy: either to assign a grade of zero on that assignment in question or a grade of F in the course. The student will designate whether he/she accepts the remedy for the violation of the dishonesty policy or wishes to appeal the instructor's decision. If a student elects to appeal, the "appeal due date" line must be completed on the academic violation form. (See the "Appeals" section below for more information regarding the appeals process)
- C. Upon completion, the instructor forwards the academic violation form to the registrar's for the placement in the student's permanent record. The registrar will forward copies of the academic violation form to the student, the faculty member, department chair, academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president. Not appealing when the form is first completed or by the appeal due date will be taken as an admission of guilt, except under compelling circumstances to be determined at the sole discretion of the provost.
- D. If upon receipt of the academic violation form the registrar determines that the student is guilty of a second offense, then a grade of FD (failure due to academic dishonesty) will be assigned by the registrar for the course regardless of the remedy specified on the academic violation form. Assigning the FD is to be done by the registrar when the second academic violation form is placed in the student's record, and the registrar will notify all parties in writing. The student is then permanently barred from membership in any honorary society and is permanently ineligible for any SU honor list. The student may petition the academic integrity appeals committee to have the dishonesty notation removed from the transcript after one year or upon graduating from the university if no additional dishonesty offenses occur and the student satisfactorily completes the academic integrity program. The grade of F remains on the transcript. Upon receipt by the registrar of a third offense, the registrar will assign the grade of FD and then notify all parties. After all appeals are exhausted, if the third offense still stands, then the student will be permanently expelled from the university. The notice of expulsion will be forwarded to the student, department chair, appropriate academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president. A copy of the final report with the three offenses will become a part of the student's permanent record. The university reserves the right to expel the student after a first or second offense, depending on the circumstances and at the sole discretion of the provost.

Appeals

- A. The student who wishes to appeal an academic violation charge should submit his/her appeal in writing to the chair of the appropriate department by the appeal due date indicated on the academic violation form, which is normally within ten regularly scheduled class days after the completion date of the academic violation form. This statement should contain the reasons for which the student is appealing the instructor's decision. The burden of proof lies with the student in such a case to show that an error or malfeasance has occurred. Within 10 regularly scheduled class days of receiving the written appeal, the department chair will notify in writing both the instructor and the student of the chair's decision. If the department chair is also the instructor who files the academic violation form, then the student must appeal to the appropriate academic dean.
- B. When, in the opinion of the department chair, the student fails to show reasonable cause for further investigation, the chair may deny the appeal without taking further action. When, in the opinion of the department chair, a student's appeal raises reasonable doubt as to whether a mistake or malfeasance has occurred, the chair will meet with the faculty member and with the student and render a decision within ten regularly scheduled class days of the receipt of the appeal. If the decision favors granting the student's appeal, the department chair may request that the registrar remove the academic violation form from the student's record. The chair will notify both the student and the instructor of this action.
- C. If the student files the initial appeal or elects to appeal the chair's decision during Maymester, Summer I, Summer II or during final exam week of the fall or spring semesters and if the instructor or department chair is not available during that time, all of the foregoing time requirements begin to run with the first day of class in the next major term. In extreme or unusual circumstances regarding the timeliness of the appeals process, the provost will make the final determination.
- D. Any student who has exhausted the remedies open under the procedures outlined above may appeal the entire matter to the academic integrity appeals committee in writing within ten regularly scheduled class days of receiving the response from the department chair. Upon receipt of the appeal, the academic integrity appeals committee will review the matter and issue a decision within 15 regularly scheduled class days. The academic integrity appeals committee has the authority to deny the appeal, reduce the penalties in the event of extenuating circumstances, or direct the registrar to remove the record of the academic violation form from the student's permanent record. The results of the academic integrity appeals committee are final.
- E. All results from the proceedings of the academic dishonesty appeals committee should be reported to the appropriate academic dean, dean of students, provost, and president as information.

NOTE: During the appeals process, the student may continue to attend the class in which the violation occurred.

Students Needing Accommodations

Shorter University provides accommodations for students who have a disability. The student must contact the director of educational support in FSU 219 (706-233-7323) as soon as

possible to discuss your needs. Shorter University is committed to providing access to programs and services to all qualified students with disabilities. Student support services is located in the Fitton Student Union, Room 219 (706-233-7323). Academic support is available to all students through the Center for Learning and Academic Success at Shorter (CLASS). The center offers peer tutoring and coordinates study groups for students seeking assistance. Also, students can receive help with writing through individual tutoring in the writing center. CLASS is located on the second floor of the Sheffield-Thompson building in the Bailor Suite.

Disability Services: If you believe you are entitled to reasonable accommodation based on a documented disability (per The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), please contact Student Support Services at 706-233-7417 or visit <http://www.shorter.edu/disability-services> for more information.

Note: **THE PROFESSOR HAS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THIS SYLLBUS AT ANYTIME DURING THE SEMESTER.**