



LAWJ 05369: THEORIES OF CRIME AND CRIMINALITY

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Office Hours: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Mondays & Wednesday or by appointment

- Campbell Library, Room 553

Twitter: @Shjarback_CCJ (optional; follow for tweets about criminal justice current events)

Course Meeting Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Course Location: Library, Room 578

Course Prerequisite(s): LAWJ 05175; 6 credits: 05100-05499

Course Description:

This course focuses on the definition, measurement, causes, consequences, and control of crime. During the class, we will explore fundamental debates in criminological thought through original readings in the field. This course also emphasizes critical assessment of dominant criminological theories.

Course Objectives and Learning Goals:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain major influences on whether or not people commit crime, including factors stressed by classical, neo-classical, positivistic, biological, psychological, structural, process, critical and developmental theories.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of socio-economic status and cultural values on crime.
- 3) Explain the major approaches to measuring crime, including the UCR, NIBRS, NCVS and self-report data and how empirical research is used to validate theories.
- 4) Apply the theories to explain criminal behavior.
- 5) Draw informed, rational conclusions about what individuals, criminal justice practitioners, and policy makers can do to reduce crime.

Required Textbook:

Francis T. Cullen, Robert Agnew, & Pamela Wilcox. (2018). *Criminological Theory: Past to Present, Essential Readings* (6th edition). Oxford University Press.

- ISBN: 978019063941. (available through the bookstore or online)

Other Required Readings:

The textbook will be supplemented by articles and papers that will be posted to Canvas.

Summary of Graded Assessments:

Assessment	Possible Points	Percent of Total Grade
Exam #1 (February 21 st)	40	20%
Exam #2 (April 4 th)	40	20%
Exam #3 (TBD-Finals Week)	40	20%
Research Paper (3 parts: see below for due dates)	60	30%
Movie Identification (5 points)		
Paper Outline (5 points)		
Final Product (50 points)		
Participation & Class Contribution	20	10%
	200	100%

Exams:

The course will include three in-class exams, each worth 20% of your final grade. Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. The third and final exam will not be cumulative.

The exams will include a mix of multiple choice and true/false questions. They will cover material from the required readings and class lectures (including videos). Exams are all closed book and closed notes.

Students will be provided with scantron sheets for each exam. You will be required to bring in a #2 pencil.

Research Paper (3 different parts):

For this research paper, you are to apply one or more theories of crime that we learned about this semester to a movie/tv series character(s). Ideally, you want to choose a movie/tv series whose character(s) engages in some form of illegal behavior. Additionally, you want character(s) who has enough of a “back story” available for you to consider the reasons for his or her criminal behavior.

The paper is to be 5-7 pages —although I think it would be difficult to adequately do in 5 pages. The paper must follow APA 6th edition formatting guidelines, which we will be covering briefly throughout the course of the semester. **I will provide you with a more detailed explanation of the paper requirements within the next few weeks.** You are free to use any of the theories we

will be talking about this semester—everything is fair game (deterrence theory, learning theories, control theories, etc.).

Research Paper	Due Date
Part 1 (Movie Identification)	Sunday, February 28 th
Part 2 (Paper Outline)	Sunday, March 27 th
Part 3 (Final Product)	TBD-Finals Week

Assignments must be turned in/uploaded to Blackboard by 11:59pm on the due date.

Movie List (**you are not limited to just these; you can pick ANY movie/tv series you'd like)

Colors (1988)	Scarface (1983)	A Clockwork Orange (1971)
Juice (1992)	Blow (2001)	The Professional (1994)
Boyz n the Hood (1991)	Traffic (2000)	The Untouchables (1987)
Training Day (2001)	L.A. Confidential (1997)	Clockers (1995)
Monster (2003)	Pulp Fiction (1994)	The Outsiders (1983)
Heat (1995)	Hoodlum (1997)	A River Runs Through It (1992)
New Jersey Drive (1995)	Set It Off (1996)	Murder at 1600 (1997)
Falling Down (1993)	Gangs of New York (2002)	Sleepers (1996)
A Time To Kill (1996)	Freedomland (2006)	Mystic River (2003)
Casino (1995)	Thelma & Louise (1991)	Menace II Society (1993)
Dead Presidents (1995)	Higher Learning (1995)	City of God (2002)

**Do not simply select a movie/tv series from the list that you are familiar with or that you may own. Spend some time over the first few weeks of the semester, rent/stream a few of them—read reviews and synopses if you have to (<http://www.imdb.com> or from Wikipedia), but treat this paper seriously. Essentially this is major part of your grade in the class. Finding a movie and applying theories will not be as easy as it may sound. Some will be better than others for this paper. I will be available via email, during office hours, or we can schedule another time to meet in person if you need to.

Participation & Class Contribution:

Student participation and engagement is essential for a successful classroom dialogue. As such, ten percent of your final grade will be contingent on your individual contribution to class discussions and debates.

Please keep in mind that we will be discussing controversial and polarizing criminal justice policies/practices. If you are in any way uncomfortable reading or discussing any of the material, please let me know and I will try to arrange an alternative assignment. If you are offended by something that is said, please accept my apologies in advance and express your concern to me after class. I will not share your concerns with the class without your permission, but I will try to respond to them. While we will encourage informal discussion, I will insist that you always speak to classmates in a respectful way (especially when their viewpoints differ from your own). Be mindful to avoid comments and behaviors that disparage other students.

Attendance:

Although attending class is not graded part of your final grade, it is highly encouraged for your success in the course. I will be keeping track of your attendance per Rowan's university policy.

Policy on Late or Missed Exams/Assignments:

You are required to notify me before the due date if an urgent situation arises and an assignment will not be submitted on time or an exam cannot be completed during class. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to University-sanctioned activities.

Late assignments/make-up exams will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor and will be contingent upon three requirements being met:

- a. Valid documentation of an emergency (e.g. physician's note)
- b. Notification PRIOR to the due date
- c. Immediate arrangements to make up the assignment

Grading Scale:

Final course grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

Grade	Percentage
A	94 – 100
A-	90 – 93
B+	87 – 89
B	84 – 86
B-	80 – 83
C+	77 – 79
C	74 – 76
C-	70 – 73
D+	67 – 69
D	64 – 66
D-	60 – 63
F	< 60

Academic Integrity Policy:**Academic Dishonesty:**

In addition to academic performance, students are expected to demonstrate the qualities of honesty and integrity. All submissions by a student are expected to be the original work product of the submitting student. Material that violates this requirement in any way, or that constitutes any form of dishonesty, cheating, fabrication, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and/or plagiarism, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course and in appropriate disciplinary action being initiated. More information regarding this policy can be found in the Rowan University Policy. It is accessible online at:

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy>

Electronic Review:

To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, written submissions, such as your final paper, will be submitted to Turnitin, which is a plagiarism detection program. Rowan University has a licensing agreement with Turnitin, an online service to help prevent student plagiarism. As part of this course I will be using Turnitin at my discretion to determine the originality of your work. If your work is submitted to Turnitin, it will be stored in the Turnitin database. OPT-OUT: You have the right to refuse either to submit your work to Turnitin or have the university do so; availing yourself of this right will not negatively impact your success in the course. If you do not wish to use Turnitin you must notify me by e-mail within two weeks of today's date. If you object to the use of Turnitin, I will use other procedures to assess originality.

Student Accommodations:

Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations.

The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

Student Conduct:

The University and I expect all students to conduct themselves professionally. Toward that end, I expect everyone to abide by rules of etiquette and to refrain from disruptive behavior, which can be classified into two levels:

Level I disruptive behavior can include:

- Persistent speaking without permission
- Engaging in activities not related to the class
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices, cell phones, or pagers
- Sleeping in class
- Chronically entering class late or leaving early
- Eating/drinking in class without permission
- Verbally confronting a faculty member or another student using utterances that have the effect of insulting or demeaning them in such a way that it causes disruption or interference with the classroom environment.

Level II disruptive behaviors can include:

- Engaging in physical violence, threats, harassment, intimidation, bullying, coercion, and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

The University policy on Classroom Behavior can be found at:

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Classroom+Behavior>

Electronic Devices Policy:

Please refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices during classes. Laptops in class should only be used for note taking or accessing course materials.

Course Schedule:

I will make every effort to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. I therefore reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. In the event that this occurs, students will be notified both in class and via Blackboard announcement (which will also show up as an email).

Required Reading Assignments:

The reading assignments listed for each day of class are those readings which a student must complete before the class in order to be prepared for class that day. Not all of the assigned readings will be discussed in class; however, all assigned readings may be covered on exams.

Week 1

Wednesday, January 19

Class introduction; overview of the syllabus; snapshot of different criminological theories

No Assigned Reading

Week 2

Monday, January 24

Titile's criteria for evaluating criminological theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Introduction (pp. 1-18)

Wednesday, January 26

Origins of modern criminology; classical school; positive school

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Parts I & II (Beccaria & Lombroso; pp. 21-32); Section 4, Part XII (Glueck & Glueck; pp. 441-467)

Week 3

Monday, January 31

Positive school continued, biosocial and trait theories

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 4, Part XII (Peskin et al. & Caspi et al.; pp. 468-486)

2) Beaver (2011) Journal of Adolescent Research (Canvas)

Wednesday, February 2

The rise of American criminology; the Chicago school; social disorganization

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part II (Shaw & McKay; pp. 33-51)
2) Sampson & Groves (1989) American Journal of Sociology (Canvas)

Week 4

Monday, February 7

Social disorganization continued; collective efficacy

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part II (Sampson et al.; pp. 52-57);
Section 5, Part XV (Sampson & Wilson; pp. 576-582)
2) Peterson (2012) Criminology (Canvas)

Wednesday, February 9

Differential association; social learning theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part III (Sutherland & Cressey;
Akers; pp. 67-92)
2) Pratt et al. (2010) Justice Quarterly (Canvas)

Week 5

Monday, February 14

Subcultural theory; code of the street

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part III (Anderson; pp. 93-104)
2) Kubrin & Weitzer (2003) Social Problems (Canvas)

Wednesday, February 16

A focus on race & ethnicity and crime/victimization (e.g., clearance rates); exam #1 review

No required reading

Week 6

Monday, February 21

Exam #1

No Assigned Reading

Wednesday, February 23

Exam #1 Review; Anomie/strain; general strain theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part IV (Merton; pp. 105-124) and
(Agnew; pp. 140-149)
2) Broidy (2001) Criminology (Canvas)

Week 7

Monday, February 28

Anomie/strain continued; institutional anomie theory; differential opportunity theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part IV (Rosenfeld & Messner; pp. 130-139)

2) Cullen (1988) JRCD (Canvas)

Wednesday, March 2

A major turning point; control theories: Hirschi's social bonds theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part V (Sykes & Matza; Hirschi; pp. 150-177)

2) Özbay & Özcan (2006) IJOTCC (Canvas)

Week 8

Monday, March 7

Control theories continued; Gottfredson & Hirschi's theory of self-control

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 1, Part V (Gottfredson & Hirschi; pp. 178-190)

2) Pratt & Cullen (2000) Criminology (Canvas)

Wednesday, March 9

Correlates of self-control; malleability of self-control

Required Reading: 1) Pratt, Turner, & Piquero (2004) JRCD (Canvas)

2) Na & Paternoster (2012) Criminology (Canvas)

Week 9 → **NO CLASS THIS WEEK (3/14 & 3/16) SPRING BREAK

Week 10

Monday, March 21

Labeling theory; defiance theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 2, Part VI (Braithwaite; Sherman; pp. 193-221)

Wednesday, March 23

Environmental criminology: routine activity theory

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 3, Part XI (Cohen & Felson; pp. 390-412)

2) Osgood et al. (1996) American Sociological Review (Canvas)

Week 11

Monday, March 28

Situational crime prevention; defensible space theory; CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design)

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 5, Part XVII (pp. 664-672)
2) Shjarback (2014) Encyclopedia of Theoretical Criminology (Canvas)

Wednesday, March 30

Broken windows theory; exam #2 review

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 5, Part XVII (Wilson & Kelling; pp. 652-663)
2) Gau & Pratt (2008) Criminology & Public Policy (Canvas)

Week 12

Monday, April 4

Exam #2

No Assigned Reading

Wednesday, April 6

Exam #2 Review; Revisiting classical theory; deterrence and rational choice

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 3, Part X (Stafford & Warr; Cornish & Clarke; Wright & Decker; pp. 353-389)
2) Pratt et al. (2006) Taking Stock (Canvas)

Week 13

Monday, April 11

Life course criminology

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, Wilcox: Section 4, Part XIII (Moffitt; pp. 487-522)

Wednesday, April 13

Life course criminology continued

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 4, Part XIII (Laub & Sampson pp. 523-529) and Section 2, Part VI (Maruna; 222-227)

Week 14

Monday, April 18

Theories of white-collar crime

Required Reading: 1) Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 2, Part IX (Sutherland; pp. 319-341)

Wednesday, April 20
Procedural justice

Required Reading: 1) Reisig & Lloyd (2009) Police Quarterly (Canvas)

Week 15

Monday, April 25

Theoretical Integration; putting it all together; exam review

Required Reading: 1) Weisburd & Piquero (2008) Crime & Justice (Canvas)
2) Cullen Agnew, & Wilcox: Section 5, Part XVI (pp. 601-609)

Wednesday, April 27

Putting it all together; class wrap up; exam #3 review

No Assigned Reading

Finals Week

Exam #3 (TBD)