**Criminology**  
**Sociology 3523**

**Required Text and Resources:**


**Course Description:**

This course is designed to be a general introduction to the study of criminal behavior. The main focus is on the classical and contemporary theories developed over the past two hundred years to explain and predict criminal behavior in society. The propositions, assumptions, empirical validity, and policy implications of these criminological theories, as well as the social context in which they were developed, will be examined. In addition, the ability of these theories to explain crime rates across different countries and cultures will be examined. Other significant issues in criminology such as the measurement and extent of crime, the role of demographics (age, race, gender, social class) in the causation of and reaction to crime, and explanations of specific crime types such as substance abuse and white-collar crime will also be discussed.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the views and theories that criminologists use in their work.
2. Explain the nature and extent of crime in the United States.
3. Apply the lifestyle theories that explain why some people become victims of crime.
4. Describe the criminal justice system in the United States.

**Course Requirements**

**Readings:** Because this course is offered in an online format, assigned readings are vital to your educational success in this course. ALL readings are to be completed in a timely manner, in the order they are assigned in, and should be completed before you attempt to answer ANY assignment related to the readings. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings in-depth and in a meaningful manner.

**Email:** Email will be an important tool in this course, as it is our main form of communication. I will try to respond to emails as quickly as possible. This being said, I have email hours from 9am to 5pm. You can email me at other times (e.g., 3 am), but do not expect a response until the next morning. Once again, my email address is tarakay@ou.edu

**Web Resource:** Canvas ([https://canvas.ou.edu/](https://canvas.ou.edu/)) will be used as the platform for this course. Regular access is imperative for this class as well as reliable access to the internet. Before you begin the course, you need to logon to Canvas. To access the site, you will need to know your username and password – your username is your OUNetID (4×4), which is the first four letters of your last name and the last four digits of your OU ID number. Your password is the same one you use for all other online procedures using your NetID.
Once you’ve logged in, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the various pages on the site. Additional readings and/or internet links can be downloaded and accessed from Canvas. You’ll need to have Acrobat Reader installed on the computer you’re using to access these files. If you don’t have Acrobat Reader, it’s free and can be downloaded at: www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/main.html.

Final Grades: The final course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Assignment</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>A=360 points and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Responses (5 pts each)</td>
<td>55 points</td>
<td>B=359-320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Lessons (10 pts. each)</td>
<td>140 points</td>
<td>C=319-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Assignment</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>D=279-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>90 points</td>
<td>F=239 points or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>90 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>400 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your grades are based on total points, not percentages.

Syllabus Assignment:
- This is a short assignment worth 5 points towards your final grade. For this assignment all you need to do is print a hard copy of the syllabus, read over it carefully, then write a short summary (1/2 to 1 page) describing what is expected of you in this course and what your responsibilities as a student are. More detailed instructions can be found on the Canvas Assignments tab.
- Please submit this assignment under “Syllabus Assignment” in the Assignments tab in Canvas before you attempt to complete any course material.

Discussion Responses:
- The discussion topics will be based on the readings and specific questions and/or issues will be posted for each assigned chapter.
- Students are required to respond to the questions and/or issues posted online and carry out a dialogue with the instructor or other students. Because students are able to enroll in this course at different times, you will often find that there are not other students in the same place in their coursework as you are. However, I will leave previous students post on the boards and you can always respond to what they have said. This is to facilitate a class discussion, much like an on campus in-class setup.
- It is acceptable for you to either post an original response OR respond to another’s post. If your posts contribute to the conversation, you will receive points for either. I am only concerned that you post meaningful and insightful responses.
- Unacceptable responses include malicious critiques of other students’ responses or a simple “good job.” If you pose to agree or disagree with the statements, you must provide a thoughtful reasoning to your position. This is to engage you to critically think about the subject matter at hand. More information as to what is considered acceptable/unacceptable responses can be found on Canvas under the Modules tab.

- Students are required to post responses to a total of 11 online discussion topics and each is worth 5 points towards your final grade. (Class Introductions and Class/Assignment questions do NOT count towards this total).

**Homework Lessons:**

- Throughout the course, you will be assigned homework assignments over the assigned reading material. In total, you will be assigned 14 homework lessons worth 10 points each (totaling 140 points).

- All assignments are posted on the Modules page of Canvas under their respective unit heading. (Example: Homework Lesson 4 would be found on the content page under the heading “Unit 2: Theories of Crime Causation.”) Answers should be written in short answer format and you should be prepared to discuss ALL assigned readings. Questions could come from the material in the assigned material in the Siegel textbook. Specific instructions will be listed on each assignment sheet (font size, format, etc.).

- After your lesson is complete, you will need to submit your lesson in the Canvas dropbox. There is a appropriately labeled dropbox for each assignment. (Ex. Lesson 4 should be placed in the “Lesson 4” dropbox). You will not be able to access a chapter lesson until you have submitted a file for the previous homework lesson.

- Once you receive feedback from me, take the feedback into consideration and keep these materials as a study guide for the exams in this course.

**Paper Assignments:**

- For this course, you will be required to write one paper over a topic covered during the course.

- This paper will be worth 20 points towards your final grade.

- Detailed instructions for this assignment can be found on the Modules page of Canvas under the heading “Paper Assignment.”

- There is a drop-box on Canvas titled “Paper Assignment.” Please submit your paper by uploading it into that drop-box.

- This assignment must be completed and submitted BEFORE you arrange to take the Final Exam.

**Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam:**

- There are two exams in this course, the Mid-Term and the Final. Each is worth 90 points towards your final grade.

- Both exams follows will have the same format: 15 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each), 15 fill-in-the-blank questions (worth 1 point each), and 3 short-answer questions (worth 20 points each).

- The Mid-Term Exam will contain material covered in Chapters 1-7. The Final Exam will contain material covered in Chapters 8-14.

- To study for the exams, students should refer to the suggestions outlined in the “Studying Suggestions” document. This document can be accessed on the Modules page of Canvas under the heading of “General Course Information.”
Course Policies:
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
As a student taking a course at the University of Oklahoma, you are expected to uphold the academic integrity code. Please visit http://integrity.ou.edu and familiarize yourself with the standards you will be held to while taking your course.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION POLICY
Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

TITLE IX RESOURCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on call 24/7. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. For more information, please see http://www.ou.edu/eoo.

I will be available to meet with you by appointment. I encourage you to come and meet with me should you have any questions or concerns with the class or your performance.

Final Note: This course will cover material that is considered controversial by some. Additionally, thinking from a sociological perspective may, at times, make you feel uncomfortable because of the methodical way it forces one to question some long standing beliefs and values. The goal of the course is not to change or threaten anyone’s ideology, nor is it to present any one ideology as superior to others. The goal, rather, is to present a sociological body of knowledge. You will be responsible for learning and knowing the material presented in class. How you choose to incorporate the material into your worldview is up to you.
Course Plan SOC 3523

Getting Started:
1. Complete Syllabus Assignment
2. Submit Syllabus Assignment to Dropbox in Canvas
3. Introduce yourself on Discussion Board (Who are you?)

Unit 1: Concepts of Crime, Law and Criminology
1. Read Chapter 1 in Siegel Textbook
2. Complete Lesson 1 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 1 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 1 Discussion Board (Crime and Criminology)
5. Read Chapter 2 in Siegel Textbook
6. Complete Lesson 2 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 2 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 2 Discussion Board (The Nature and Extent of Crime)
9. Read Chapter 3 in Siegel Textbook
10. Complete Lesson 3 Homework
11. Submit completed Lesson 3 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
12. Complete Lesson 3 Discussion Board (Victims and Victimization)

Unit 2: Theories of Crime and Causation
1. Read Chapter 4 in Siegel Textbook
2. Complete Lesson 4 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 4 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 4 Discussion Board (Choice Theory: Because They Want To)
5. Read Chapter 5 in Siegel Textbook
6. Complete Lesson 5 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 5 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 5 Discussion Board (Trait Theory)
9. Read Chapter 6 in Siegel Textbook
10. Complete Lesson 6 Homework
11. Submit completed Lesson 6 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
12. Complete Lesson 6 Discussion Board (Social Structure Theory)
13. Read Chapter 7 in Siegel Textbook
14. Complete Lesson 7 Homework
15. Submit completed Lesson 7 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
16. Complete Lesson 7 Discussion Board (Social Process Theories)

17. Schedule Midterm Exam
18. Take Midterm Exam

19. Read Chapter 8 in Siegel Textbook
20. Complete Lesson 8 Homework
21. Submit completed Lesson 8 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
22. Complete Lesson 8 Discussion Board (Social Conflict and Critical Criminology)

23. Read Chapter 9 in Siegel Textbook
24. Complete Lesson 9 Homework
25. Submit completed Lesson 9 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
26. Complete Lesson 9 Discussion Board (Developmental Theories)

**Unit 3: Crime Typologies**

1. Read Chapter 10 in Siegel Textbook
2. Complete Lesson 10 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 10 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 10 Discussion Board (Violent Crime)

5. Read Chapter 11 in Siegel Textbook
6. Complete Lesson 11 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 11 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 11 Discussion Board (Property Crimes)

9. Read Chapter 12 in Siegel Textbook
10. Complete Lesson 12 Homework
11. Submit completed Lesson 12 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
12. Complete Lesson 12 Discussion Board (Enterprise Crime)

13. Read Chapter 13 in Siegel Textbook
14. Complete Lesson 13 Homework
15. Submit completed Lesson 13 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
16. Complete Lesson 13 Discussion Board (Public Order Crimes)
Unit 4: The Criminal Justice System

1. Read Chapter 14 in Siegel Textbook
2. Complete Lesson 14 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 14 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 14 Discussion Board (The Criminal Justice System)
5. Complete Paper Assignment
6. Submit Paper to Paper Assignment Dropbox in Canvas
7. Schedule Final Exam
8. Take Final Exam