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Course Description and Goals

This course builds on CRJU202 (Crime Theory) and delves into the current state of criminological theories and how criminological theories can be applied to explain criminal and deviant behaviors. By the end of this course, students should have a comprehensive and clear understanding of the following topics:

- The main themes and core propositions of modern criminological theories including anomie/strain theory, control theories (self-control theory, social control theory, age-graded informal control theory), differential association/social learning theory, labeling theory, rational choice theory, and social disorganization theory.
- The application of criminological theories in the current criminal justice system.
- The limitations of criminological theory research and how to make advancement in the future.

Course Materials

- The required readings will be posted on Blackboard. You don't need to buy a book on your own.
- We will cover 13 different topics over 13 weeks of classes. Each week you are expected to read one paper carefully. Sometimes you will watch a few short video clips recorded by different scholars and institutions to help you get a deeper and more detailed understanding of the theories. All readings and videos are mandatory.

Instruction Contact Information

- Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns about this course. I will make sure to respond to you within 24 hours. However, I won't be with my computer every minute, and it would be unrealistic to assume that I can reply to your e-mail within a few minutes or hours.
- Since this class is fully online due to the pandemic, all of my communication with students will take place over e-mail. This means that you have to **CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY**. I am going to assume that you are checking your e-mail at least **ONCE A DAY**. If you are going to be away from Internet access for more than that amount of time, please let me know beforehand.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., you can join me and your classmates in a virtual office hour. Links to the virtual meetings will be posted on Blackboard in advance. I am also happy to schedule personal virtual appointments with you as needed. You are encouraged to meet with me virtually to ensure comprehension of the course material.

Evaluation Rules

- The total grade is 100 points. There will be 15 extra credits for you to grab throughout this semester.
- Your performance in this class is evaluated through: 1) quizzes, worth 60% of the total grade; and 2) serial killer analysis essays, worth 40% of the total grade.
- You should be aware that the subjects we cover are generally cumulative in nature. As a result, areas covered early in the course are relevant throughout the entire course.
- If you have questions about the grade you receive on an assignment, I am happy to answer those questions and to suggest ways that you can do better.
- If you do not think that the grade you receive reflects the quality of your work, you may ask for the answers to be graded again. To do so, submit a formal appeal in writing, explaining why you think the grade you receive is not a fair reflection of the quality of your work. The new grade, whether high or lower, will then become your final grade on this assignment.
- There are no opportunities to re-take tests or to do extra-credit work requested by the students in this course.
- At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade as described above and that grade becomes your final grade. I will not increase any person's grade solely to change their letter grade. So if you make an 89, you will make a B+, not an A-. No amount of pleading will change this outcome. Particularly common and ineffective are pleas claiming that your grade in this class will cause you to lose a scholarship, prevent you from attending the graduate or professional school of your choice, or lead to some other unfortunate, but unlikely, consequence.

Quizzes

- Each week from week 2 there will be a quiz of 5 questions (multiple choice and true/false), each question is worth 1 point. Throughout this semester, there will be altogether 60 questions, worth 60 points out of the total grade of 100 points.

- Because the quizzes are based entirely on online course materials, I will go through everyone’s answers each week and check to make sure that none of the questions are too tricky, specific, or vague for the students. If any question is answered correctly less than 30% of the time, I’ll assume it is unfairly difficult and give everyone credit for it.
- There is no opportunity to retake the quiz. If your Internet breaks off while you take the quiz, let me know immediately and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quizzes (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish.

Crime Analysis Essays

- Throughout the semester, you are expected to write two short essays, worth 40% of the total grade.
- The first essay focuses on using criminological theories that you have learned to analyze the behaviors of a serial killer. The second essay focuses on using criminological theories that you have learned to analyze a “murder capital.”
- Each essay is worth 20 points, or 20% of the total grade. Specific grading rubrics will be announced on Blackboard in advance.

Extra Credits

- Each week you can get 1 extra credit by posting a response to the assigned discussion topic on Blackboard. The discussion topics are designed to help you understand the impact of the pandemic on the corrections system. You are encouraged to participate and respond to your classmates’ posts.
- In the first week, there will be a quiz on syllabus and course overview. You can get up to 2 extra credits if you take the quiz before the deadline (0.4 extra credit per question).

Late Work and Missed Work

- Late submission essay assignments will be penalized by 2 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 10 points.
- If you are late for the quizzes, contact me and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quizzes (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 2 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late submission is 3 points.
- If you are late for the extra credit assignments, you will not get any extra credits, including the first-week quiz and weekly discussion posts.
- If you need to miss an exam or any assignment, you *must have a university-approved excuse*. The University policy regarding absences and make-up work can be found here: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=486&hl=prerequisite+policy&returnto=search>.
- If you need to make up an assignment, you must do so within a week of returning from your excused absence.

Grading Scale

A: 100-94	B: 86-84	C: 76-74	D: 66-64
A-: 93-90	B-: 83-80	C-: 73-70	D-: 63-60
B+: 89-87	C+: 79-77	D+: 69-67	F: 59 or below

Syllabus Change Policy

- The syllabus is designed to be a resource that students should use throughout the semester. While this syllabus lists course materials and test dates, students should use the course website and Blackboard as their primary source for detailed information regarding the course. This is important because the instructor may update or modify assignments and readings throughout the course. In the situation of change or modification, the instructor will post changes under the “Announcements” tab on Blackboard.

Academic Honor Policy

- I do not tolerate academic misconduct of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to cheating and plagiarism. The most common reason students resort to plagiarism or cheating is running out of time to do the assignment properly. Please plan accordingly and be sure to allow yourself sufficient time to complete all assignments. As a student at BSU, it is your responsibility to understand and abide by university policies: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>
- Please take time to understand the nature of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes turning in the same work to more than one class, not citing sources correctly, not paraphrasing correctly, etc.
- Failure to abide by any classroom or BSU policy may result in one or more of the following actions depending on the severity of the offense: 1) written warning, 2) reduction of the course grade, 3) failure of the course, and 4) referral to the Dean

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

- BSU makes every effort to accommodate the unique needs of its students. In keeping with university policy, students are expected to contact the Disability Resources Office (DRO) each time they register for a course to request accommodations for that course. DRO then provides a letter to the instructor for the upcoming class. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the Disability Resources Office at 508-531-2194, TTY 508- 531-6113, or email at DisabilityResources@bridgew.edu for review and approval of accommodation requests.

Title IX and Sexual Violence

- BSU is committed to maintaining safe and healthy learning, living and working environments that are free from all forms of sexual violence; inclusive of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and retaliation. The Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and

fair climate. Consistent with this commitment, the BSU sexual violence policy complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendment of 1972 (“Title IX”), which prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, as well as the retaliation for the purposes of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX. To learn more regarding all resources for victim-survivors see <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/affirmativeaction/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

*All readings are **mandatory** and provided on Blackboard. All videos are optional but highly recommended.*

Theme	Week*	Description and Assigned Materials	Evaluations
1. Course Overview	#1 (W, 09/02 - W, 09/09)	1) Syllabus 2) Bruinsma. (2016). Proliferation of crime causation theories in an era of fragmentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 09/09 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. It is open-book. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. You can get up to 2 extra credits by completing the quiz before the deadline (0.4 extra credit per question). The quiz covers content from the syllabus and the reading. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/09 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m.
2. Anomie Theory and the American Dream	#2 (W, 09/09 – W, 09/16)	1) Messner & Rosenfeld. Chapter 1 in <i>Crime and the American Dream</i> . 2) Video on basic ideas of Durkheim (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9W0GQvONKc&t=245s from beginning to 1:56). 3. Video on the main ideas of anomie theory (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR954b9RfNU).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 09/16 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from the reading and the video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/16 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m.
3. General Strain Theory and Terrorism	#3 (W, 09/16 – W, 09/23)	1) Agnew. (2010). A general strain theory of terrorism 2) Introductory video of GST (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SMcU1tETBo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 9/23 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/23 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
4. General Strain Theory and Cyberbullying	#4 (W, 09/23 – W, 09/30)	1) Patchin & Hinduja. (2011). Traditional and nontraditional bullying among youth. 2) Video on bullying: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olHamYV1714	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 9/30 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the readings and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 09/30 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
5. Self-Control and Imprudent Behaviors	#5 (W, 09/30 – W, 10/07)	1) Arneklev et al. (1993). Low self-control and imprudent behavior. 2) Introductory video on the general theory of crime (self-control theory): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5pxjW_6tYc&t=230s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/07 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/07 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
6. Social Control, Social Bond, and College Binge Drinking	#6 (W, 10/07 – W, 10/14)	1) Dunkin & Clark. (1999). Social bond theory and binge drinking by college students. 2) Introductory video on social bond theory (social control theory): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgK-r0a3kfQ&t=4s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/14 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and the video.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/14 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You should have almost finished the essay by now.
7. Informal Social Control and Life-Course	#7 (W, 10/14 – W, 10/21)	<p>1) Laub & Sampson. (1993). Turning points in the life course.</p> <p>2) Introductory video on age-graded informal social control: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvOFtyisQY Y</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and the video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. The first crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 10/21 at 5p.m. Late submission essay assignments will be penalized by 2 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 10 points.
8. Differential Association, Social Learning, and Adolescent Delinquency	#8 (W, 10/21 – W, 10/28)	<p>1) Ardelt & Day. (2002). Parents, siblings, and peers: Close social relationships and adolescent deviance.</p> <p>2) Introductory video on differential association theory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOiRZP3nzb bs</p> <p>3) Introductory video on social learning theory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxJNT9bCO MY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 10/28 at 5p.m. The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
9. Labeling Theory and the Negative Consequence of Official Intervention of Adolescence Deviance	#9 (W, 10/28 – W, 11/04)	<p>1) Bernburg & Krohn. (2003). Labeling, life chances, and adult crime.</p> <p>2) Introductory video on labeling theory: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSucy1f4KhY&t=41s</p> <p>3) Video on criminal records and stigma: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMZICsG4JUA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/04 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/04 at 5p.m. The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
10. Rational Choice Theory and Irrationality	#10 (W, 11/04 – T, 11/10)	<p>1) De Haan & Vos. (2003). A crying shame: The over-rationalized conception of man in the rational choice perspective.</p> <p>2) Video on rational choice theory: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meoMczbKXw8&t=678s (from beginning to 10:00)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m. The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
11. Deterrence Theory and Perceptions	#11 (Th, 11/12 – W, 11/18)	<p>1) Kleck et al. (2005). The missing link in deterrence research.</p> <p>2) Video on deterrence and punishment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZJqzuO3I34</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/18 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/18 at 5p.m.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
12. Routine Activities and Situational Crime Prevention	#12 (W, 11/18 – W, 11/25)	<p>1) Hayward. (2007). Situational crime prevention and its discontents.</p> <p>2) Video on RAT: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMIC_NuczY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 11/25 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 11/25 at 5p.m. The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now.
13. Social Disorganization Theory	#13 (M, 11/30 – W, 12/09)	<p>1) Kubrin & Weitzer. (2003). New directions in social disorganization theory.</p> <p>2) Video of Sampson on poor neighborhood: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-w6vi4Q0oM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. The second crime analysis essay is due on Wednesday 12/09 at 5p.m. Late submission essay assignments will be penalized by 2 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 10 points.

M: Monday; T: Tuesday; W: Wednesday; Th: Thursday; F: Friday; S: Sunday. All dates are in 2020.