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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security & Global Studies

Criminal Justice Program

CMRJ303

Criminology

3 Credit Hours

8 Weeks

Prerequisites: None

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Instructor Information

Instructor: See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

Email: Please use internal classroom messaging system.

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course examines criminal behavior in relationship to various criminological theories and analyses these theories through a historical context. These theories include classical theories and current theories of crime as they relate to criminal involvement. Additionally this course will analyze society's response to criminal behavior through the assessment of legal approaches and the various aspects of the criminal justice system. Additionally types of criminal behavior and the systems reaction to these crimes will be distinguished. Research affecting social policy and public crime concerns are examined including social problems and social responsibility perspectives as well.

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(Note to Students: The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in this upper level undergraduate course assume that the student has completed all lower level general education and career planning coursework necessary to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students who have not fulfilled all general education requirements through courses or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for this course.)

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Course Scope

CMRJ303 is an undergraduate course, which is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to give students a broad context in which to study the history, theories, and responses to crime and criminology, using a unique blend of both social science and legal research. It includes legal case excerpts to demonstrate the role of the courts in the reformation of the criminal justice system, and gives the student a solid understanding of the integral relationship between the law and theories of criminal behavior. Current topics such as hate crimes, "three strikes" sentencing, changes in Megan's Law, and the law and the internet, are explored beyond the headlines, examining the implications of our governing theories and policies. Instruction is primarily textbook driven with accompanied online lectures and online classroom weekly forums.

Because it is a survey course of a broad subject, it will out of necessity; cover each topic with a broad brush. However, the lessons area and online forums will allow a deeper look into any subject area that particularly attracts the student. The student will learn how to use the World Wide Web to research topics related to the material discussed and covered in the textbook.

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Course Objectives (CO)

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

- CO1: Describe the early history of criminal theory and its application to crime control.
- CO2: Compare and contrast biological and psychological theories of crime.
- CO3: Summarize how social control theory applies to delinquent behavior.
- CO4: Examine the application of various theories of crime to the justice process.

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CO5: Analyze society's response to criminal behavior through its use of law enforcement, the judicial system and corrections departments.

CO6: Differentiate types of criminal behavior and the justice system's and society's reactions.

CO7: Identify social policy and public crime concerns.

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Course Delivery Method

This undergraduate level Criminal Justice course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. **Online assignments are due by the last day of each week** and include Forum Board questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum board), examinations and quizzes (graded electronically), and individual assignments (submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Materials

Textbook:

Note:

The e-book is provided to students through VitalSource instead of the classroom.

AMU/APU

How to access your online eBook(s):

1. Click the following link to open your eBook(s) in the online bookshelf and enter the email and password for your VitalSource account. (If this is your first purchase of a VitalSource eBook, ED MAP sent you these credentials in a separate email message with the subject line of "Your VitalSource Account.").

<http://online.vitalsource.com/#/books>.

How to access your downloadable eBook(s):

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1. If you have not already done so, download and install VitalSource Bookshelf. This free software is available by following this link:

<http://vitalsource.com/software/bookshelf/edmap-downloads/>

2. Open the application and enter the email and password for your VitalSource account. (If this is your first purchase of a VitalSource eBook, ED MAP sent you these credentials in a separate email message with the subject line of "Your VitalSource Account.")

3. Your eBooks will begin downloading immediately

Please direct any questions/requests for VitalSource information to Booklist@apus.edu for assistance.

The publisher only provides Chapters 15-18 online for this text. These chapters are available at

http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0078026423/student_view0/online_chapters_15-18.html

Criminology, 8/e

Freda Adler, Rutgers University - Newark

Gerhard O. W. Mueller, Rutgers University – Newark (Deceased)

William S. Laufer, University of Pennsylvania

ISBN- ISBN-10: 0078026423 | ISBN-13: 978-0078026423

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Companies

Copyright year: 2013

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Evaluation Procedures

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following course requirements:

- 1. Graded Introduction:** This is a graded requirement. This forum is to invite you to accomplish two things: 1) build peer- to-peer relationships by introducing oneself and one's background to the class; 2) articulate individual student learning goals and/or expectations for the class. There is a 250 word requirement for your introduction post.

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- 2. Research Paper/Term Project:** Each student will be required to complete the term project, which is an 8-10 page research paper in APA Style. The project should have 8-10 pages not counting the cover, abstract and reference page.
- 3. Mid-Term Examination:** A mid-term exam is required. The mid-term exam is an open book exam with no time limit. The exam will be posted in the electronic classroom at the beginning of week 4. Chapters 1-9 will be covered. Students must complete the exam inside the electronic classroom and submit the exam by the end of week 4.
- 4. Final Examination:** The final exam will be an open book exam that is designed to test the student's knowledge of the subject matter. Chapters 10-18 will be covered. The final exam will be posted at the beginning of week 8 and is required to be taken within the electronic classroom and submitted by the end of the course.
- 5. Forum Questions and Responses to Other Students Work Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8:** Each student will be required to answer the weekly forum question and respond to at least two other students. The forum questions can be found on the Forum Board. Students will be required to post their weekly forum question response to the proper forum board. Students will follow posting instructions in the classroom pertaining to forum due dates and number of words required in posts.

Classroom participation is necessary for distance education. This is not a correspondence course you will have to interact with your fellow students and your professor. The more interaction that we achieve will increase our knowledge of each other, the course material, and the learning process.

It is imperative that the student stays in contact with the professor and university. If your work schedule changes, or you are deployed, a family emergency occurs, or anything that will cause your course assignments to be late. You must make contact with the class professor. The class professor will work out a personal class completion schedule with the student. It is the student's responsibility to advise the professor of any changes that will cause course assignments to be late. It is the instructor's discretion to either deny or grant an extension based on information that is provided to the class professor.

Students should log into the classroom several times a week and check forum boards and emails. If the student fails to communicate or stay in contact with the course professor they may be dropped or fail the course. It is strongly suggested to communicate openly and freely with the course professor. If you need anything, communicate with the course professor first to work out any problems.

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The points earned on course assignments will determine the course grade. The final grade in the course will be based on total points. Grades will be assigned based on the following term composite scores:

<u>Grade Instruments</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Graded Introduction	01%
Forums	19%
Research Paper/Term Project	20%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

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Grading Scale

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the [grading scale](#) .

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Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	Changing Boundaries of Criminology Counting Crime and Measuring Criminal Behavior Schools of	LO1: Describe the early history of criminal theory and its application to crime control.	Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u> Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 & 3. Read: Week 1 Forum article(s)	Graded Introduction Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric

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	Thought Throughout History		and Online Lecture 1.	
2	Biological & Psychological Perspectives Strain and Culture Deviance Theories	LO2: Compare and contrast biological and psychological theories of crime. LO4Examine the application of various theories of crime to the justice process.	Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u> Chapters 4 & 5. Read: Week 2 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 2	Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric
3	The Formation of Subcultures Social Control Theory	LO3: Summarize how social control theory applies to delinquent behavior. LO4: Examine the application of various theories of crime to the justice process.	Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u> Chapters 6 & 7. Read: Week 3 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 3	Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric
4	Labeling Theory Environmental Theory	LO4: Examine the application of various theories of crime to the justice process.	Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u> Chapters 8 & 9. Read: Week 4 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 4	Online Mid-term Exam (Chapters 1 - 9) - to be completed by Sunday of this week. Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric
5	Violent	LO5: Analyze society's response to	Assigned Reading:	Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2

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	<p>Crimes</p> <p>Crimes Against Property</p> <p>White-Collar and Corporate Crime</p>	<p>criminal behavior through its use of law enforcement, the judicial system and corrections departments.</p> <p>LO6: Differentiate types of criminal behavior and the justice system's and society's reactions.</p>	<p><u>Criminology 8th edition</u></p> <p>Chapters 10, 11 & 12.</p> <p>Read: Week 5 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 5</p>	<p>replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric</p>
6	<p>Public Order Crimes</p> <p>International and Comparative Criminology</p>	<p>LO7. Identify social policy and public crime concerns.</p>	<p>Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u></p> <p>Chapters 13 & 14.</p> <p>Read: Week 6 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 6</p>	<p>Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric</p>
7	<p>Process and Decisions</p> <p>Enforcing the Law: Practice and Research</p> <p>The Nature and Functioning of Courts</p>	<p>LO5: Analyze society's response to criminal behavior through its use of law enforcement, the judicial system and corrections departments.</p>	<p>Assigned Reading: <u>Criminology 8th edition</u></p> <p>Chapters 15, 16, 17 & 18.</p> <p>Read: Week 7 Forum article(s) and Online Lecture 7</p>	<p>Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric</p> <p>Research Paper Due – Automated Tuenitin.com submission below 20%</p>

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8	Winding Things Up	Review course objectives	Review Chapters for final exam.	Online Final Exam Chapters 10 – 18 Forum -(Initial Post due Thursday and 2 replies due Sunday of this week) Please View Grading Rubric After Sunday of Week 8 No Student Course Material i.e., Assignments shall be Accepted by the Instructor for Grading.
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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- 12 - point font Times New Roman style.

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- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow APA guidelines. This course will require students to use the citation and reference style established by the American Psychological Association (APA), in which case students should follow the guidelines set forth in *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and flaming. Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper Netiquette must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the forum of others.

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❖□**Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

❖□**Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add emoticons to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- ***Electronic Books:*** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- ***Electronic Journals:*** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- ***Tutor.com:*** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](#) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was

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meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course **(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)**

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- ◆□ Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- ◆□ Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu

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Turnitin.com

- **Turnitin.com** is a tool to detect plagiarism. Turnitin.com reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors.

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Selected Bibliography

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