COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the various theories of criminal justice and how they relate to the field itself. The relation between crime, criminal law, and criminology will be discussed as well as the various perspectives of criminal theory (sociological, psychological, biological, etc). Different types of crimes as they relate to theory will also be examined as well as a look ahead into the future of criminal theory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Develop an understanding of the terminology and various criminological theories associated with Criminal Justice.
2. Acquire the skills necessary to recognize competing theories and use them to explain and understand crime.
3. Develop an understanding of the psychological, sociological, and psychological perspectives of crime.
4. Acquire an understanding of what crime, theory, and deviance is and how these are explained by developed theories.

TEXTBOOKS:
The assigned texts listed below are required for all students enrolled in this class. Reading assignments are noted in the course calendar. All students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the date specified in the course calendar. The assigned readings will serve as a foundation for the discussion of issues in class as well as examination material.

Required Text:
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The following section lists the required components of this course as well as the points that may be earned toward the final course grade for each component.

Readings:
Students should follow the schedule of reading assignments found on the course calendar. The reading assignments need to be read before you come to class. This will not only facilitate class discussion, but will also allow you time to formulate questions as we go over the material in class. In addition to the required texts, the course will utilize video presentations, additional handouts, and guest lectures that concern issues pertinent to the study of ethical problems. Information from all sources (textbook, lectures, video presentations, handouts, guest speakers) may be included on course examinations.

Examinations:
Each exam will consist solely of multiple choice, matching, true/false questions or essay. Note that any material covered in the textbook, class discussions, or any supplemental material (such as extra assigned readings, in-class movies, etc.) is “fair game”. All exams are closed book and closed note (unless the professor says otherwise). The use of listening devices (MP3 players, etc.) and electronics (including cell phones) is prohibited during testing. Anyone answering cell phone calls, text messages, etc. during the exam will receive a 0. If you have an extreme exception, please see me prior to the exam.

EXAMINATION DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS!

Quizzes:
A series of 10+ quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test to see if you have read the material presented to you. There is NO MAKEUP of these quizzes unless you have a valid excuse from the University. You must be present to take the quiz. Failure to do so will lower your grade significantly. No prior dates for the quizzes will be given. You must be in class to take it. BE PREPARED! Your quiz grade is an average of all your quizzes out of 100.

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of a hospitalization or emergency and I am contacted BEFORE THE EXAM BY EMAIL. Your doctor saying you are sick or you feeling sick is NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. All makeup examinations will be full essay and will be administered on a date at my discretion. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE IF YOU MISS THE EXAM! If an emergency situation comes up on test day please notify me immediately by emailing me.

Blackboard Assignments:
During the semester the instructor will assign various blackboard discussion assignments. The Blackboard discussion tool is a great place to post assignment questions so that everyone in class may follow the discussion/solution. I will reply to assignment questions in the discussion forum.
When you have assignment questions, check the discussion forum first to see if an answer to your question has already been posted. Assignments for discussion sections are posted on Blackboard. They will include additional readings, video clips, discussion questions, and projects. These assignments need to be completed before the next class period. These online assignments might take place in lieu of our standard class period. Blackboard Assignments Dates: TBD by Instructor in class

Class Participation: The class participation component of each student’s grade will be based on the number of times that the student actually participates in the discussions of class material. Students may volunteer to participate and they will be called upon to participate. Failure to do so will lower your grade. This also includes blackboard assignments.

- Students that miss more than 5 class sessions may be administratively dropped according to University Guidelines.

Extra Credit (Given at SOLE discretion of the instructor):
Extra credit will be given to students that participate in class. If the instructor sees that the students are not reading the material that has been given to them (i.e. showing up to class late, texting or using cell phones in class etc.) extra credit will not be given to the students.

GRADE BREAKDOWN: Grades are based on your earned point totals for the semester.

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A- 100% -90%
B- 80%-89%
C- 70%-79%
D- 69%-60%
F- Below 60%

Class Schedule:
Week Topic Required
Chapter(s)
Week 1
Introduction & overview of Crime & Criminology
Readings: Section 1 by 1/22/15

Week 2
Introduction & overview of Crime & Criminology
Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior
Readings: Section 1, 2 by 1/30/15

Week 3
Victimology and Victimization
Readings: Section 3 by 2/5/15

Week 4
The Early Schools of Criminology
Readings: Section 4 by 2/12/15

Week 5
Social Structural Theories
Readings: Section 5 by 2/19/15

Week 6
Social Process Theories
Readings: Section 6 by 2/26/15

Week 7
Critical and Social Conflict Theories
Readings: Section 7 by 3/5/15

Week 8
Psychosocial Theories and Bio-Social Theories
Readings: Section 8, 9 by 3/12/15

Week 9-Spring Break Catch up on your readings!

Week 10
Bio-Social Theories
Developmental/ Life Course Theories
Readings: Section 9,10 by 3/26/15
Week 11
Violent Crimes
Readings: Section 11 by 4/2/15

Week 12
Multiple Murder and Terrorism
Readings: Section 12 by 4/9/15

Week 13
Property Crimes
Readings: Section 13 by 4/16/15

Week 14
Public Order Crimes
Readings: Section 14 by 4/23/15

Week 15
White Collar and Organized Crimes
Readings: Section 15 by 4/30/15

Week 16 Final Exam

*This reading schedule includes any University holidays. Even if we do not have class you will be still responsible for the material covered. The following schedule reflects the approximate schedule for required readings. Additional readings may be handed out during class. The professor reserves the right to deviate from the schedule as needed.

PARTICIPATION, PREPARATION AND BEHAVIOR

To be successful at learning and understanding the material in this class, it is essential that you read and complete the assigned material and engage in thoughtful online discussions. Your attendance and active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions regarding correctional systems will be taken into account at all times during the semester.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments in class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student’s responsibility to check announcements so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read
announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
It is expected that each student will do his/her own work. Cheating, including plagiarism, on any assignment will result in a zero for that assignment and quite possibly the course. This is criminal justice, how could anyone even contemplate cheating when you are studying to work in a system based on trust and honor? With that said, I reserve the right to pursue the formal channels for plagiarism/cheating set down in the UNT Policy Manual. All students are urged to read the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline located in the UNT Policy Manual (Section 5.2). Academic dishonesty will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the final disposition being at the discretion of the professor.

**A GRADE OF “INCOMPLETE”**
I – Incomplete; a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course; (2) has justifiable reason (medical or other emergency circumstance) why the work cannot be completed on a schedule; and (3) arranges with the professor before the end of the semester to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the professor must list on the grade sheet. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course). If you do not meet the specifications for this grade, you will need to see the Registrar’s Office about resigning from the University.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:**
My lectures are protected by state and common law and by applicable federal copyright laws. You are not authorized to make any commercial use of them without express prior permission from myself. Persons who do make use of my lecture notes for commercial purposes (i.e. sell your class notes to an internet site or other commercially-related business) will be held legally liable.

**ODA STATEMENT:**
It is the policy of UNT not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability (where reasonable accommodations can be made), disabled veteran status or veteran of the Vietnam era status in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations, the University, through its diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences (including sexual orientation) inconsistent with its mission and educational goals. Direct questions or concerns to the equal opportunity office, (940) 565-2456, or the dean of students, (940) 565-2648.

I will make every attempt possible to accommodate anyone with a documented disability. *Please let me know in advance* of exams or other class requirements so I have enough time to send exams or other materials to ODA. You must provide me with the appropriate exam request forms from ODA prior to the exam in order to take the exam at ODA.
Grades: Every semester, at least a couple of students come to my office around the end of the semester asking, “What can I do to raise my grade?” My policy and statement concerning that question is this:

• If you focus on learning and being responsible (i.e., keeping up with assignments, completing extra credit when given, etc.), your final grade will reflect this.
• I do not give individual extra credit. If and when I offer an extra credit assignment it will be offered to the entire class. I suggest you take advantage of extra credit whenever it is offered.
• Borderline grades will be evaluated on a case by case basis and my policy is this: if a student is 1 percentage points away from the next letter grade (borderline grade), has completed all extra credit opportunities, and has not missed more than the allotted number of absences, I will bump them to the next letter grade. I will not raise any grades that are not borderline grades. Not all borderline grades will be raised. Grades are not based on how much I like a person. They are based on work and performance, period. ALL GRADES ARE FINAL AFTER ENTERED IN THE COMPUTER. The final decision on whether or not to raise a grade is solely at the discretion of the professor. Do not email me to change your grade because you did not like the grade you earned!

FINAL POINTS:
Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade. I think you will find me to be very approachable and eager to address any problems with you in a professional manner.

1. To do well in this class the student must complete all assigned readings prior to that class date. (READ!, READ!!, READ!!!) This will allow for a better discussion and understanding of the material. I take test questions from the book and discussions!!!

2. DO NOT highlight and copy text from the internet and turn it in as your own work. It is easy for me to catch you doing this. I type a sentence into Google or Yahoo and it will pull up the entire text. You will not receive a good grade for doing this!! This includes when doing blackboard assignments.

3. If you are having academic or even a personal problems please feel free to talk to me. I am here to help. I might understand more than you think!

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as highly flexible. I am not interested in covering the material as fast as possible simply for the sake of covering it. Rather, I want to cover the material that we do cover thoroughly, and at a pace that is conducive to learning the material instead of simply covering the material. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings irrespective of this schedule, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the calendar throughout the course of the semester (i.e. video presentations and/or handouts). It will be your responsibility to keep up with these as well.