**University of Colorado Boulder**

**Department of Sociology**

**SOCY 4014: Criminology**

**Spring 2021**

Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00pm – 3:50pm

Class Location: Zoom

Instructor: Kyle Thomas, Ph.D

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Office Hours: Thursday 9:30am -11:30am, or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of core criminological concepts, followed by an examination of the main schools of criminological theory. We will explore several modern theories in-depth. Theoretical propositions, assumptions, evaluation criteria, empirical evidence and policy will be discussed.

**Reading Materials**

* Akers, R.L., Sellers, C.S. & Jennings, W. G. (2016). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application, 6th Edition.* Oxford University Press: New York.
* Additional readings will be assigned and posted on Canvas.

**Course Website – Canvas**

This course utilizes Canvas to provide easy access to important course information. This website will include copies of the syllabus, readings, and also class announcements, which contain information that all students are responsible to know. Grades will also be posted on Canvas. You are strongly encouraged to access this web site on a regular basis. To access Canvas, go to https://canvas.colorado.edu and log in with your Directory ID (login ID) and password.

**Class Attendance:**

The class will be conducted synchronously. All students are expected to attend class (both lecture and recitation) regularly and come prepared to participate *during the scheduled class time*. Absences will affect your participation, performance on exams, the quality of the papers and, hence, your overall course grade.

**Disability Accommodations:**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed (preferably within two weeks after classes start). Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

**Religious Observations:**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, any student who anticipates being absent due to the observation of a religious holiday should provide notice to me *at least one week before that class.*

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

**Late Work, Missed Exams and Incomplete Assignments**

Extensions for assignments or exams will not be given except in cases of medical or family emergencies. The proper written documentation is required in these circumstances. Any problems that students encounter must be brought to my attention as soon as possible. If an exam is missed for reasons not specified above the student will receive a 0 on the exam. All late work will receive a 10% deduction for each day the assignment is late.

**Technology in the Classroom:**

Cell phones are not to be used during the class at any time. If you are caught using your cellphone during the lecture, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of class.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

**Grading Criteria**

Your final grade for the course will be determined using the following formula:

Exam 1 (100 points)

Exam 2 (100 points)

Exam 3 (100 points)

Papers (150 points)

Lecture Attendance/

Participation (50 points)

Recitation Attendance/

Participation (50 points)

**Exams**

The three exams are **NOT** cumulative and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exam questions will come from all sources: lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings. The dates of the exams are:

Exam 1: February 22nd

Exam 2: March 29th

Exam 3: Allotted Finals Time

**Papers**

There will be three papers due throughout the semester. Each paper will be worth 50 points, and will be due the week before each exam. All papers should meet certain guidelines. Specifically, the papers will be 5 pages in length, using Time News Roman font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins. Further information on the papers will be discussed in your respective recitations.

**Classroom Conduct**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

The success of this course is dependent both on my abilities as an instructor and in our abilities as a class to create an environment conducive to learning. CU expects faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively and respectfully engaged in classroom activities. Disruptive and disrespectful students cheat other students out of opportunities to learn. Examples of disruptive behavior include coming late to class, excessive talking, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom, disrespectful comments to faculty and students, and persistently speaking without being recognized.

**Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**Instructor Policy on Makeup Exams, Assignments, and Class Notes**

All students are expected to attend every class. Since exams will cover lectures, readings, and in-class discussions, missing multiple classes will likely result in a reduced final grade. If you do miss class or lose your notes, you should copy notes from a classmate. I will not share my notes, regardless of circumstances.

I have a very strict policy regarding makeup exams and excused absences. Makeup exams will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required University activities, and required court appearance. **I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness.** If you go to the Health Center and a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. Official written documentation should verify the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. As noted above, **all late writing assignments that are not excused will lose 10% of the grade for each day it is late.**

I must be notified in person, e-mail, in writing, or by phone **PRIOR** to missing an exam for me to consider giving you a makeup. Makeup exams are essay in nature. If you have a problem on the day of an exam, call me. **If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam prior to the exam date.**

**Class schedule and reading assignments**

The following is a ***TENTATIVE*** schedule for lecture topics and exams. I will do my best to keep to this schedule as closely as possible. ***All exams will be given on the dates indicated. In the event the University is closed on a scheduled exam date (e.g., weather emergency) the exam will be given on the next day that class meets.***

The required and recommended readings for each lecture topic can be found in the right-hand column. Any readings not from your textbooks (denoted as **A&S** in the table) can be found on the Canvas website.

**Tentative Schedule**

| **Session Number** | **Day of Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading Assignment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Fri. | 1/15 | Introduction to Course and Review Syllabus | N/A |
| 2 | Mon. | 1/18 | **No Class for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** |  |
| 3 | Weds. | 1/20 | What is Crime?/Types of Crime | TBD |
| 4 | Mon. | 1/25 | Assumptions of Human Nature and Social Order | Einstadter & Henry, 2006 |
| 5 | Weds. | 1/27 | Data Sources and Correlates of Crime | Luckenbill & Miller, 2007;  Antonoccio, 2010 |
| 6 | Mon. | 2/1 | Theory Construction and Criteria of Theory Evaluation | A&S: Chapter 1 |
|  |  |  | **Classical Theories** |  |
| 7 | Weds. | 2/3 | Overview of Classical Theories/  Deterrence | A&S: Chapter 2 |
| 8 | Mon. | 2/8 | Rational Choice Theories | Cullen & Agnew: p. 437-442  Thomas and Vogel |
| 9 | Weds. | 2/10 | Routine Activity Theory  **\*First Paper Due\*** | Cohen and Felson, 1979;  Osgood et al., 1996 |
|  |  |  | **Biological and Psychological Theories** |  |
| 10 | Mon. | 2/15 | Biological/Psychological Theories | A&S: Chapters 3 & 4 |
| 11 | Weds. | 2/17 | **No Class: Wellness Day** |  |
| 12 | Mon. | 2/22 | **\*EXAM 1\*** |  |
|  |  |  | **Communities and Crime** |  |
| 13 | Weds. | 2/24 | Social Disorganization Theory | A&S: Chapter 8  Cullen & Agnew: pp. 107-113 |
| 14 | Mon. | 3/1 | Modern Explanations of Communities and Crime | Sampson et al. 1997;  Kelling and Wilson, 1982 |
|  |  |  | **Learning Theories** |  |
| 15 | Weds. | 3/3 | Differential Association Theory | Sutherland, 1947: pp. 3-9  A&S: p. 83-85  Matsueda, 1988 |
| 16 | Mon. | 3/8 | Subculture theories | Cullen & Agnew: p 154-165;  Miller, 1958 |
| 17 | Weds. | 3/10 | Social Learning Theory | A&S: pp. 80-109;  Cullen & Agnew pp. 151-161 |
|  |  |  | **Strain Theories** |  |
| 18 | Mon. | 3/15 | Social Structure and Anomie  **\*Second Paper Due\*** | Merton, 1938  A&S: pp. 182-192 |
| 19 | Weds. | 3/17 | Crime and The American Dream | A&S: PP. 192-196  Cullen & Agnew: pp. 191-201 |
| 20 | Mon. | 3/22 | General Strain Theory | Agnew, 1992  A&S: 196-207 |
| 21 | Weds. | 3/24 | **No Class: Wellness Day** |  |
| 22 | Mon. | 3/29 | **\*EXAM 2\*** |  |
|  |  |  | **Control Theories** |  |
| 23 | Weds. | 3/31 | Social Control Theories | A&S: pp. 118-128  Cullen & Agnew |
| 24 | Mon. | 4/5 | Self-Control Theory | Cullen & Agnew: pp. 238-250  A&S: pp. 128-142 |
|  |  |  | **Theories of Sanctions** |  |
| 27 | Weds. | 4/7 | Symbolic Interaction and Labeling Theories | A&S: pp. 143-151 |
| 28 | Mon. | 4/12 | Reintegrative Shaming  Defiance Theory  Procedural Justice | A&S: pp. 151-165  Tyler, 1988 |
|  |  |  | **Life course and Developmental Theories** |  |
| 29 | Weds. | 4/14 | Age and the Explanation of Crime | Hirschi and Gottfredson, 1987 |
| 30 | Mon. | 4/19 | Age-graded Theory of Informal Social Control | A&S: Chapter 14  Cullen & Agnew: p. 545-551 |
| 31 | Weds. | 4/21 | Dual Taxonomy  **\*Third Paper Due\*** | Moffitt, 1993 |
| 32 | Mon. | 4/26 | Integrated Theories of Crime | A&S: Chapter 15 |
| 33 | Weds. | 4/28 | Class Wrap Up/Review |  |
| 34 |  | Finals | **\*EXAM 3\*** |  |