

Mary Baldwin University
Criminal Justice Program
CJ 300: Theories of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2020

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Required Text

Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences, 7th Edition, by Lilly, Cullen, and Ball. Sage publications.

**Other required readings may be posted on Canvas.

Course Description:

During this course, an extension of CJ211: Criminology, students will become more familiar with research on the major criminological theories. Focus is on applications of theories as they pertain to social institutions. for students to develop an in-depth understandings of the theoretical causes of crime.

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class, participate in class discussions, and complete all assignments given. For online sections, it is expected that students actively participate in discussion boards and keep in contact with the professor and classmates.

Late assignments lose 10 points per day late, unless you have made prior arrangements (which include written permission from Dr. Easterling because of an extenuating circumstance).

Participation: Sociology courses, by nature, involve a significant amount of discussion and class participation. It is expected that you read all material be prepared to discuss and apply the material you have read. Discussion, questions, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to class material are imperative for success in this course. The online format allows for students to engage in discussion via discussion boards and the professor is always available for further discussions or questions.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Respect every individual in the class. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. Please be advised that I utilize Canvas in order to post notes and other handouts. You are responsible for reading/printing handouts on Canvas (and text) before class. I will also send emails. If you do not regularly check your MBU email, you will want to do so, or make arrangements with a classmate. I am NOT able to accommodate the use of outside email addresses. I generally reply to emails sent to me within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply from me within 3 days, assume that I did not receive the email and please send again or make arrangements to meet with me in person.

3. Please be respectful in email communication, just as you are respectful in person. For example, an email to a professor could begin with “Dear Dr. Easterling” but never “Wuz up Beth?” Unprofessional emails will not receive a response.

Rough draft of Theoretical Analysis Paper--	25 points
Theoretical Analysis Paper--	125 points
Movie Review Paper--	100 points
Thomas Theorem Reflection--	100 points
Participation/Online Discussions--	150 points

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TOTAL 500 points

Percentage	Course Grade	Minimum Points Needed
93-100	A	462
90-92	A-	447
87-89	B+	432
83-86	B	412
80-82	B-	397
77-79	C+	382
73-76	C	362
70-72	C-	347
67-69	D+	332
63-66	D	312
60-62	D-	297
0-59	F	---

*****Points and assignments subject to change with written notice by professor***

ASSIGNMENTS:

Theoretical Analysis Paper CHOOSE only ONE Option :

OPTION A) Choose TWO criminological theories. Find one journal article that supports the first theory and another article that supports your second theory. (Empirical, peer-reviewed journal articles ONLY.) Then, organize your paper as follows:

1. Description/summary of the theory 1
2. Description/summary of theory 2
3. Summary of article 1 (theory 1)
4. Summary of article 2 (theory 2)
5. Discussion of the main tenants of each theory and how they were supported empirically through research
6. After analyzing each theory, conclude with a discussion on which theory you think is most important when developing crime control policies. State your rationale for your choice.

You MUST turn in copies of the journal articles used when you turn in your topic for your paper. These articles MUST be approved by the instructor.

OPTION B) Choose a specific TYPE of crime (i.e. assault, drug trafficking, rape, murder, burglary, white collar crime, domestic violence) and DEFINE that type of crime. Then, choose a theory we have discussed in class and use it to explain the type of crime. The paper should be organized as follows:

1. Description/summary of the crime
2. Description/summary of the theory.
3. Discussion of the main tenants of the theory that help explain your chosen type of crime
4. Describe how policy should be adapted to include theory in the understanding of and as a response to your chosen type of crime.

You MUST include at least 2 peer-reviewed sources (you are encouraged to use more). You may also use your book and other resources.

OPTION C) If you are planning to do a senior thesis (CJ401), you may use your CJ300 paper to begin your literature review for that project. You must meet with Dr. Easterling about your plans within the first 2 weeks of the semester. This will help you to get a head start on your thesis and this option will be adapted to your topic. The paper should be organized as follows:

1. Presentation of research question
2. Theoretical discussion of all topics pertaining to the research question

You must use multiple peer-reviewed sources for this option. Keep in mind that for your senior thesis, you will need a minimum of 25 references, 20 of which must be peer-reviewed. This project will NOT be your full literature review for your thesis, but you are strongly encouraged to use this as a way to jump-start your project with this paper.

Regardless of the option you choose, your final paper should be a minimum of 6 total pages and use APA formatting. Turn in on Canvas.

Movie Review (100 points): For ONE of the movies we watch in class, students will write a movie review. The movie review should be a brief summary of the movie, followed by a connection of the movie to the specific theoretical tradition discussed in class. Students should use specific examples to note how the movie portrayed the theory, as well as how realistic you think the movie really is. Make sure to draw connections to course topics. The paper should be about 3 pages. For the movie review, students can turn in revised papers up to one week after they receive their grades for full credit on corrections. In order to receive additional credit, students must turn in the original, marked-up graded paper AND the revisions. [Online students may ask Dr. Easterling for additional movie suggestions/options if any of the three required movies are not available. On-Campus students must choose one of the three movies watched in class.]

Thomas Theorem Reflection (100 points): Students will keep an ongoing summary of their thoughts on the Thomas Theorem Check-Ins throughout the semester. An entry should be entered for each Thomas Theorem Check-In with the following information:

- Summary of the reading
- Reflections on the reading BEFORE class discussion
- Notes on the reading AFTER class discussion

It is each individual student's responsibility to ensure they are making regular "journal" entries as we work on the Thomas Theorem readings. At the end of the semester, students will turn in their entries ALONG WITH a final summary (at least 3 paragraphs) of their reflections on the Thomas Theorem. In this summary, students should note how the Thomas Theorem relates to criminal justice/crime/criminology overall and include an example of the Thomas Theorem that was NOT shared in class. (This can be an academic or news article or a personal example.)

Participation/Discussion Board Posts: Participation points are achieved through attending class (or on-campus), actively participating, and via discussion board posts. Throughout the semester, students are required to complete 10 discussion board posts (15 points each). Students must answer each question/discuss each topic with a minimum of 2 full paragraphs. (Each paragraph must be a minimum of 3 sentences.) Participation points are lost to this final grade when students miss class (unexcused), come to class late, use cell phones or technology not related to class during class time, sleep, or any other inappropriate or disrespectful behavior (including non-engagement in a virtual setting). Responding/discussing with classmates is encouraged, but not required for a grade. (However, responding, can BOOST your grade.)

*****Note: This is a TENTATIVE syllabus/timeline.**

The instructor reserves the right to change/modify this syllabus (including assignments and due dates) with ample notice to all students.***

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

	Reading Assignment	Assignments Due
<u>Week 1:</u> January 11-17 - Syllabus (Monday) - Intro to the class (Wednesday) - Theory Brainstorming: What causes crime?	W.I. Thomas, pages 236-237 (Wednesday)	Discussion Board 1 [Be sure to make an entry for the Thomas Theorem Reflection Project]
<u>Week 2:</u> January 18-24	Chapters 1 and 2	Topic for Theoretical Analysis Paper due by Friday. Not turning in the topic will result in a 5 point

NO CLASS 1/18 in observance of MLK Jr. Day - Foundations of Criminological Theory		penalty in your Paper Grade. Discussion Board 2
<u>Week 3:</u> January 25-31 - Research and Writing - The Chicago School	Chapter 3	Discussion Board 3
<u>Week 4:</u> February 1-7 - Strain Theories - Thomas Theorem check-in: Race	Chapter 4 https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-pathways-experience/201702/race-the-reality-the-imagined	Discussion Board 4 [Be sure to make an entry for the Thomas Theorem Reflection Project]
<u>Week 5:</u> February 8-14 - Strain theory by film: <i>Falling Down</i>		Discussion Board 5
<u>Week 6:</u> February 15-21 - Control Theory - Thomas Theorem check-in: School Shootings (Friday)	Chapters 5 and 6 http://www.umasocialmedia.com/school-shootings-and-the-thomas-theorem-real-in-their-consequences/	<u>Rough draft of theoretical analysis paper due February 21</u> [Be sure to make an entry for the Thomas Theorem Reflection Project]
<u>Week 7:</u> February 22-28 - Labeling theory	Chapter 7	
<u>Week 8:</u> March 1-7 - Critical and Conflict theories	Chapters 8 and 9	Discussion Board 6
<u>Week 9:</u> March 8-14	Discussion: <i>Office Space</i> and Criminology—deviance,	Discussion Board 7

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strain, Conflict, and white-collar crime in film: <i>Office Space</i> 	alienated labor, and Merton's anomie-strain	
<p><u>Week 10:</u> March 15-21</p> <p>White-collar crime and feminist theory</p> <p>Thomas Theorem Check in: Feminist theory, credit, and irony</p>	<p><i>*note, chapters out of sequence</i></p> <p>Chapter 11</p> <p>Chapter 10</p> <p>WI and Dorothy Thomas (in module)</p>	<p>Discussion Board 8</p> <p>[Be sure to make an entry for the Thomas Theorem Reflection Project]</p>
<p><u>Week 11:</u> March 22-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feminist Theory in film: <i>Thelma and Louise</i> - 		<p>Movie Review due March 28 (CAN BE TURNED IN AT ANY TIME EARLIER DURING THE SEMESTER)</p>
<p><u>Week 12:</u> March 29- April 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservative Criminology - Choosing Crime in Everyday Life - 	Chapters 12 and 13	Discussion Board 9
<p><u>Week 13:</u> April 5-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biosocial theories - Thomas Theorem check-in: Police encounters - Life-Course theories 	<p>Chapter 15</p> <p>https://www.policeone.com/emotionally-disturbed-persons-edp/articles/the-thomas-theorem-frontline-response-to-excited-delirium-5t3YfjlQBODNEUsv/</p> <p>Chapter 16</p>	<p>Thomas Theorem Reflection Due April 11</p> <p>Discussion Board 10</p>
<p><u>Week 14:</u> April 12-16—Final Exams week</p>		<p><u>Theoretical Analysis Paper due April 15</u></p>

General Guidelines- Out-of-class writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced using 12 point font and must have 1 inch margins. Handwritten assignments WILL NOT be accepted for out-of-class assignments. In-class written assignments must be legible to receive points

Exams and Papers- Make-up exams WILL NOT be given unless you have made prior arrangements with the professor personally. **Late papers lose 10 points per day. No exceptions.** In the unlikely event that I must change a due date, I will announce the change in class and post this announcement on Canvas. Cheating **WILL NOT** be tolerated. Any activity that is deemed suspicious by the instructor will be dealt with immediately.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for keeping your work/actions from having even the appearance of plagiarism or cheating. Examples of plagiarism include copying the work of someone else (an author, someone who is taking/has taken the class, or anyone else) and turning it in as your own work or looking at someone else's exam to get answers. Any evidence of academic dishonesty on a paper/exam will result in a zero for that assignment and possible failure of the course.