

Introduction to Criminology SOCI 211, Fall 2009

Professor: Dr. Dan Doyle
Office: SS 307
Office Phone/Voice Mail: 243-5912

Office Hours: Tu & Th 11:10-12:30
Wed. 1:30-3 PM or by appointment
E-mail: dan.doyle@umontana.edu

Teaching Assistant: Sara Shapiro
Office: SS 312

Office Hours: MWF 10:10-11:00
Email: sara.shapiro@umontana.edu

Preceptor: Kellie Jones
Office: SS 324

Office Hours: To be announced
Email: kellie.jones@umontana.edu

Note: Students must use their official (eg.: umontana or grizmail) UM email address when communicating with the instructor, teaching assistant, or preceptor via email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to examine the nature and causes of crime and delinquency. Both formal and informal theories about crime will be presented, discussed, and assessed. The course consists of four units. Unit I is an introductory unit that looks at the extent, distribution, correlates, and measurement of crime. Unit II analyzes explanations of crime that focus on the individual. Units III and IV examine sociological and social structural theories. Students should leave this course with a basic understanding of the various explanations of crime and delinquency.

TEXTBOOK

Miller, J. Michael, Christopher Schreck, and Richard Tewksbury. 2008.
Criminological Theory: A Brief Introduction. (2nd Ed.) Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Since you will be reading the entire book, you are encouraged to secure access to a copy. Note that the textbook serves as a supplement to, but not a substitute for, the material presented in lecture. Reading assignments are as follows:

Unit I	Chapters 1, 2, 10	Unit III	Chapters 5, 6, 7
Unit II	Chapters 3, 4	Unit IV	Chapters 8, 9

TESTING AND GRADES

Four tests consisting of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and true/false questions will be administered during the course of the semester. Each test is worth up to 75 points. A student's grade will be based on the total number of points earned. Grades will be assigned as follows:

270 points or above	A	180 to 209.5 points	D
240 to 269.5 points	B	179.5 points or below	F
210 to 239.5 points	C		

If the total number of points earned falls below but very close to the cutoff for a particular grade, the higher grade may be assigned only if the student has demonstrated excellent attendance and class participation. Plus or minus grades will not be used.

A FEW OTHER CLASS POLICIES

No "extra credit" assignments or projects will be allowed.

To receive a grade other than an F, a student must take both of the tests.

If a student will not be able to take a test on time, prior notification of the instructor is required. A message can be left on voice mail or email any time of the day or night. Failure to provide prior notification can result in the student receiving zero points for that exam.

Those taking the class on a Credit/No Credit basis must receive at least 180 points in order to receive credit for the class.

The final exam for this class is scheduled for 10:10 AM on Monday, December 14th. Students should plan their travel schedules accordingly.

Excellent attendance and active class participation are expected and may be taken into consideration in the assignment of final grades in marginal cases.

To protect privacy, test scores and course grades will not be given out over the telephone or via email. Students must approach the instructor in person.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. It is available online at: <http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Teaching and learning are most likely to take place where the classroom environment is one characterized by mutual respect and freedom from unnecessary distractions. Below are some comments regarding the responsibilities of instructors and students in maintaining a good classroom environment. I will adhere to these guidelines to the best of my ability and I expect you to do likewise.

Vital to the whole notion of a university is the free exchange of ideas. Such an exchange is more likely in an atmosphere free from ridicule, insults, or personal attacks. Instructors must deal with their students in a respectful fashion. Likewise, students must demonstrate respect in their communications with instructors and other students.

Late arrivals and early departures decrease the learning time available, interrupt the flow of class, and are distracting to all. Both the instructor and the student need to be in the classroom and ready to begin class at the scheduled starting time. Except in the case of sudden illness or other emergency, early departures should be avoided. If because of extraordinary circumstances, a student knows that he or she has to leave early, that student should let the instructor know before class and sit in a location where he or she can depart with minimal interruption. The instructor should be careful to avoid keeping the students in class past the scheduled ending time. In turn, students should refrain from packing up their belongings and/or leaving prior to being dismissed by the instructor.

It is also distracting when students engage in private conversations, text or talk on a cell phone, use other handheld computing or communication devices, listen to headphones, or read non-class materials during class. Cell phones, pagers, and similar devices must be adjusted so that they do not ring, beep, or buzz audibly during class.

The exercise of common courtesy on the part of both the instructor and the students will enhance the success of this class.