

 Syllabus

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COURSE SYLLABUS

CRIM 500: Introduction to Criminology 4 Credits

Online

Fall, 2008

September 13 - December 12; *(Thanksgiving Break: November 22-28)*

Last Updated: July 27, 2008



Instructor: George Wattendorf, JD

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Course Description

This course introduces the learner to the field of criminology by reviewing the historical underpinnings of the modern-day study of crime and criminals, examining the theoretical causes of crime and criminality, and evaluating society's responses to crime. Learners are introduced to the sociological, biological, and psychological schools of criminological thought. Topics include crime statistics and social and legal mechanisms used to address criminal activity and the individual criminal.

Prerequisites

None.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

Course Resources

Textbook(s):

1. Siegal, Larry. **The Core: Theories, Pattern and Typologies with Infotrac**, Wadsworth Publishing. 3rd Edition 2008 ISBN#: 0495094773

Textbooks are available via GSC's online bookstore, MBS Direct at:

<http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/gsc.htm> (The course-CRN number for ordering this textbook is: 10134). Textbooks can also be purchased from MBS via phone, mail or fax. For additional information, visit the [Online Bookstore](#) section of the college web site.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the learner's responsibility to have purchased all required course materials before the start of the course. Learners are expected to meet all course expectations even if the shipment of a required textbook or other learning resource is delayed. Be sure to choose the shipping option that will get your text/resource delivered in a timely manner.

Other Class Materials:

- Additional required readings will be accessed through provided Internet sites. Learners will be expected to read certain legal opinions on these sites. It is also recommended that learners access Granite State College's Virtual Library and other resources.

Blackboard Orientations

There are no face-to-face sessions for this course. If you have never taken an Online Interactive Course (OIC) at the college, we highly recommend that you attend one of the [2-hour Blackboard Orientation sessions](#) available throughout the state. If you choose not to attend a face-to-face session, you are encouraged to complete the [Online Orientation with audio](#) at your own convenience.

Course Policies

Late Work:

All work submitted late will be accepted but will be marked down 5% each day it is late. Regarding late Discussion Board postings: students may not post to a specific Module's Discussion Board Forum after the Module has ended. Work will NOT be accepted for grading if it is more than two weeks late.

Computer Problems and Saving Work:

Computers are known to break down and do other unpredictable things. You are responsible to take all precautions and have contingency plans in place in case of such mishap. Computer problems are NOT valid excuses for late work. It is recommended that you create and save back up files to either a CD or another electronic storage device for every piece of work you complete for this class. Saving duplicate copies of your work to an external device will ensure that a computer glitch or a glitch in cyberspace won't erase your efforts.

Feedback Wanted:

I am interested in your feedback on how I can make this course better. Students are encouraged to send me a private message with suggestions on how I can make this a better course. Please don't wait until evaluation time because I won't see those comments until the term is over.

Purchasing Course Materials:

It is the learner's responsibility to have purchased all required course materials before the start of the course. Learners are expected to meet all course expectations even if the shipment of a required textbook or other learning resource is delayed. Be sure to choose the shipping option that will get your text/resource delivered in a timely manner.

Description of Course Activities and Requirements

Learners will demonstrate their learning through the following activities and assignments.

Participation

Participation in discussion board topics are of paramount importance in assessing your ability to meet course outcomes. Consequently, this is a major portion of your grade. Chat sessions will be graded on a pass/fail basis depending on your group participation. More regarding this requirement will be discussed on the discussion board during the first week of the course.

Participation means posting relevant answers, examples, and questions in the class-wide discussion board. Inadequately developed responses will be deemed insufficient.

There is a lot of textbook reading in this course. In order for you to have a successful and meaningful

learning experience, you will have to do all of the required reading prior to posting discussion responses and/or attending chats.

Internet Exercises

You can review the criteria for internet exercises on your companion website. Please review the internet exercises page for detailed information. You will submit all five exercises via the assignment links found under "Submissions" on the course menu.

Exams

The exams will include multiple choice question, short answers or short essays. Exams will be posted at specific times and you must complete them in the time frame assigned.

Grading Percentages

Activity	% of Final Grade
Discussion Board and Participation	30%
Exams	40%
Internet Assignments	30%
Total	100%

Grades in this class will follow the scale of Granite State College, where A/4.0 is awarded for Excellent work and F/0.0 is awarded for Failure/ No credit.

Granite State College Standard Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Grade Points	Level of Achievement
A	95-100	4.0	Excellent
A ⁻	90-94	3.67	
B ⁺	87-89	3.33	Good
B	84-86	3.0	
B ⁻	80-83	2.67	
C ⁺	77-79	2.33	*Acceptable
C	74-76	2.0	
C ⁻	70-73	1.67	†
D ⁺	67-69	1.33	Poor
D	64-66	1.00	
D ⁻	60-63	0.67	
F	≤59	0	Failure, no credit

*A grade of C or better is required to fulfill requirements in the major, minor, or general education core at GSC. Please consult the GSC catalog for details.

† A grade of C⁻ or below generally does not transfer to other academic institutions.

Course Schedule & Topics

This course consists of eight, modules which are outlined in detail below. Consider the information below as a guide to the flow of work for this course. Details of assignments are available in Course Contents. Please note that this schedule is subject to change. The final and official version will be posted in the course.

Module	Assignments/Activities
Module 1: Part I: Concept of Crime, Law and Criminology September 13-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and Criminology. • The Nature and Extent of Crime. • Victims and Victimization • Discussion Board and Topics/chat times - TBA. • Exam 1 must be completed by the end of the module.
Module 2: Theories of Crime Causation - Part I September 20-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice Theory: Because They Want To. • Trait Theory: It's in their Blood. • Social Structure Theory: Because They're Poor. • Exam 2 must be completed by the end of the module.
Module 3: Theories of Crime Causation - Part II October 26 – November 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Process Theories: Socialized to Crime. • Critical Criminology: It's a Class Thing. • Developmental Theories: Things Change...or Do They? • Exam 3 must be completed by the end of this module.
Module 4: Crime Typologies November 16-December 12 (includes Thanksgiving Break: November 22-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent Crime. • Property Crimes. • Enterprise Crime: White-Collar Crime, Cyber Crime, and Organized Crime. • Public Order Crimes • Exam 4 must be completed by the end of this module. • Discussion Board Topics • Internet assignments (Five individual) due via the submissions link on the course menu.

Note: The schedule above may change at the instructor's discretion.

Library Resources

Granite State College has a Virtual Library (<http://www.granite.edu/current-students/virtual-library/>) available 24/7 with access to the full-text of thousands of journals and professional periodicals, an online Reference Room, selected Internet resources, writer's resources, research and citation help, and a collection of tutorials. The databases are password protected.

See GSC Library tab in MyGranite for username and password. In addition, the **Library Info** link in the course menu provides direct links to research databases, *Research FAQs* and more.

Academic Resources and Information Services

Academic assistance to students is available at GSC Centers at no additional charge in such areas as basic skills preparation in reading, writing and math; study skills and research and citation help. Academic Resources staff members work closely with faculty and students toward academic success. A whole range of tools is available, including study and time management tips, APA and MLA citation assistance, access to learning resources online, and feedback on course writing projects. To contact an Academic Resource and Information Coordinator, see the Academic Resource Link on the Resources page in the course menu or go directly to http://bbresources.granite.edu/course_docs/acad_resources.htm.

Technical Assistance

For assistance with issues related to accessing the MyGranite portal, GSC email, Webrock, online courses or other technical issues related to any of the Blackboard tools, please visit the GSC Technical Assistance Center (<http://bbresources.granite.edu/techassist/help.htm>) for answers to the most frequently asked questions or to submit an online help request form. Or call **1-888-372-4270** (Hours: M-F, 8:30-5:00, messages checked twice daily on weekends. Extended hours for the week before start of the term and first week of the term: M-Th, 8:00-7:00.)

Documented Disabilities / Americans with Disabilities Act

Granite State College will provide qualified individuals with disabilities the same educational opportunities available to persons without disabilities. When an individual's documented disability creates a barrier to educational opportunities, the College will attempt reasonable accommodation to remove the barrier. If you need assistance, we recommend that you make contact early to ensure that your requests can be reviewed prior to the start of each term. If you wish to apply for accommodations, contact your academic advisor or the Dean of Learner Services in Concord. See the complete Granite State College policy in the current college catalog for further details.

Academic Honesty

An academic community is based on honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable at Granite State College. Faculty and students have a joint responsibility to ensure the integrity of learning.

All work that you submit must be your own except in those instances when your instructor gives specific permission to collaborate. When quoting, summarizing or explaining ideas that are based on another's work, whether in print or online, make sure to cite references appropriately. Plagiarism is using another's words or even paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations.

For Granite State College's complete [academic honesty policy](#), see the current college catalog.

Conduct in the Online Classroom

Membership in society implies minimal norms for civil behavior towards one another. It is Granite State College's expectation that all members of our college community treat faculty, staff, and fellow learners with respect. Learners need to be knowledgeable of and comply with college policies. Each individual is accountable for his/her actions and for the consequences of any behavior that is inconsistent with these values and expectations.

Institutional Assessment

Assessment is an ongoing process that enables the College to improve its programs, courses, and teaching methods. Institutional evaluation may be embedded in tests, exams, and other measurements of student learning. As members of a learning community, students, faculty, and staff will be expected to participate in the important process of assessment on occasion. Confidentiality of any data that identify participants is maintained.

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1. articulate a definition of crime and explain the historical precedents of modern criminology
2. identify and compare the characteristics of various crime typologies: e.g., violent crime, such as rape, murder and arson, white-collar crime and property crime.
3. explain the measurement of various types of crime and trace its extent historically.
4. assess the social and financial costs of crime.
5. identify and explain various theoretical causes of crime and/or criminality, including sociological, psychological and biological perspectives.
6. apply individual theories within each criminological perspective to case studies in order to offer possible explanations for criminal behavior.
7. identify and explain responses to crime and criminal activity within American society.