



UTTyler
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Criminal Justice Program

CRIJ 3320.060 (3.0 Credit Hours) Criminology

Fall 2026

Location: Online

Class Meeting: Asynchronous online class format.

Instructor: Dr. Paul Thompson

Email: pthompson@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: Monday & Saturday 7-8a.m. Select - TEAMS [Virtual Office Link](#) Or (by appointment only).

Course Description:

An examination of theoretical explanations of offenses and societal reactions. Also considers models of treatment, the nature and extent of crime, and control of crime.

Course Prerequisites:

CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Required Textbook:

Siegel, L. J. (2023). Criminology (8th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Recommended Resources:

APA. (2019). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Purdue Owl is a resource, and it is free and easy to use.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Internet Access:

This course is online; therefore, you must have reliable internet access. UTT learning management system, Canvas, can only be accessed online. The computer lab is available if you don't have internet access otherwise – please check the computer lab information for guidance if access is needed this semester.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. The student will be able to *define* Criminology.
2. The student will *identify and describe* the different theories and schools of thought in criminology, past and present.
3. The student will be able to *describe and provide explanations of* crime and criminal behavior in contemporary society.
4. The student will be able to *recognize and identify* the different types of crimes.
5. The student will be able to *identify and demonstrate* an understanding of the criminological approach to the criminal justice system.

Attendance Policy:

This is an online course. This course offering is in an asynchronous mode; however, if needed, there may be sessions offered in a synchronous mode for the review of exams. Class participation is encouraged, which takes place with your consistent logging into the class, discussion participation, completion of assignments, and submission of required work on or before the due date and time. You must stay current if you want to be successful in the course.

Class Participation:

Your active participation will help enrich your course experience. The reading and thinking of course materials will add value to your class participation.

Missed Exams/Late Assignments:

Submitting late assignments is generally not accepted. However, exceptions may be granted for unforeseen and unavoidable traumatic events: 1. If an event is known and unavoidable, contact me within 24 hours of the event. 2. If an event is unforeseen and does not allow for time to contact, then contact me before the due date of the next assignment, with acceptable documentation. Stay informed and aware of the course schedule.

Make-up Tests:

The *University Catalog* does not establish make-up as a student right. Major tests are forecasted; therefore, no make-up opportunities are contemplated. Opportunities to make up missed examinations will be provided only for exceptional reasons and must be documented (e.g., hospital records and obituaries). Make-up examinations may be in forms completely different from the original examinations and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Student Expectations:

- The utilization of critical thinking skills.
- The discussion of ideas and respecting the ideas of other colleagues.
- Read the relevant information provided throughout this course.
- Prepared to participate in class based on knowledge gained through credible and relevant sources.
- The completion and submission of all assignments before or at the deadline.
- Access and stay current with Canvas.
- Check your email and Canvas Announcements regularly.
- Ask for help if you need assistance. Send questions to pthompson@uttyler.edu.

How to Contact Me:

Contact me through the Canvas inbox or my university email account. Email is my preferred method of contact - my email is pthompson@uttyler.edu

Census Date:

September 8, 2026 - Deadline for all registrations and schedule changes. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W.

Last Day to Withdraw:

October 30, 2026 - Last day to withdraw from one or more courses.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be

considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work.

Citing AI Sources, you must acknowledge your use of Artificial Intelligence programs in your written work using proper APA format. See below. In-text citation (Copilot, 2024) Reference citation Copilot. (2024). Microsoft Copilot (Sep 1 version) [Large language model]. <https://copilot.microsoft.com/>

[How to cite Chat GPT \(AI\) in APA style.](#)

Course Evaluation Procedures:

Assessments will be conducted to determine your proficiency in the course's concept. Assessment includes; discussion boards, quizzes, reaction paper, and exams.

Grading Rubric:

A grading rubric will be provided to you in Canvas for your learning activities.

Evaluation:

1. 25% = Discussion
2. 25% = Quizzes
3. 20% = Reaction Paper
4. 30% = Exams

Total 100%

1. Discussions: (25%)

Weekly discussions serve as core learning activities where you will engage in scholarly dialogue with your classmates and instructor. To ensure your contributions meet the course standards, please adhere to the following requirements:

Posting Requirements

- Initial Post: Must be at least one paragraph in length (defined as a minimum of five sentences).
- Engagement: You are required to respond to at least two of your classmates' posts.
- Formatting: All posts and citations must follow APA 7th edition style.

Deadlines

- Due Date: 11:59 p.m. (CST) every Sunday during required discussion weeks. *Refer to the Course Schedule for specific discussion dates.

2. Lecture Quizzes: (25%)

All lecture material for this course will be provided online through Canvas. Lecture videos include embedded quiz questions designed to ensure attention and recall. Lecture quizzes are automatically scored and entered into your Canvas gradebook after completing the video, but you may retake the video for a higher score. Only the most recent score will be applied to your final grade. Quizzes are due weekly by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sundays. Each assessment may draw from that week's lectures, readings, syllabus, and specific case studies or topics.* Refer to the Course Schedule for specific quiz dates.

3. Reaction Paper: (20%)

The Reaction Paper is a mandatory written component of this course. All submissions must adhere to APA 7th edition formatting standards and be uploaded to Canvas. Reaction papers must be at least 500 words.

4. Examinations: (30%)

Each module concludes with an examination designed to assess your understanding of the presented material. Over the course of the semester, you will complete a total of three (3) exams.

Returning Graded Assignments: Assignments such as lecture quizzes, and examinations will be graded automatically on Canvas. The discussion board exercises and reaction papers will be returned with a final grade within a week after being submitted.

Final Grading Scale:

- A=90% and above
- B=80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F=<60%
- Rounding will be applied.

Course Schedule:

Fall 2026 CRIJ 3320 Course Schedule

Note: this schedule is subject to change. I will notify you if I make any changes.

WEEK	DATE	READING SOURCE	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE
		Syllabus &		
1	24-Aug	Chapter One: Crime and Criminology	Syllabus & Lecture Quiz/Discussion	30-Aug
2	31-Aug	Chapter Two: The Nature and Extent of Crime	Lecture Quiz/Discussion	6-Sep
3	7-Sep	Chapter Three: Victims and Victimization	Exam One	13-Sep
4	14-Sep	Chapter Four: Rational Choice Theory	Lecture Quiz/Reaction Paper – Rational Choice Theory	20-Sep
5	21-Sep	Chapter Five: Trait Theories	Lecture Quiz/Discussion	27-Sep
6	28-Sep	Chapter Six: Social Structure Theories	Lecture Quiz	4-Oct
7	5-Oct	Chapter Seven: Social Process Theory	Discussion	11-Oct
8	12-Oct	Chapter Eight: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice	Lecture Quiz	18-Oct
9	19-Oct	Chapter Nine: Developmental Theories: Life Course, Latent Trait, and Trajectory	Lecture Quiz/ Discussion	25-Oct
10	26-Oct	Chapter Ten: Interpersonal Violence	Exam Two	1-Nov
11	2-Nov	Chapter Eleven: Political Crime and Terrorism	Lecture Quiz	8-Nov
12	9-Nov	Chapter Twelve: Economic Crimes - Blue - Collar, White- Collar, and Green Collar	Reaction Paper – Collar Crimes	15-Nov
13	16-Nov	Chapter Thirteen: Public Order Crimes	Lecture Quiz/Discussion	22-Nov

14	23-Nov	Thanksgiving Holidays	No Assignments	29-Nov
		Chapter Fourteen: Crimes of the New Millennium:		
15	30-Nov	Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime	Lecture Quiz/ Reaction Paper – The Future of Crimes	6-Dec
Final	7-Dec	Final Review	Exam Three	11-Dec

Using Canvas for Turning in Assignments: CANVAS will be the tool for communication and turning in assignments. ALL ASSIGNMENTS (Except Exam Three), WILL OPEN UP AT 12 AM each Monday morning AND BE DUE Sunday night by 11: 59 PM. “IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH TECHNICAL SERVICES TO RESOLVE YOUR CANVAS MALFUNCTIONS.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under “Syllabus”. (You may copy or print the following information to include in your syllabus or use the links provided below.)

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

* This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. To ensure success in this course, students are responsible for monitoring the syllabus, course announcements, and assignments regularly. Any updates to the syllabus will be accompanied by a formal notification and the posting of a revised version.

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)