



**Department of Social Sciences
Criminology CRIJ 3320
Summer 2026
Online**

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Office Availability: Pre- and post-class periods AND by appointment.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Materials (both available online, no purchase required):

[Walsh, A., & Jorgensen, J. \(2024\). Criminology: The Essentials. Sage Publishing.](#)

[McKee, A. \(2024\) Fundamentals of Criminology.](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the major criminological perspectives and an examination of the social, political, and intellectual milieu within which each developed. The course focuses on the multi-disciplinary nature of criminological thought. In other words, this course is an examination of theoretical explanations of offenses and societal reactions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to complete the following:

1. Know the main theoretical frameworks within the field of criminology.
2. Critically evaluate the applicability of criminological theories.
3. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of criminological theories.
4. Identify and evaluate the policies deriving from different criminological theories.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Actual Points</i>	<i>Grading Scale</i>
Weekly Quiz #1	10		A = 135 – 150 B = 120 – 134 C = 105 – 119 D = 90 – 104 F = Below 89
Weekly Quiz #2	10		
Weekly Quiz #3	10		
Weekly Quiz #4	10		
Weekly Quiz #5	10		
Discussion Board #1	5		
Discussion Board #2	5		
Discussion Board #3	5		
Discussion Board #4	5		
Discussion Board #5	5		
Serial Killer Paper - Choice	10		
Serial Killer Paper - Outline	15		
Serial Killer Paper – Full Paper	50		
Total Points:	150		

- I. *Weekly Quiz* (10 points each; 50 points total):** To demonstrate you have fully understood the differing theories explaining criminal behavior, you must complete assessment checks comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions.

- II. *Discussion Board* (5 points each; 25 points total):** Each week you will demonstrate your ability to connect theory to practice by engaging in meaningful discussions with your peers. First, you will record a 3–5-minute video responding to a prompt posted on canvas. Your contribution must use course vocabulary and concepts appropriately and connect back to the course readings and/or lecture material as necessary. Additionally, your contribution must be structurally and organizationally clear. Then, you should post a written response to another student's post. This response must have a clear purpose, such as to inform, persuade, or raise an interesting question. Your second contribution may also provoke conversation or offer an opposing view of the original author's position. All replies must be constructive, respectful, and appropriate for a general course discussion.

- III. *Serial Killer Paper* (75 points total):** Serial killers are individuals who commit three or more homicides during a stretch of time. Although it is *very rare* to find serial killers in today's world, people are still interested in learning more about them and the reasoning for committing murders. Your goal in this assignment is to provide further insight to why serial killers kill their victims.
 - 1. *Choice* (10 points):** You should identify a serial killer to write about (cold cases, where the suspect has not been identified, cannot be chosen). A good idea is to first

look for credible sources (books, *trustworthy* websites or YouTube videos, scientific articles, etc.) that can help you gather enough information to complete your paper.

2. **Outline (15 points):** You should submit a one-page outline of your paper by week 2. Full paragraphs are not required; bullet points or short phrases are sufficient. Your outline should include (1) the serial killer's name, (2) basic information about the killings, (3) the name of the theory you will use to explain his or her behaviors, and (4) a brief explanation of the reasoning for your choice of criminological theory.

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Specificity & Accuracy of Case Details (0-4 points)	Includes specific, accurate, and relevant details (e.g., dates, locations, victim patterns); demonstrates strong familiarity with the case.	Includes general or mostly accurate details but lacks depth or precision.	Vague, overly broad, inaccurate, or generic information that could apply to multiple offenders.
Theory Identification & Justification (0-4 points)	Clearly identifies a criminological theory AND provides a thoughtful, case-specific explanation.	Identifies a relevant theory but explanation is basic or loosely connected.	Theory missing, inappropriate, or explanation is vague.
Depth of Thought & Original Reasoning (0-3 points)	Demonstrates independent thinking; clear connections between concepts and case being analyzed.	Some reasoning present but ideas are underdeveloped or surface-level.	Lacks clear reasoning; responses are generic, formulaic, or not reflective of student understanding.
Alignment with Course Concepts (0-2 points)	Clearly reflects terminology, theories, and concepts discussed in class.	Some alignment with course material but limited integration.	No clear connection to course content.
Authenticity & Consistency (0-2 points)	Writing is consistent with student voice; ideas are specific and coherent.	Minor inconsistencies in tone, clarity, or depth.	Writing is overly generic, overly polished, or inconsistent with prior work; suggests possible AI use.

3. **Full Paper (50 points):** Your paper should be about 4-5 pages, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12pt font. It should include (1) a short summary of the serial killer's life story, (2) his or her Modus Operandi (*MO*), (3) a brief description of the

similarities of the serial killer's victims (why did he/she choose them? What did they have in common?), (4) a thorough discussion of the reason(s) behind the murders (your discussion **MUST** include a theory of crime - look for a theory that could best explain why this particular individual committed the murders), and (5) punishment recommendations based on the reasons why the crime was committed (for example, an individual who committed murders due to a delusional idea that aliens are trying to abduct him might not benefit from a long prison sentence and could instead be sent to a psychiatric hospital). The recommendation of punishment should *NOT* be a reflection of your thoughts on the crimes committed, rather it should match the theory that best explains the reasons behind the serial killer's criminal behavior. Grades will be assigned according to the rubric below.

Attention: This paper is intended to reflect your own analysis, writing, and application of criminological theory. Submitting AI-generated text (in whole or in part) as your own work is not permitted and will result in lower or no credit for the assignment.

	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Life Story Summary (0-6 points)	Clear, accurate, and relevant summary of the serial killer's background; details clearly connect to later behavior	Adequate summary with minor gaps or limited relevance	Minimal, inaccurate, or missing summary
	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Modus Operandi (0-6 points)	Thorough and accurate description of MO with clear patterns across crimes	MO described accurately but lacks depth or detail	MO missing or inaccurately described
	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Victim Similarities (0-6 points)	Insightful analysis of victim similarities with clear explanation of why victims were chosen	Victim similarities identified but explanation is limited or surface-level	Victim similarities missing or incorrect
	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Theory Application (0-12 points)	Appropriate theory clearly identified and thoroughly applied to explain the murders	Relevant theory identified but application is basic or underdeveloped	No theory included, inappropriate theory, or poor application
	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Punishment Recommendation (0-12 points)	Recommendation clearly aligns with theory and offender motivation; well justified	Recommendation generally fits theory but lacks depth or clarity	Recommendation reflects personal opinion or ignores theory
	Excellent	Good	Inadequate
Writing Quality	Clear, organized writing;	Writing generally clear	Poor writing,

(0-8 points)	meets length; minimal errors	with some errors	disorganized, or does not meet requirements
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LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP POLICY

Students are not allowed to submit late assignments in this course. Similarly, there will be no make-up exams, unless in specific extenuating circumstances. Do not wait to start assignments at the last possible minute.

CONTACT POLICY

The best way to contact me is via my university email (bwronski@uttyler.edu). If you have **any** questions, feel free to contact me. You can expect a response within 24 hours on a weekday or within 48 hours on the weekend.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES

COURSE NOTES, MATERIALS, AND RECORDING POLICY

Any materials from this course developed by the professor or provided to the students may not be sold or distributed to other people. Also, note that this is a tentative schedule. I reserve the right to make changes at any point. All changes will be communicated to students as soon as possible.

Week	Topic(s)	Assignment(s)	Readings
1	Crime, Theory, and the Law	1. Quiz #1 2. Discussion #1 3. Serial Killer Choice	Walsh & Jorgensen pp. 29-40
2	The Origins of Criminology	1. Quiz #2 2. Discussion #2 3. Paper Outline	McKee Section 2.4
3	Origins of American Criminology	1. Quiz #3 2. Discussion #3	
4	Biopsychosocial Criminology	1. Quiz #4 2. Discussion #4	
5	Crime in Everyday Life	1. Quiz #5 2. Discussion #5 3. Serial Killer Paper	

REQUIRED POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

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 is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. **For this course, AI use is NOT permitted.**

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special

arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the

schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>