



**TROY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Distance Education**  
**CJ 6636 – Criminological Theory**

**Term 4 – 2004**

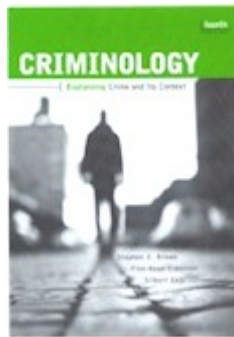
**March 15 – May 23, 2004**

**DRAFT SYLLABUS**

This is posted for your info to help you select or prepare for a course. An official version will be ready at or prior to your course start. Texts will be same or very similar. Please check online bookstore for exact texts.

**TEXTBOOK:**

**Brown, S., Esbensen, F. & Geis, G.**  
**(2001) Criminology: Explaining Crime**  
**and Context (4e) Cincinnati:**  
**Anderson. ISBN 1-58360-522-3**



**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Michael T. Eskey, Ph.D..**

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Department of Criminal Justice  
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On-Line hours: Continuous

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs: 1:00 - 5:00 PM:

Please feel free to call me at my home office  
if you have questions or comments. Please,  
no calls after 9: PM, EST.

**DISTANCE LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

Hours: Monday - Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday , Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 800-265-9811

Fax: 334-670-5679

E-mail: [charris@troyst.edu](mailto:charris@troyst.edu)

URL: <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distance/index.html>

Address: Distance Learning Center  
394 Wallace Hall  
Troy State University  
Troy, AL 36082

NOTE: If for any reason you are unable to contact me and need immediate assistance, please contact the Distance Learning Office.

## **BLACKBOARD INSTRUCTIONS**

This course utilizes Blackboard. Instructions for using this tool can be found on the TSU Distance Learning Website at <http://portal.tsufb.edu/blackboardhelp.cfm>

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

An in-depth overview of major criminological perspectives as well as its nature and extent, especially that found in the United States; and an analysis of the etiology of criminal behavior, criminal law, and the societal reaction to criminals.

**COURSE PURPOSE:** This course provides an interdisciplinary exploration of the causes of crime in American society, facilitating an ability to think and express one's self clearly and scientifically about the causes of crime and its control. It enhances an understanding of the complex pathways of influences on human behavior that lead to criminal thoughts, urges, and actions.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

Students can expect to learn the following information and develop the skills listed below:

1. To become familiar with the development of criminal justice theory. Specifically, this course will review the development and evolution of criminological theories that attempt to provide understanding and explanation to deviant and criminal behavior.
2. Several approaches will be examined including various theories under the larger headings of Classicism and Positivism. We will view criminal behavior from the perspective of the individual actor and from society. We will also consider how economics, politics, religion and other issues are related to the study and understanding of criminal/deviant behavior.
3. This course challenge students to think critically by studying criminal behavior from perspectives not often considered.
4. To gain the abilities of focused, scientific thinking and written expression.
5. To obtain familiarity with the motives, causes, reasons, and correlates of crime.
6. To develop an appreciation for criminology and its theoretical models.

## **Course Goals:**

The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the concepts and theories of criminal and deviant behavior. This is a competency-based course that emphasizes the development of relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities. Readings and class discussions are designed to achieve specific objectives (competencies), which are provided to the student prior to exams. Tests will directly measure these competencies.

## **Course Methods**

This course is an on-line graduate level seminar. Students will be responsible for responding to and completing all required assignments. Instructor will post reading assignment from the required textbook as well as from various Internet sites.

## **Textbook:**

**Brown, S., Esbensen, F. & Geis, G. (2001) Criminology: Explaining Crime and Context (4e) Cincinnati: Anderson. ISBN 1-58360-522-3.**

## **Textbooks**

TextBook Manager

Phone: (706) 687-8267

Fax: (706) 687-1807

Ordering Books - information on ordering your books.

<http://earmyu.com/>

## **RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL TEXT:**

Required readings will be placed on Blackboard.

## **ORDERING YOUR BOOKS:**

Upon registration you should receive a postcard with pertinent information for ordering your course materials (Textbooks are ordered through MBS. Phone 1-800-325-3252 fax: 1-800-243-2260 or online at <http://direct.mbsbooks.com/tsu.htm> , [www.tsustudent.com](http://www.tsustudent.com)) or <http://portal.tsufb.edu/orderingbooks.cfm> .

## **REQUIRED ADDITIONAL READING:**

Review material and Chapter lectures will be posted in Blackboard. Students will be reminded of these articles via Announcements in blackboard.

## **RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READING:**

Current periodicals in the field of criminal justice and the social sciences are suggested for additional reading or to be announced via Blackboard throughout the term.

## **RESEARCH COMPONENT:**

Each student will complete a research paper on a topic assigned or approved by instructor. Paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 -15 pages in length. References and citations will be in accordance with APA (Guide posted in "Web Sites" in Blackboard) format. Instructions are also available at the TSU Library homepage or in the Web Sites section of the Blackboard course <http://portal.tsufb.edu/libraryservices.cfm> .

## **ENTRANCE COMPETENCIES:**

No specific background is assumed for students entering this course; however, students are expected to have acquired sufficient intellectual skills and an academic background which will enable them to do graduate-level coursework. At a minimum they should be able to read, comprehend and retain textbook materials, express their ideas in written form, and prepare themselves for answering objective questions during proctored examinations. They should also have at least a minimal knowledge of Internet use.

## SOFTWARE/HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

E-mail and Internet access. Online access to the Internet for electronic mail (e-mail) capability is required. On-demand access to a PC with an operating system compatible with Windows 95, 98, or higher is required. Any e-mail software such as Netscape or Outlook Express will work. No video or images will be transmitted via the Internet. Application software MUST be compatible with Microsoft Office 98 or Office 97, or higher.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students are expected to have completed the assigned material prior to the scheduled online time period assigned.
2. Students will respond to sixteen discussion topics in a timely manner. Responses will be made utilizing the Discussion Board in Blackboard.
3. A mid-term and a final examination.
4. Completion of a research paper to be submitted in the drop box or by e-mail attachment. Specific instructions regarding the requirements of the research paper will be made available to students during the third week of the course.

### EVALUATION and ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES:

		<u>GRADING SCALE</u>	
Final Exam	30%	90 - 100	A
Discussion Topics	40%	80 – 89	B
Research Paper	10%	70 – 79	C
Mid-Term	20%	60 - 69	D
		< 60	F

### Research Paper Grading Scale:

Introduction	=	10
Body	=	25
Conclusion	=	10
Grammar	=	10
Spelling	=	15
Citations	=	10
Reference List	=	10
Overall	=	10
Total Points	=	100

## STUDENT/FACULTY INTERACTION

Student/faculty interaction will be conducted via e-mail, Blackboard, discussion boards, chat rooms, and telephone if necessary.

## SUBMITTING/RETURNING ASSIGNMENTS:

Exams will be completed via Blackboard (instructions will be given).

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:**

As per page 55 of the 2000-2001 Troy State University Undergraduate Bulletin, the student must request by submitting to the instructor the Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade form. In order to request an incomplete, the student must be passing the course which will be determined by the instructor. **IF** the petition is approved, a signed copy will be mailed to the student. (This petition is online through the distance learning office) Student then have six weeks after the next term begins (if the student is enrolled) to complete the work. \* NOTE: The instructor has the option of denying any request for an incomplete if it is deemed that the reason is not valid (for example: just too busy to complete the project).

Students may request incomplete grades if the following criteria are met:

1. You have completed at least 1/2 of the course work.
2. You have a family, work, or personal emergency arise that prohibits you from completing the coursework by the end of the term.

DOCUMENTATION such as a doctor's excuse is REQUIRED.

3. You have contacted instructor prior to the end of the course and received approval for an Incomplete Grade.
4. Agreement must be met regarding outstanding assignments before an Incomplete grade can be considered.
5. Students have five additional weeks after the term has ended to complete the course requirements if enrolled in a subsequent term, or 1 year if a student does not re-enroll.
6. Students are responsible for contacting instructor and obtaining the missing assignments

### **MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:**

Make-up work is not an option for this course unless special arrangements and permission has been granted in advance. Instructor will make the final decision regarding the acceptance of make-up work. Points will be deducted for assignments turned in late.

### **AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT:**

If you have a specific documented physical, psychological, or learning disability and require accommodations, please let me know as early as possible in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. If there are other special circumstances that will affect your participation in this course, please discuss those with me as well. Students requesting/requiring accommodation should also, during the first week of class or as soon as possible, contact the Troy State Distance Learning Coordinator at (706) 685-5730. The Coordinator will establish the necessary documentation and will inform instructors in writing of special needs

### **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

The commission of or the attempt to commit any cheating and/or plagiarism are in violation of the Standards of Conduct stated in the Troy State University 2001 - 03 Undergraduate Bulletin on pages 34 - 37. A student may be disciplined, up to and including suspension and expulsion, for cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of dishonesty.

### **SUPPORT MATERIALS:**

Additional materials such as source code, web sites, etc., may be found on the Internet at <http://portal.tsufb.edu/studentservices.cfm> .

**LIBRARY, TECHNICAL, and ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** TSU Library Remote Services are accessed at <https://tsulib.troyst.edu/> . For assistance in using TSU library resources please

contact Jess Echord [[jechord@troyst.edu](mailto:jechord@troyst.edu)]. No non-library laboratories or facilities are required in this course. Technical support is provided by the TSU Distance Learning Center. For technical or other student services support see CONTACT US on the DL Center Website <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distance/>.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### COVERAGE

Week One: March 22 - 28    Review course requirements and APA Guidelines  
Post a short paragraph about yourself – via Discussion Board  
Read Chapter 1 of textbook and Lecture note #1  
Discussion Topics 1 and 2 Due

Week Two: Mar 29 - Apr 4    Read Chapters 2 & 3 and Lectures 2-4  
Discussion Topics 3 & 4 Due

Week Three-Apr 5 - 11    Read Chapter 4, 5 and 6 and Lectures 5 and 6.  
Discussion Topic 5 & 6 Due

Week Four: Apr 12 - 18    Read Chapters 7 & 8 and Lecture 7 and 8  
**Midterm exam (approximate date)**  
Discussion Topic 7 & 8 Due

Week Five: Apr 19 - 25    Read Chapter 9 and Lectures 9 -11  
Discussion Topic 9 & 10 Due

Week Six: Apr 26 - May 2    Read Chapter 10 and Lecture 12

Discussion Topic 11 & 12 Due

Week Seven: May 3 - 9    Read Chapters 11 & 12 and Lecture 13

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE - No Exceptions!**

Discussion Topics 13 & 14 Due

Week Eight: May 10 - 16    Read Chapters 13 & 14 and Lectures 14-15

**FINAL EXAM WEEK - FINAL EXAM WEEK - FINAL EXAM WEEK**

Discussion Topics 15 & 16 Due

**NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this schedule as necessary.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE FEEL ENCOURAGED TO ASK QUESTIONS AND/OR MAKE Comments.**