The University of Southern Mississippi
School of Criminal Justice
CJ 600 Seminar in Theory of Criminal Justice
Fall 2017

Instructor: Joshua Hill, Ph.D.
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Monday: 10am – 12:45pm
Classroom: AKH 124

Office Hours:
M 8am – 9am; 1pm – 3pm
T/W/TH 8am – 9am; 11am – 12pm
F 8am – 9am

If you need to see me during office hours, I request (though I don’t require) you to make an appointment. This helps me make sure that I’m prepared to answer your questions when you come, and to avoid back-ups when multiple people need to see me.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (Fall)


***Other readings as assigned!

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

APA Manual (6th ed.)
A good “intro” book for Criminology
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the theoretical foundations and paradigms that have shaped the discipline of criminology and field of criminal justice. The class will focus on the assumptions behind the various types of criminological theories, and critiques of those theories. It assumes a basic knowledge of some criminology/sociology, but if the student is unfamiliar, there should be enough to “catch up” within the course. If a student desires to gain a better basis, an intro to criminology text (such as Williams and McShane or Bernard et al.) may be helpful.

The course attempts to do four things at the same time. First, it is an attempt to get students to understand the historical development of the different theoretical approaches as well as the historical development of the field as a whole. Second, it requires students to read not only summary material, but original, seminal pieces (or excerpts from them) of research and theory from criminology’s most important theorists. Third, it develops students’ capacity to question the underlying assumptions of each of the theoretical perspectives. Finally, it attempts to provide the means to relate the different theoretical approaches to one another.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Understand the and articulate the development of different theoretical perspectives in criminology.
2. Critically evaluate the underlying assumptions of different approaches to the criminological project.
3. Analyze and explain how different theoretical approaches inform one another and contrast with one another.
4. Develop questions that not only demonstrate understanding, but if answered, could help further the field of criminology.
5. Examine how theoretical perspectives on crime and criminal behavior can inform policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance for the class is mandatory. Additionally, as participation constitutes a significant portion of your grade, it will suffer if class periods are missed. This, however, does not mean that participation is solely a function of attendance. It additionally includes participation in class discussions and other elements that facilitate this discussion (this is detailed further below).

If you must miss a class for any reason, please notify the professor 12 hours ahead of the scheduled class by email. Those students who fail to notify prior to the missed class will be required to provide excuses in the form of writing to the professor.

If a student misses an in-class exam with an excuse, an alternative exam time will be given at the discretion of the professor. If the student does not provide a valid excuse for missing an exam, no make-up will be given and the student will receive a 0 for the exam.
Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Students will be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observation of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection will not be penalized for that absence and will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. All requests to be excused from attending class for observance of a religious holy day should be made in writing within the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The professor will notify the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

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WITHDRAWALS and INCOMPLETES

The last day to add/drop without Academic/Financial Penalty is August 23rd. After this date, no tuition refund whatsoever will be issued, and all approved drops will result in a grade of W. After October 27th, no course withdrawals are permitted (meaning the student will receive an actual grade in the course).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will not be accepted.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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**Eams (30% Total)**

There will be two exams in the class, both of them cumulative. The midterm (15%) will include all material discussed until that point, and the final (15%) will include all material covered in the course. The format will be an online essay exam with a time limit, done through Canvas (or Blackboard, or whatever).

**Weekly Critiques/Questions (20%)**
Each week (alternating) you will have either a critique or set of questions due. The critiques are 4-8 pages (depending on the readings – more readings = more pages) and should link together and critically analyze the readings in conjunction with one another. For example, if you’re assigned a chapter out of E & H, and some element of G & H as well as a reading from Jacoby, you’ll be expected to write about these three readings together, linking assumptions, critiquing approaches, etc. These papers should reference the material you’re summarizing, and as such, should use APA citation (in-text and references) appropriately. The questions assignment, due on weeks opposite of the critique papers, are 1-2 pages, single spaced. The questions are ones you come up with, that are analytical in nature. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PROVIDE ANSWERS AND, IN FACT, MANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS MAY BE UNANSWERABLE.** These questions should demonstrate 1) your understanding of the week’s materials 2) that you have given significant thought to the material – particularly relating the different readings together and 3) that you have spent time formulating the questions in writing.

There are three possible grades for these weekly assignments: 100, 50, or 0. The criteria for these grades is essentially satisfaction of the assignment as described above, partial satisfaction, or failure.

**Research Article Summaries (30%)**

All students will be required to summarize 3 refereed journal articles. The due date for the article summaries will be announced in class. The articles must be selected from at least three different journals from the list below, and none may come from the course readings. Each summary should be no more than five pages each including a title page with your name and the APA citation of the article. Times New Roman 12pt. font is required. Margins should be the same as referenced in the most recent APA Publication Manual. No quotes may be used (outside of exceptional need) in the summaries and all information from the journal should be paraphrased. Each summary should include a concept map of your own construction, the identification of the dependent and the independent variables, statements regarding relevant theory, methodology (including test hypotheses or research questions), findings and discussion. Primary attention should be given to theory, how this analysis builds on prior research, and how the results from this analysis impact the development of theory. Make sure your articles have a theoretical framework/perspective, defined research methodology, and data analysis sufficient to complete the assignment. Law Review journal articles are not acceptable. I expect those of you who have not had a statistics class to have a limited ability to interpret the data analysis but you should be able to discuss the conclusions, summaries and policy implications of the authors. If you have a question regarding the appropriateness of an article for this assignment you should contact me ASAP. Copies of the article should be attached to each summary. The articles should come from recent editions (2007-2017) of the following journals: Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Theoretical Criminology, Journal of Research and Criminology, Police Quarterly, The Prison Journal, Social Problems, American Journal of Criminal Justice, Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture, Crime and Public Policy, Deviant Behavior, Journal of

**Participation (20%)**

- **Preparation for class:** subjectively measured by, but not limited to the quality of questions asked during class discussion, the demonstrated understanding of assigned readings, and participation in sharing relevant articles/information beyond assigned readings for discussion. Students are also expected to read ALL assigned material and be prepared to discuss the material in class. Students are expected to prepare summaries/outlines of every assigned reading. If the assigned reading has multiple parts/chapters/articles a separate summary should be prepared for class. The readings will be checked periodically and be used in the determination of the class participation grade. Students not prepared for class may be dismissed.

- **Class discussion:** subjectively measured by, but not limited to, the quality and quantity of class discussion, willingness to listen and respond to opinions/interpretations of others; presentation of current news media relevant to assigned topics. Students are expected to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the assigned readings in class discussion.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**Delays and cancellations:** Students are expected to wait 10 minutes in the event the professor is delayed. Whenever possible, the professor will post announcements about delays and class cancellations prior to the class meeting. In the rare event that class is cancelled, the material scheduled for the cancelled date is automatically rescheduled for the next class meeting. This includes exams and homework assignments.

**Email correspondence:** Any class announcements sent via email will be sent to the student’s USM email account so it is important to check that account regularly. *Email is the preferred method of getting in touch with the professor outside of class.* You should sign any email correspondence with your full name and include your course number. Also, USM policy dictates that *I only respond to emails sent through your student accounts,* so responses will not be sent to email correspondence initiated through your private email account. *Additionally, please use capitalization, punctuation and correct spelling as it is distracting to deal with unprofessional emails.* If you choose to write an email as you would a text message, you should not expect a response.

**Confidentiality:** If you would like to discuss your course performance, an appointment with the professor may be made at a mutually agreeable time. In order to protect student confidentiality, *the professor will not discuss grades by telephone or through email.* Any discussions about the student’s course performance must be conducted with the instructor in person. In order to provide information about your grade to a third party, a written waiver form must be signed before any information is released to a third party.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Student Success Site: The Student Success Site provides directions to a wide range of student support services on campus. Everything from academic skills counselors who work with students individually or in small groups to strengthen abilities or make referrals to other qualified personnel on campus to writing assistance is referenced on the site. The site can be found at http://www.usm.edu/success/about-us.

Career Services: The Career Services Office offers employment-related services to the university community. Among these are: career counseling, advising, and information about job opportunities. The CDO also can assist you with resume writing skills, interviewing skills and creating cover and thank you letters. While the office is not an employment service and does not guarantee jobs, they can offer the tools to help in searching for a job. The CDO can be found at http://www.usm.edu/career-services/about-us.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY
If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. They can be reached at

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Dr. #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Tel: 601-266-5024 o4 228-214-3232
Fax: 601-266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu

Veterans
If you are a veteran, please use the veterans/service member’s resources on campus. They can be found at http://www.usm.edu/military-veterans.

CLASS CONDUCT

General Conduct

All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times. Class discussions may include sensitive and/or controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others’ viewpoints and opinions, even those that they may not agree with. Any conduct deemed by the professor to be disruptive to the class may result in the student’s removal from the class. The removal will count as an unexcused absence.

Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom

• I generally have a very loose policy regarding technology in the classroom. However, if your technology becomes disruptive, I will ask you to turn it off and not bring it back.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. You will be held responsible for knowing about schedule changes, whether you are in class or not. The anticipated schedule of lectures, readings, assignments, and examinations is as follows:
Tentative Schedule
CJ 600 Seminar in Theory of Criminal Justice
Fall 2017

Introduction - Week 1
Course overview
Assignments/Projects
Participation
Misc.

What is theory?
Why do we care?
Is there “good” and “bad” theory?
   How do you know?

Popper, Bierne, and the Sociological Imagination
Frameworks
   Causal
   Interpretive
   WTF is epistemology

Levels of Inquiry
   Comparing incommensurables

In-class AMA for Dr. Hill

Theory et al. – Week 2
Bratton speaks out: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/257/chief-bratton.html
Handout: Popper’s Philosophy of Science
   Falsification
   Knowledge, Science, Pseudo-Science, & Causality
   Four criteria for evaluating a theory
   Feyerabend’s Rebuttal (Online, provided by instructor)
Chapter 1-3, K & B
Chapter 1, E & H
Chapter 49, Jacoby
Preface, G & H
Bierne Chapter 1 (Online, provided by instructor)

Making the Law - Week 3
Chapter 8, Becker
Chapter 10, E & H
Chapter 20, Jacoby
Chapter 5, K & B
Breaking the Law – How did we Get here? – Weeks 4-5
Chapters 2-5, E & H
Malleus Maleficarum, be familiar with it, but do not read all of it!
Chapters 48, 16, 21, 22, 36 Jacoby
All, G & H

More Law Breaking – Social Ecology, the Chicago School, and Functionalism – Week 6
Chapter 6, E & H
Chapters 4, 30, & 61 Jacoby
Durkheim as a Functionalist (Online, provided by instructor)

Chapter 8, E & H
Chapters 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40 (or refer back to G & H)

Midterm Exam – Week 8

Back to the Breaking – Strain, Subculture, and Anomie – Week 9
Chapter 7, E & H
Chapters 2, 18, 26-32 (except 30 – already read),

Breaking/Responding – Social Process Theories II: Interactionism, Labeling, & Social
Construction of Crime – Week 10
All, Becker
Chapter 9, E & H
Chapters 41-44, & 71 (except 43 – covered in Becker)
Chapter 6, K & B

Breaking/Responding 2 – Critical Criminology I – Week 11
Chapter 8 & 9, K & B
Chapter 10, E & H
Marx Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
Quinney Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
Kramer & Michalowski Reading (Online, provided by instructor)

Crit. Continued – Feminist Theories – Week 12
Chapter 11, E & H
Chapters 70, 45-47 (revisit 39)
Flavin Reading (Online, provided by instructor)

Enter Postmodernity – Week 13
Chapter 12, E & H
Henry & Milovanovic Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
Arrigio & Bernard Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
Integration or Bust? – Week 14
  Chapter 13, E & H
  Agnew Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
  Bernard and Snipes Reading (Online, provided by instructor)
  Makkai & Braithwaite Reading (Online, provided by instructor)

Final Exam – Week 15

Final Exam  Per University Schedule; students will take the exam on the date and time scheduled. If the class time is not provided for in the university exam schedule the professor will determine the final exam date and time after discussion with students.