Instructor: Hannah Smith, M.A.  
Email: smit2788@uwm.edu  
Student Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm on Zoom via Canvas  
Course Format: Online, Asynchronous  
Pre-Requisites: SOCIOL 100-level course or above; or sophomore standing or above; or Graduate standing or above

This course satisfies UWM’s GER Social Science requirement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

What is crime? Who commits crime? Why is crime committed? Answers to these questions will be provided throughout the semester in Criminology! Throughout the semester, you will be expected to:

1. Explain crime as a sociological phenomenon using criminological theories;
2. Demonstrate comprehension of criminological theories via multiple-choice answers on quizzes and exams;
3. Construct written responses that compare and contrast criminological theories discussed throughout the semester;
4. Respond respectfully and constructively to other you written responses by offering specific comments and constructive criticism; and
5. Connect criminological theories to real-world examples.

MATERIALS

Required  
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

CIVILITY: This course engages with sensitive and, sometimes, controversial content. I expect you to be respectful towards each other and me when navigating this sensitive content.

COURSE FORMAT: This course meets asynchronously online. Each Sunday, the weekly video(s), lectures, readings, quiz, and any assigned discussion board (only for weeks 5, 8, 11, and 15) will be unlocked on Canvas. The weekly quiz will be due each Friday, the discussion post will be due on Wednesday (for the weeks in which a discussion post is assigned- weeks 5, 8, 11, and 15), and the discussion post reply will be due on Saturday (for the weeks in which a discussion post is assigned- weeks 5, 8, 11, and 15). If you have any questions about course materials, you should reach out to me via email or post on the student-moderated discussion board.

QUIZZES: There will be 13 quizzes (10 questions each including multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions) over the course of the semester. The quizzes will incorporate elements from the lecture slides, readings, and additional weekly materials. Quizzes are open-book and open-notes, however you are expected to complete quizzes individually. You will have 2 attempts and 15 minutes (for each attempt) to complete each quiz. Of these 13 quizzes, the lowest 3 scores will be dropped which means that only 10 of them count toward your final grade. Each of the 10 graded quizzes is worth 2.5 points (2.5% of the final grade), for a total of 25 points (25% of the final grade).

DISCUSSION POSTS: There will be 4 discussion posts over the course of the semester. You will need to respond to the discussion question provided for each of the 4 posts. Discussion posts should be in paragraph format and should be between 100 and 250 words (do not exceed 250 words). Discussion posts are open-book and open-notes, but you are expected to complete the posts individually. Each of the 4 graded discussion posts is worth 5 points (5% of the final grade), for a total of 20 points (20% of the final grade).

DISCUSSION POST REPLIES: For each discussion post, you will be required to respond to 1 other student’s discussion post. Your reply should not just be a simple statement about whether you agree or disagree with the other student’s post, rather you should incorporate specific comments and critiques about the student’s argument. Discussion post replies will be due 3 days after the original discussion post is due (for example, if the discussion post is due October 5th at 11:59 pm, the discussion post reply will be due October 8th at 11:59 pm). Discussion post replies should be between 75 and 150 words (do not exceed 150 words). Each of the 4 discussion post replies are worth 1.25 points (1.25% of the final grade), for a total of 5 points (5% of the final grade).
EXAMS:
Over the course of the semester, there will be two exams (one midterm exam and one final exam). The midterm exam will cover the material from weeks 1-8 and the final exam will cover the material from weeks 10-15. Both exams will contain 50 multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions based on material drawn from lecture slides, class readings, and other required materials. Exams are open-book and open-notes, but you are expected to complete the exams individually. Exams will be open for 48 hours (from 12 am to 11:59 pm 10/20-10/21 for the midterm exam, and from 12 am to 11:59 pm 12/20-12/21 for the final exam), however exams are designed for you to be able to complete them within the 75 minute time limit. Students will only be given 1 chance to take each exam. If you are unable to complete the exam on the assigned exam days due to work, health, or other issues, you will need to reach out to me before the exam days via email. Each exam is worth 15 points (15% of the final grade), for a total of 30 points (30% of the final grade).

Note: Questions on the exam will draw from the same topics covered in the quizzes and discussion posts so it is important to complete those assignments in order to receive feedback to help you with exam studying!

THEORY APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT PROPOSAL: In addition to the final exam, there will also be a theory application assignment due at the end of the semester. You will need to submit a 10-12 slide PowerPoint presentation that is completed individually. The theory application assignment is meant to help synthesize all of the course materials by giving you the opportunity to apply criminological theories to real-world examples. To practice applying criminological theories, you will select an individual from a non-fiction documentary or podcast that has committed crime. It will be your task to explain this criminal behavior using one of the criminological theories you learned over the semester. Before working on the theory application assignment, students must submit a topic proposal to the instructor. Proposals should state what non-fiction documentary or podcast you want to choose, the individual you will be writing about and their criminal behavior, and what theory you will be using to analyze the individual’s criminal behavior. Proposals should be roughly 1 page double-spaced and can be in paragraph or bullet-point format. Feedback on the proposed topic will be provided by me within 2 weeks after the proposal deadline. This feedback should be used by you to complete the final draft of the theory application assignment. The theory application assignment proposal is worth 5 points (5% of the final grade). More information on the assignment will be distributed in early October.

THEORY APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT FINAL DRAFT: A final draft of the theory application assignment (described above) will also be required. Final drafts should be a 10-12 slide PowerPoint presentation. The theory application assignment is worth 15 points (15% of the final grade). More information on the assignment will be distributed in early October.
COURSE POLICIES

LATE POLICY: Late assignments will not be accepted except under special circumstances including (but not limited to) illnesses, personal or family emergencies, and religious observances. Please note that vacations do not count as special circumstances and that you will need to either complete any assignments before or during your vacation. You will need to reach out to me before the assignment is due via email (smit2788@uwm.edu) to receive permission to submit an assignment late.

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be one opportunity for you to receive extra credit throughout the semester. You are encouraged to introduce yourselves in a discussion post the first week of the semester. You will receive 1% extra credit for completing this assignment. Instructions for this introduction are in the “Optional Introduction Post” discussion forum on Canvas. To receive credit, you must post a reply to the discussion forum by 9/10 at 11:59 pm.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Misconduct:
Policies for addressing cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following site: https://uwm.edu/deanofyou/academic-misconduct-2/ According to UWM policy, I am required to report all suspicious cases to the Dean of Students Office. The sanctions for academic misconduct include an F in the course, removal from the course, and academic probation and suspension.

TIME INVESTMENT: Per UWM guidelines, a single credit hour should take up 48 hours over the course of a semester. This means that a three-credit hour course should take up 144 hours of time over the semester. You should prepare for lectures and taking notes to take approximately 20 hours of your time. You should prepare to spend 75 hours over the course of the semester (5 hours/week) completing readings. You are also assigned 13 quizzes (10 of which count towards the final grade). You should prepare to spend 13 hours of your time (1 hour of studying for and completing the quiz per quiz). You are also responsible for completing 4 discussion posts and 4 discussion post responses. You should prepare to spend 10 hours of your time (1.5 hours/post and 1 hour/response). There are also two exams throughout the semester and you should plan to spend 12 hours studying for exams and completing the exams (6 hours/exam). Finally, you should prepare to spend 14 hours completing the theory application assignment (4 hours on the proposal and 10 hours on the final draft). You should expect to spend roughly 10 hours per week on this course, but this may vary by week depending on the workload.
Final grades are determined according to the points assigned to each of the course requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Items</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>% Each</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (4)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Post Replies (4)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory Application Assignment Proposal (1)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory Application Assignment Final Draft (1)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To calculate your grade: \[
\left( \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{\text{Total Possible Points}} \right) \times 100
\]

The distribution for the final grades by percentage is as follows:

- **A** = 94-100%
- **A-** = 90-93%
- **B+** = 87-89%
- **B** = 84-86%
- **B-** = 80-83%
- **C+** = 77-79%
- **C** = 74-76%
- **C-** = 70-73%
- **D+** = 67-69%
- **D** = 64-66%
- **D-** = 60-63%
- **F** = 0-59%

### Activity Expected Workload (hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings &amp; Multimedia</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts &amp; Replies</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory Application Assignment Proposal</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. **Students with disabilities.** Notice to these students should appear prominently in the syllabus so that special accommodations are provided in a timely manner. [http://uwm.edu/arc/](http://uwm.edu/arc/)

2. **Religious observances.** Accommodations for absences due to religious observance should be noted. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%202.20-Accommodation%20of%20Religious%20Beliefs.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%202.20-Accommodation%20of%20Religious%20Beliefs.pdf)

3. **Students called to active military duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. Students: [https://uwm.edu/onestop/students-called-to-active-duty/](https://uwm.edu/onestop/students-called-to-active-duty/) Employees: [https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf](https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf)

4. **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. [https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2019/04/S-31-INCOMPLETE-GRADES-Clean.pdf](https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2019/04/S-31-INCOMPLETE-GRADES-Clean.pdf)

5. **Discriminatory conduct.** Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.20-Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.20-Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf)

6. **Title IX/Sexual Violence.** Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education program or activities, and UWM policy prohibits such conduct (see Discriminatory Conduct, above). This includes sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all educational programs and education-related areas. UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination to UWM’s Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu). Whether or not a student wishes to report an incident of sexual violence, the Title IX Coordinator can connect students to resources at UWM and/or in the community including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, medical and counseling services, and/or law enforcement. For more information, please visit: [https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/](https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/).

7. **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. [https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/academic-misconduct-2/](https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/academic-misconduct-2/)

8. **Complaint procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.
9. **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-10.%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-10.%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf)

10. **LGBT+ resources.** Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. [http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/](http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/)

11. **Smoke and Tobacco-Free campus.** UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8.%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8.%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf)

12. **Final Examinations.** Information about the final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, and make-up examinations. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-9.%20Final%20Examinations.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-9.%20Final%20Examinations.pdf)