



Course Syllabus: CRJU-3103 Criminology
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Atkins

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Course Description

Criminology 3103 will introduce you to theories that seek to explain criminal and antisocial behavior. As evident in cinema and television throughout the 20th century and to the present, much of the public is captivated and entertained with the topic of crime. Criminology seeks to explain the cause of criminal behavior through theories. Criminological theories may propose that crime is the result of deviant subcultures, poverty, strain, association with deviant peers, or even biological and genetic factors. This course will touch upon crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crime; past and present theories; evaluation of prevention, control, and treatment programs.

Course Objectives

1. You will gain a good understanding of the academic discipline of criminology, its terminology, and research methods.
2. You will know how to apply the course teachings as you ponder crime or current events in the real world.
3. You will learn how to critically analyze both your own and others' points of view.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Akers, R., Sellers, C., & Jennings, W. *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*, 7th Edition or newer. ISBN: 978-0-19-045516-3

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Percentage Breakdown

Assignments	Percent
Discussions-Quizzes	40%
Exams (3 at 20% each)	60%

Grading Scale

Grade	%
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Exams

3 exams will be taken online. These will consist of multiple choice, true false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions.

Quizzes

Multiple choice, essay, and/or True-False quizzes may be posted for some chapters. See quiz due dates in D2L Calendar.

Discussion Guidelines

Be sure to meet ALL the minimum requirements if you would like to earn an "A" on your discussions.

Discussion answers for EACH question must be a MINIMUM of 150 words. This is only the minimum. If you only complete the minimum, you are unlikely to receive full credit for the discussion. Thus, more than 150 words is highly encouraged.

Discussion answers must be posted (typed or pasted) directly to the discussion forum. If you prefer to type your answers in Microsoft Word, you must copy and paste your answers from Word to the Discussion Forum. Do not upload a Microsoft Word Document as you would an attachment in an email. If you do not post directly to the forum you will not receive any credit for the discussion. Your initial post must include your Discussion answers. You cannot see your classmates' posts until after you have posted your own answers.

A good discussion answer offers insight that goes beyond simply restating a few sentences directly from your textbook. **In order to receive full credit for any given discussion you must provide a substantial comment/reply to at least 2 of your classmates' discussion posts for that week.** This will help you gain a more thorough understanding of the content. Make an effort to expand the dialogue by reflecting on the topic with your thoughts, opinions, experiences, etc. The idea is to answer the questions in a manner that fosters discussion amongst your class mates. Replies such as "Good job!! I completely agree with your answer" are not substantial comments and will not be recognized.

The most important element of a good Discussion answer is that it specifically addresses all parts of the questions at hand.

See the "Calendar" for Discussion Due Dates/End Dates. Late submissions will receive a score of ZERO...no exceptions.

Discussions/Quiz

Discussions and Quizzes as a whole count 40% of your final grade.

Exam 1

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 2

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Exam 3

20% of Final Grade. Consists of Multiple Choice and/or Essay formats. 60 minute time limit taken online in D2L.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not accepted

Late Work

Late work will receive a grade of F unless a prior agreement exists between the student and Dr. Atkins

Make Up Work/Tests

This is an online course, make-ups not allowed. Missed assignments will automatically receive a grade of F unless a prior arrangement exists between Dr. Atkins and the student.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes:	Aug. 2
Deadline to file for graduation:	Sept. 21
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"	Nov. 23 by 4:00pm

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Coursework will be completed online.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state)

exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#)

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond

to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course schedule is on the following page.

Course Readings and Exam Schedule
See the D2L Calendar for weekly discussion due dates.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Due Date	Chapter
Week 1 (Aug. 24)	• Introduction to Crim Theory • -Discussion 1	Ch. 1
Week 2 (Aug. 31)	• Deterrence and Rational Choice • -Discussion 2	Ch. 2
Week 3 (Sept. 7)	• Biological and Biosocial Theories • -Discussion 3	Ch. 3
Week 4 (Sept. 14)	• Psychological Theories • -Discussion 4	Ch. 4
Week 5 (Sept. 21)	• Social Learning Theory • -Discussion 5	Ch. 5
Week 6 (Sept. 28)	• Complete Exam #1 (ch. 1-5) • Due Oct. 4	Exam #1
Week 7 (Oct. 5)	• Social Bonding Control Theories -Discussion 6 Labeling - Reintegrative Shaming • -Discussion 7	Ch. 6 Ch. 7
Week 8 (Oct. 12)	• Social Disorganization Theory -Discussion 8	Ch. 8
Week 9 (Oct. 19)	• Anomie and Strain Theories- - Discussion 9	Ch. 9
Week 10 (Oct. 26)	• Conflict Theory • -Discussion 10	Ch. 10
Week 11 (Nov. 2)	• Complete Exam #2 (ch. 6-10) • Due Nov. 8	Exam #2
Week 12 (Nov. 9)	• Marxist Theories -Discussion 11 - Radical and Critical Theories • -Discussion 12	Ch. 11 Ch. 12
Week 13 (Nov. 16)	• Feminist Theories • -Discussion 13	Ch. 13
Week 14 (Nov. 23)	• Developmental-Life Course Theories • -No Discussion	Ch. 14
Week 15 (Nov. 30)	• Integrating Criminological Theories • -No discussion	Ch. 15
Week 16 (Dec. 7)	Exam #3 (ch. 10-13) due Dec. 6	Exam #3 (Final)