



**Peru State College  
CJUS 360 – Criminology  
Syllabus – Spring 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelly Asmussen  
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**Office Hours:** M 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
W 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Skype or email - S, M & Th 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday/Friday days/times by appt.

**Class Meets:** MW 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. TJM 302

**Textbook:** Criminology: The Core – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
Larry Siegel. 2011. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

**Prerequisites:** CJUS 110 or currently enrolled

**Course Description:**

This course examines the nature and causes of crime as a social phenomenon. The course introduces students and practitioners to the issues of crime and criminal behavior found in the United States. Students will explore criminal behavior from a variety of theoretical and historical perspectives. Students will develop a better understanding of how crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system are related.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To analyze a variety of the general characteristics of crime and criminals and demonstrate an understanding how these variables are associated with, and influence, criminal behavior through quizzes, tests and written assignments.
- 2) To demonstrate an understanding of the various theoretical explanations of crime and criminality developed by criminologists.
- 3) To demonstrate how crime data can be mapped which can assist in determining various types of criminal behavior.
- 4) To demonstrate a research methodology to enhance and supplement the knowledge and understanding of crime and criminality.
- 5) To demonstrate critical thinking skills and apply them in written, verbal and technological assignments.

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the School of Professional Studies and College missions and goals.

**Expectations and Instructional Approach:**

This class will include; weekly lectures, laboratory exercises to access and utilize a variety of resources to gain a greater depth and understanding of criminological theories and their application, collaborative class discussions and presentation, power points, hard copy and electronic research articles, as well as other educational materials as deemed appropriate by the instructor will be utilized in this course.

**Exams:****Approximately 300 - 375 Points**

Tentatively, there will be five exams scheduled throughout the semester. Each exam will be worth approximately 60 - 75 points. Each exam will be equally weighted, non-cumulative unit examinations that consist of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer. **The REQUIRED FINAL EXAM is Wednesday May 2, 2012 at 1:00 - 3:00. The test will not be given early.**

**TAKING TESTS AT THE DESIGNATED TIME IS REQUIRED. THIS IS NOT AN OPTIONAL DECISION ON YOUR PART. THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A TEST AT ANOTHER TIME. THIS ENSURES THE PROCESS IS EQUITABLE TO EVERYONE.**

**Quizzes:****Approximately 80 Points**

There will be several quizzes worth 10 points each. Some will be in-class quizzes given for you to fill out; others will be given at the end of the class to complete. To ensure testing is equitable to all students in the class, the quiz will be taken on the date the quiz is announced in class! The instructor reserves the right to determine whether a student has a legitimate reason/excuse to take a quiz at another time/date.

If you earn 3 quizzes in a row with a 9 or 10 out of 10 points, you do not have to take any more quizzes for this course and will earn the mean score for the rest of the semester on all subsequent quizzes.

**Why people commit crime:**

Initial thoughts

**10 points**

The first day of class, students will write an essay on what they believe to be the reasons why people commit crime(s).

**Why people commit crime revisited:**

Concluding thoughts

**25 points**

After studying crime and crime theories, students will write an essay, using their initial thoughts from the first class session, on why they now know why people commit crime(s) and can explain their reasoning.

**Crime Data:****3 @ 25 points = 75 points**

1. As we study specific types of crimes, students will be assigned a specific crime to analyze (two to a team) using Lincoln Police Department crime data base. Students will submit a hypothesis statement which will state what they believe they will find according to what they know about that particular crime. (worth 5 points for each)

2. As we study specific crime theories, you team will use an assigned theory to explain the basic logic HOW and WHY a specific proposition(s) can appropriately analyze the data. Your discussion will be in-depth and demonstrate critical thinking in your theory application and explanations. (worth 20 points for each)

I will deduct 10 points per day that one of these papers is submitted late.

**25 points**

3. Poster Presentation of crime data: On Friday, April 13th, your team is required to create a poster (no larger than 24" x 36" - color/foam board backing is optional) that will be presented around the theme "Obstacles to American Society." Your team can select any of the three crime data sets you analyzed. This will be a campus-wide event open to all majors.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACT OF THE DAY: extra credit 5 points**

Access a news items from the web that you have read regarding Criminology, bring it to class in paper form and inform the class of the "news fact" by handing it around. I don't want crime stories, rather news that relates to crime data, theory, or criminology.

A specific site that I want you to use is the National Criminal Justice Reference Service website, although other sites have great newsworthy items to use for this class.

**Cell Phones: have absolutely no use in this course and are expected to be turned off and kept off the desks. Non-compliance will result in a 25 page research paper.**

**Class Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance and participation are vital to the learning experience. Therefore, I expect you to attend each class having already read the material and ready to participate in the class discussion and exercises. Please come to class on time and help foster an environment conducive to learning; one that is stimulating and cordial, and treating your peer classmates with respect. I encourage students to ask questions, seek out my help when you have questions, and help your classmates to understand the course materials and assignments. **I deduct 10 points for every class you miss.**

Students with special needs are encouraged to make them known to the instructor during the first week of class. **THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ANY ASPECT OF THE COURSE SYLLABUS OR CONTENT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE STUDENT LEARNING.** All course modifications will be communicated to students.

**Late Assignment Policy:**

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS, unless you are given specific permission by me in advance. If you encounter a major problem, be sure to contact me ASAP to notify me of the nature of the problem so we discuss what the appropriate action might be to deal with that problem.

**College's Incomplete Coursework Policy:**

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade ONLY when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are reregistered prevents them from completing the course requirements by finals week. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete the required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

**College's Academic Integrity Policy:**

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited properly. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

**In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.**

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College "... will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored." Peru State College's policy is that each course that is offered entirely on-line will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course's stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state, regardless of grades previously earned, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive full credit for the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

**Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment of a failing grade for the course.** Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters if found to be responsible of multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof on intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic dishonesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeal.

**Title IX Compliance Notice:**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

**Final Grade:**

Your final grade will be based upon quizzes, exams, crime data analysis project using theory, and class attendance. Unless otherwise directed, students are expected to do their own work on assignments. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will result in actions in accordance with the college's disciplinary policy.

**Tentative Course Schedule:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to facilitate student learning. Any changes in the schedule will be communicated to students in advance.

January 9	Syllabus, Crime Data, Ch. 1, <b>Why people commit crime</b> Crime and Criminology
January 11	Ch.1 Quiz Ch. 1
January 16	Ch.2 Nature and Extent of Crime
January 18	Ch.2 Quiz Ch. 2
January 23	Ch.3 Victims & Victimization
January 25	Ch.3 Quiz Ch. 3
January 30	<b>Test 1 Chapters 1 - 3</b> Ch. 4 Begin
February 1	Ch.4 Choice Theory <b>Crime Data 1</b>
February 6	Ch.4 Quiz Ch. 4
February 8	Ch.5 Trait Theory
February 13	Ch.5 Quiz Ch. 5
February 15	<b>Test 2 Chapters 4 &amp; 5</b> Ch. 6 Begin
February 20	Ch.6 Social Structure Theory
February 22	Ch.6
February 27	Ch.6 Quiz Ch. 6 <b>Crime Data 2</b>
February 29	Ch.7 Social Process Theory
March 5 - 9	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
March 12	Ch.7 Quiz Ch. 7
March 14	<b>Test 3 Chapters 6 &amp; 7</b>
March 19	Ch.8 Social Conflict
March 21	Ch.8 Quiz Ch. 8 <b>Crime Data 3</b>
March 26	Ch.9 Developmental: Life-Course
March 28	Ch.9 Quiz Ch. 9
April 2	<b>Test 4 Chapters 8 &amp; 9</b>
April 4	Ch.10 Violent Crime
April 9	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>
April 11	Ch.10 Quiz Ch. 10
April 16	Ch.11 Property Crime <b>Poster Presentation</b>
April 18	Ch.11 Quiz Ch. 11
April 23	
April 25	Ch. 12 or Ch. 13 White-Collar or Public Order <b>Why people commit crime</b>
April 30	Academic Day
May 2	Final Test <b>Test 5 Chapters 10, 11, 12 or 13</b> 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.