Instructor: Vincent P. Lamia, III, M.A.

E- Mail: vlamia@cox.net and vplamia@loyno.edu

Office: Room 107, Stallings Hall.

Office Phone: (504) 865-3323

Cell Phone: (504) 494-2020

Class Room: To be announced. Check the class schedule via LORA.


Class Dates:
- Week 1: 03/05/09
- Week 2: 03/12/09
- Week 3: 03/19/09
- Week 4: 03/26/09
- Week 5: 04/02/09
- Week 6: 04/16/09
- Week 7: 04/23/09
- Week 8: 04/30/09

Course Description & Objective: This course introduces the student to the scientific study of crime, criminals, and criminal behavior. Unlike the study of the criminal justice system, which is more applied in nature and focuses on the processes and procedures that are imposed upon the criminal justice system in its attempt to control crime, criminology is more theoretical in nature and focuses on the multitude of causative factors that come into play when a crime is committed.

At the conclusion of the course, the successful student will have an understanding and appreciation for (1) the nature and extent of crime and deviance in this country, (2) the historical basis for the scientific study of crime, (3) the research and theory building methods used by criminologists to study crime, (4) the various perspectives of crime causation, (5) the specific categories of crime and the offenders who commit them, and (6) the issues impacting crime control policy.

Grading:  
- Mid-term Exam: 25 points  
- Final Exam: 25 points  
- Term Paper: 30 points  
- Take-Home Project (1): 12 points  
- Attendance: 8 points

Grading Scale:  
- A: 90 - 100  
- B+: 85 - 89  
- B: 80 - 84  
- C+: 75 - 79  
- C: 70 - 74  
- D+: 65 - 69  
- D: 60 - 64  
- F: < 60

Attendance Policy: The faculty considers interaction with students crucial to the teaching and learning process. To better ensure a quality educational experience, the following policies govern class attendance:

- Students may earn a total of 8-points for attending all classes (1-point per class).

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-2990 as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Policy Regarding Return of Student Work: All students have the right to receive copies of their graded work and are encouraged to do so in order to benefit from faculty feedback on the work. Graded assignments, projects, and papers not returned directly to students while the class is in session will be made available for students to pick up for at least six weeks after the beginning of the subsequent semester, excluding summers. Following this time period, graded work being held for pick up may be destroyed. Students who wish to receive copies of graded work should communicate directly with the faculty to receive the desired materials. Students should be aware that faculty who do not teach summer classes may not be available to return papers until the beginning of the subsequent fall term.

Statement on Incomplete Grades: Grades of “I” (incomplete) change to “F” automatically if the course is not completed and the grade changed by the sixth week of the subsequent term, excluding summer terms. The resulting F grade remains the permanent grade for the course.

Statement on Intellectual Honesty: Intellectual honesty is simply acknowledging, through documentation, all those sources that the writer has used in preparing any written work. Plagiarism, the obverse of intellectual honesty, is the use of any form of material, whether written or verbal, without formal indebtedness through documentation. The paraphrasing of any work,
either written by other students or found in print or in electronic form, without
acknowledgement, is plagiarism. Not properly identifying the source of a
quotation, even through the quotation is enclosed in quotation marks, is also
plagiarism. Not only the exact language of a sentence or phrase, but any material
falsely presented as one’s own – an idea, a concept, data graphs, or a line of
argument constitutes plagiarism. Any material that neither originates with the
student nor is common knowledge among educated persons must be formally
acknowledged.

It must be remembered that written work stands on its own, not on the intention
of the writer. The burden of academic honesty rests on the student, not on the
instructor. If students have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism or what
is required, they should inquire before the work is submitted. Otherwise, they
open themselves to charges of plagiarism.

The penalties for plagiarism are severe: A student who is found to have
plagiarized or to have assisted another student in plagiarizing may be given a
failing grade for the course on the first violation; a second offense may result in
exclusion or dismissal from the university.

**Late Assignments and Make-up Exams:** Late assignments and make-up
exams will be given only if prior arrangements have been agreed upon between
the instructor and the student unless there was an emergency beyond the
student’s control.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**NOTE:** Course content may change or be adjusted at the discretion of the
instructor. Students will be given ample notice of any changes in class
content or requirements.

**Class 1, March 5, 2009**

- Introductions.
- Discuss course expectations; review syllabus.
- Discuss requirements for term paper due in Week 8, October 9 (see
guidelines below).
- Discuss/assign take-home project due Week 4, September 11 (see
guidelines below).
- Lecture 1 PowerPoint: *Crime, Criminal Law & Criminology* (Chapter 1).

**Class 2, March 12, 2009**

- Review previous week’s discussions.
- Lecture 2 PowerPoint: *Research Methods & Theory Development*..
**Special Note:** Students are responsible for the contents of Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 13 in Siegel's *Criminology: The Core*.

Class 3, March 19, 2009

- Review previous week’s discussions.
- Lecture 4 PowerPoint: *Victims & Victimization* (Chapter 3).
- Lecture 5 PowerPoint: *Choice Theory* (Chapter 4).
- Review for mid-term exam set for Week 4, September 11. The exam will cover Lectures 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5, above, as well Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 13 of Seigel’s *Criminology: The Core*.

Class 4, March 26, 2009

- Collect take-home projects.
- Mid-term exam.

Class 5, April 2, 2009

- Return/review graded mid-term exams.
- Return/review graded take-home projects.
- Lecture 6 PowerPoint: *Biological Trait Theories* (Chapter 5).
- Lecture 7 PowerPoint: *Psychological Trait Theories* (Chapter 5).

Easter Holiday, April 9, 2009

Class 6, April 16, 2009

- Review previous week’s discussions.
- Lecture 8 PowerPoint: *Social Structure Theories* (Chapter 6).
- Lecture 9 PowerPoint: *Social Process Theories* (Chapter 7).

Class 7, April 23, 2009

- Review previous week’s discussions.
- Lecture 10 PowerPoint: *Critical Theories* (Chapter 8).
- Lecture 11 PowerPoint: *Developmental Theories* (Chapter 9).
- Review for final exam set for Week 8, October 9. The exam will cover Lectures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11.

Class 8, April 30, 2009

- Collect term papers.
- Final exam.
- Class adjoins.
Theory Building Project Guidelines (reference hand-out): Using any variables you see fit, construct a hypothetical theory-building model similar to the one provided each student in the first class. Be sure to include both the steps in the building process as well as the attendant representative activities. You may choose any phenomena, real or imaginary, as your beginning observed correlation. Of course, in this exercise, you will not be obligated to operationalize any of the concepts you are entertaining. Work through the process to reach some rational, theory-based policy results. Keep it simple!

The take-home project is worth 12% of your final grade.

Term Paper Guidelines: Two contrasting themes tend to dominate criminological thought as it relates to the development of social control policies: the social problems perspective and the social responsibility perspective. The social problems perspective holds that criminality is a manifestation of unresolved and persistent social problems (poverty, discrimination, family violence, poor education, etc.), which enmeshes unwitting individuals in a causal nexus of uncontrollable social forces. Proponents of this position see solutions to the crime problem in the form of large-scale social programs and initiatives, which seek to change the conditions that give rise to crime.

The opposing view of the social problems model is consistent with rational choice theory, which views crime as a matter of individual choice. Proponents of the social responsibility perspective suggest that criminality is the result of conscious choice; that individuals chose to commit crime when they perceive that the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs of disobeying the law. Adherents are considered hard-line, law and order advocates that adhere to a crime control model of justice that emphasizes the efficient arrest, conviction, and incarceration of criminal offenders.

Your writing assignment is two-fold in nature: First, provide an in-depth overview of the two contrasting perspectives, incorporating both their strengths and limitations. Next, take a position you favor in the debate, and provide a written defense of it. Be sure to frame your perspective in rich theoretical terms.

Your paper will consists of 4-5 double-spaced, typed pages (Times New Roman; 12-font), excluding cover page, abstract, and reference page. At least two references must be cited. Strict APA guidelines must be followed!

Academic rigor: Your grade will be based on how well you have addressed the theory, method, and substance of the topic as well as a substantive demonstration that you have gained knowledge and comprehension of the topic matter. All papers will be checked for plagiarism.

Academic rigor: Your grade will be based on how well you have integrated the various concepts, theories, correlates, and research of the topic, as well as a substantive demonstration indicating that you have gained knowledge and
comprehension of the subject matter. All papers will be checked for plagiarism.

**Grading rubric:**

- **A = 30-points** (represents an excellent paper in terms of overall content, structure, format, grammar, and spelling).

- **B = 25-points** (represents a good paper in terms of overall content, structure, format, grammar, and spelling).

- **C = 20-points** (represents an average paper in terms of overall content, structure, format, and spelling).

- **D = 15-points** (represents a minimally acceptable paper in terms of overall content, structure, format, and spelling).

- **F = 10-points** (represents an unacceptable paper in terms of overall content, structure, format, and spelling).

The term paper is worth 30% of your final grade.