Course Description:

(A) Examination of criminology surveying historical, philosophical, and theoretical ideas pertaining to crime causation, justice, and or social control. Topics may also include victimology and criminal typologies.

(B) This course is designed to provide an overview perspective of the crime problem with special emphasis given to the philosophical and theoretical ideas pertaining to crime and its control, including an examination of the victim and criminal typologies.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1301 (or ENGL 1387) and ENGL 1302 (or ENGL 1388) or ENGL 1305 with a grade of 'C' or better and sophomore standing. 3.000 Credit hours/3.000 Lecture hours.

Criminal Justice Department - Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure, operations, and practices of the major components of the criminal justice system which include police, courts, corrections, and law.

2. Explain the fundamentals of research methods and statistical techniques used in criminal justice research.

3. Apply critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and communication skills through classroom assignment.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of criminological theory and crime control techniques.

Course Objectives:

First Goal:
Students will recall, classify, and discuss major criminological theories and explanations for crime and delinquency. Students will also examine crime measurement and crime typologies and theories of victimization. Consistent with Criminal Justice Department SLO 4.

(a) The student will complete assigned readings and be prepared to discuss the readings in class.
(b) The student will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the assigned material through in-class examinations.
**Second Goal:**
The student will apply criminological theory to current and real-world issues.

(a) Students will discuss how criminological theory relates to current news events in class.
(b) Students will complete 1 research paper applying criminological theory and related material to videos shown in class.

**Third Goal:**
The student will demonstrate verbal communication and writing skills.

(a) Students will submit 1 research paper by evaluating research methods, statistics, and policy implications of Criminological research.
(b) Students will discuss current news events in class and apply course material to the news items.

**Required Texts:**
   ISBN-10: 150635971X

**Course Requirements:**

**Course Paper (1):** Students are to procure 5 research articles on Criminology (Theory articles). All 5 articles must be acquired from peer reviewed academic journals using the University library databases (instructional guide sheet provided). Students will summarize the article (do not copy and paste the abstract, you will receive a failing grade for that article), include all the pertinent journal and author information, discuss the importance of each article, the data collection methods used, the statistical techniques (i.e., ANOVA, ANCOVA, Logistic Regression, etc), research findings, and policy implications for each of the 5 articles. It is recommended that you outline your research articles with all of the required components to ensure you are properly completing each individual section of each individual article. Titles and headings are not included in the minimum word count. Each article must be a minimum of 450 words in length (450 words x 5 articles = 2250 words minimum). Students are advised to approach the professor if there are questions and/or confusion with the project. Research papers NOT meeting the minimum required word length (2,250 words) will receive a 50 (prior to grading) for the project for failing to follow instructions. There will be 20 point reductions for each of the following infractions: (1) failure to have a cover page (cover page is not included in the word count minimum – only 1 cover page required); (2) failure to use double-spacing; (3) failure to use Times New Roman font; (4) failure to use 12 font size; and (5) failure to submit a reference page (cover page is not included in the word count minimum). Students will also be penalized 20 points (per infraction) if they submit an incorrect file to blackboard. APA Format is required. **You will need to submit your paper into SAFEASSIGN in order to receive credit for your research project. I will not accept any paper that exceeding 20% replication (essentially reserved for references). Each completed article is worth 20% of the total 100% of the project.**
1. **Examinations (2):** Two multiple choice examinations will be given in the course.

Discussion Boards: .......................... 18% of grade (6% each)

Course Paper:
- Paper 1: ...................................... 40% of grade
- Exams:
  - Examination One: ......................... 21% of grade
  - Examination Two: ......................... 21% of grade

Total: ................................................. 100%

*Course Grade is based on a grade percentage weight system, **NOT** an accumulation of blackboard points.

**Grading System:**

A = 100-90
B = 89-80
C = 79-70
D = 69-60
F = 59 and below

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

(1) **Be an Active Learner:**
"Active Learning is, in short, anything that students do in a classroom other than merely passively listening to an instructor's lecture. This includes everything from listening practices which help the students to absorb what they hear, to short writing exercises in which students react to lecture material, to complex group exercises in which students apply course material to "real life" situations and/or to new problems.” - *Active Learning for the College Classroom* (Paulson and Faust, California State University, Los Angeles, 1998)

(2) **Read your textbook and notes:**
Students should be reading 24-36 hours per week if they have a 12 credit hour course load.
Students should be reading 30-45 hours per week if they have a 15 credit hour course load.

**The Ramses rule:**
As a general rule of thumb, professors are allowed up to 48 hours to respond to student email inquiries. That being said, remain patient and do **NOT** send a second email regarding the same
issue. More importantly, NEVER contact the secretary or department chair and ask them to contact the professor and tell them to check their email. Furthermore, don’t expect responses during the weekends as professors have families, lives, and other responsibilities. Not all professors choose or care to check their emails via their cell phones or to check their email during the evening hours or weekends (this may not apply to online courses).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**ATTENDANCE:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations. *If a student incurs 3 consecutive unexcused absences (or 5 total unexcused absences), he/she will be dropped from the course.*

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty
incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students. **Your grade, academic standing, and personal/professional reputation are at stake.**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3PEAT rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)
**Make-Up Exams:**
Students have no more than 2 days following a scheduled examination to request for and take a make-up examination (legitimate documentation required). A student will only be allowed to take a makeup exam if he/she meets the “excused absence” requirements and shows proper documentation. Only in the case of an emergency will a student be given more time to request and take a make-up examination.

**Late Work Policy:**
Each student is urged to submit each and every assignment on its given due date. There will be a 10-point deduction on the research paper for each day it is late (extensions does not apply to discussion boards). Students will only be granted 2 days to submit a late research paper. Furthermore, students must request, in writing, an extension on their research paper. If a student fails to request permission for an extension, their research paper will NOT be graded.