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Course Details

GED260 - CRIMINOLOGY

Course Revision Date: 12/2014



Professor: Christina Trujillo

3 units of credit

☐ Course Description

This course emphasizes the wide and interdisciplinary variety of academic perspectives that contribute to a thorough and well-informed understanding of the crime problem. It addresses the latest social issues and discusses innovative criminological perspectives within a well-grounded and traditional theoretical framework. Students will learn to think critically about the causes of crime and will discover the correlations between crime theory, crime policy, and crime prevention.

☐ Course Objectives

- Recognize the various methods currently used to collect and disseminate crime data.
- Recognize the role of criminological research in theory development and display an understanding of various types of research designs.
- Identify the fundamental assumptions made by biological theories of crime causation.
- Identify the major principles of psychological perspectives as they relate to criminal behavior.
- Provide an overview of the history of drugs, drug abuse, and drug control legislation in the United States.

☐ Textbook

Criminology Today

Frank Schmalleger, 2009

Pearson/Prentice Hall

ISBN.13: 978-0-135-13031-5

All course examinations are based on the contents of the textbook required for this course. To successfully complete the examinations, you will need the textbook.

You may rent the textbook from the [CCU rental library](#) or you may purchase the textbook from another source.

☐ Syllabus

Your Course Grade

Your grades on course examinations are determined by the percentage of correct answers. The university uses the following grading system:

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

Your grade in this course will be based on the number of points you earn. Grades are based on the percentage of points you earned out of a total of 500 points:

Four Unit Examinations

100 points each, 400 points total, 80% of your grade

Final Examination

100 points, 100 points total, 20% of your grade

Mastering the Course Content

In order to successfully complete this course, we recommend that you do the following before beginning:

- Be sure that you have the correct edition of the course textbook. Check the ISBN number of your textbook with the ISBN number listed on the cover page of this study guide.
- Review the table of contents at the end of this syllabus. You will only be responsible for the chapters in the textbook that are listed in the table of contents.

Each study guide contains several components selected and developed by the faculty to help you master the content of the course. Each chapter in the study guide corresponds to a chapter in the textbook. Study guides vary depending on the course, but most will include:

- Learning Objectives
- Overviews
- Self Tests
- Summaries
- Key Terms
- Critical Analysis Questions (graduate and doctoral students only)

The most efficient way to complete this course is to read the materials in both the study guide and textbook in the sequence in which it appears, generally from beginning to end.

Read the Overviews and Summaries

Before reading a chapter of your textbook, review the corresponding learning objectives, overview, key terms and summary sections in the study guide. These were prepared to give you an overview of the content to be learned.

Review the Self-Tests

After you have reviewed the study guide summaries, look at the items on the self-tests. As you identify your areas of relative strength and weakness, you will become more aware of the material you will need to learn in greater depth.

Review the Critical Analysis and/or Case Study Questions (Graduate and Doctoral Students Only)

The critical analysis questions are designed to help you gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the course subject matter. This section will encourage you to give additional thought to the topics discussed in the chapter by presenting vignettes or cases with real world relevance.

Read and Review the Chapter

Once you have the scope and organization of the chapter in mind, turn to the corresponding chapter in the textbook and read the material carefully. Keep the learning objectives, self test, critical analysis questions and/or case study questions in mind as you read.

Highlight important concepts and information in your study guide and write notes in the study guide as you read the textbook. These notes will help you study for the unit and final examinations.

Check Your Mastery of Each Chapter

When you feel that you have mastered the concepts presented in the chapter, complete the study guide self-test and critical analysis questions and/or case study questions without referring to the textbook or your notes. Correct your responses using the answer key and solutions guide provided in the study guide. Your results will help you identify any areas you need to review.

Unit Examinations

Each course contains four unit examinations and a final examination. Unit examinations usually consist of 25 objective (multiple choice or true/false) test questions. For Master of Education and Doctor of Education students, unit examinations consist of writing assignments only.

Unit examinations may be found approximately every four to six chapters throughout your study guide. Unit examinations are open-book, do not require a proctor and are not timed. This will allow you to proceed at your own pace.

It is recommended that you check your answers against the material in your textbook for accuracy.

Each unit examination includes a written component. This assignment may be in the form of written questions or case study problems. The writing assignment affords the student an opportunity to demonstrate a level of subject mastery beyond the objective unit examinations, which reflects his/her ability to analyze, synthesize, evaluate and apply his/her knowledge. The writing assignment materials are found immediately following each unit examination.

Writing assignments are judged on the quality of the response in regard to the question. Word count is NOT one of the criteria that is used in assigning points to writing assignments. However, students who are successful in earning the maximum number of points tend to submit writing assignments that fall in the following ranges:

- Undergraduate courses: 350 - 500 words per question
- Graduate courses: 500 - 750 words per question
- Doctoral courses: 750 - 1000 words per question

Plagiarism

All work must be free of any form of plagiarism. Put written answers into your own words. Do not simply cut and paste your answers from the Internet and do not copy your answers from the textbook. Plagiarism consists of taking and using the ideas, writings or inventions of another, without giving credit to that person and presenting it as one's own. This is an offense that the university takes very seriously. An example of a correctly prepared written response may be found by visiting the Coast Connection student portal. You can find this in the portal by clicking on Student Resources and then Writing Basics.

Citation Styles

The majority of your response should be your own original writing based on what you have learned from the textbook. However, students may also use outside materials if applicable. Be sure to provide a citation and a reference for any materials used, including the required textbook. The following points are designed to help you understand how to provide proper citations and references for your work:

- Sources are listed in two places.
- The first, a citation, is briefly listed within your answer. This includes identifying information that directs the reader to your list of references at the end of your writing assignment.
- The second, a reference is at the end of your work in the list of references section.

- All sources cited should follow the APA style and provide enough identifying information so that the reader can access the original material.

More detailed information about citations and references can be located on the Coast Connection student portal. You can find this in the portal by clicking on Student Resources and then Writing Lab.

Submitting Your Unit Examinations and Writing Assignments via the Internet

Students may access the online testing features via the Coast Connection student portal. Multiple choice unit examinations may be completed and submitted online.

Go to the California Coast University homepage at www.calcoast.edu and click on the student login icon at the upper right hand corner. After logging into your account, click on My Academic Plan and select the course you are working on to complete the unit examination. Remember to keep a copy of your answers for your own personal records.

Writing assignments may be submitted online as well. After logging into the student portal, click on My Academic Plan and select the course you are working on to complete the writing assignment. Here, you will find further information and instructions on how to submit writing assignments through the student portal. Remember to keep a copy of your writing assignments for your own personal records.

Alternatively, if you experience difficulty submitting your writing assignments through the student portal, then you may email your assignments as a Word document attachment to essays@calcoast.edu. When doing so, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Always submit your name, student number, course number, course title and unit number with your writing assignment.
- Begin each writing assignment by identifying the question number you are answering followed by the actual question itself (in bold type).
- Use a standard essay format for responses to all questions (i.e., an introduction, middle paragraphs and conclusion).
- All responses must be typed double-spaced, using a standard font (i.e. Times New Roman) and 12 point type size for ease of reading and grading.

Submitting Your Unit Examinations by Mail

Send your completed unit examination along with any writing assignments to the following mailing address:

California Coast University Testing Department
925 N. Spurgeon Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Requests to retake a unit examination will only be honored if the final exam has NOT been sent.

Students may retake one unit examination per course, free of charge. The cost for each additional, repeated exam will be \$90. Payment must be paid in full to the accounting department prior to repeating unit exams.

Please contact Student Services for a repeat unit examination form. You may resubmit your unit examination once the original grade has been cleared from your online degree plan.

Final Examination

Final examination requests can be submitted via U.S. mail, online through the Coast Connection student portal, or by calling the Testing Department at (714) 547-9625. A final exam scheduling form is located on the last page of this study guide. Please fill out ALL required fields and mail it to the university. If you would like to request a final exam online, log into the Coast Connection student portal and click on My Academic Plan. Select the course you are working on and submit the Final Exam Request form located at the bottom of the page. ALL INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED IN.

Submitting Your Final Examination

Final Examinations can be submitted by mail, fax or online through the Coast Connection student portal. After you have completed your exam, you or your proctor can fax it to the Grading Department at (714) 547-1451 or mail it to the university. When faxing exams, please do not resize your fax. For online submissions, once you have logged into the student portal, click on My Academic Plan and select the course you are working on to complete the final examination. You must input the unique password that was sent to your proctor in order to unlock your final examination questions. Remember to keep a copy of your answers for your own personal records.

Proctors

The university requires that all final examinations be completed under the supervision of a proctor.

A proctor can be anyone EXCEPT an immediate family member, someone who resides with you or a current/former CCU student. The purpose of the proctored final examination is to verify that you are, in fact, the person who is enrolled in the course of study. It is also to verify that you are completing the final examination without the aid of any outside assistance. During the proctored final examination, you may use your textbook and any notes you have taken during the completion of your unit examinations. Your designated proctor will verify your identity and that you have completed the final examination without any outside assistance.

Your Overall Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)

In addition to receiving a passing grade for each course, all students must maintain a required overall G.P.A. in order to graduate. Undergraduate students need an overall G.P.A. of 2.0 (C) on a 4.0 scale. Graduate and doctoral students need an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale.

- A = 4 grade points
- B = 3 grade points
- C = 2 grade points
- D = 1 grade point
- F = 0 grade points

Students who do not meet the overall G.P.A. requirement by the end of their program must pay the current cost of tuition to repeat courses until they improve their overall G.P.A. Overall course grades of "F" will be displayed on your degree plan and count as 0 units completed. You must pay to retake these courses. Doctoral students must repeat any courses in which the overall course grade is a "D" or "F".

Be sure to keep a copy of all work you submit to the university.

Learning Activities

GED 260 CRIMINOLOGY

Learning goes beyond the textbook, exams, and writing assignments. To help you find out more about the study of Criminology, we have developed some learning activities that will hopefully get you thinking about some new things and exploring some new ideas.

We suggest you spend about 5 hours per Unit exploring and engaging in the learning activities and the course resources listed below. As we will be adding new material on a regular basis, we encourage you to check back.

We hope you find these activities interesting and thought-provoking. Enjoy!

Unit 1

Find a book or journal article:

Look for articles or resources online related to national crime control policy and answer the following questions:

- Was there something new or different that you found out about national crime control policy that wasn't mentioned in this unit?
- Is there something else you plan to explore related to national crime control policy?
- Did you have more questions or answers after your research on national crime control policy?

In the News:

Use some of the keywords in your study guide and text for your Criminology course and do an internet search and see what you come up with regards to Rational choice theory, is there anything in the news related to your subject?

- New trends or directions going on with regards to Rational choice theory?
- What do the experts have to say?

Brainstorming:

Do an internet search on situational choice theory to see what you come up with.

- Is there anything recent in the news related to your search?
- New trends or directions going on for what you searched?
- What do the experts have to say?

Unit 2

The Most Important Insight from the Course:

Think about the following questions:

- What is the most important insight you received from the course material (area/topic)?
- How or why did the topic have a special impact on you?
- And, how do you expect to use this knowledge in your future work/life?

Identifying Areas of Future Exploration:

Take out a piece of paper and divide it into two columns. In the first column, write the most important four or five things you currently know about cognitive theory, and in the second column, the four or five things you would like to learn.

- Describe why you would like to learn the new information.
- How will you go about finding it out?

More or Less?

- Is there anything you wish were given more emphasis or less emphasis in this unit? What are they? Why?

Unit 3

Brainstorming:

Do an internet search on Containment theory to see what you come up with.

- Is there anything in the news related to your subject?
- What do the experts have to say?

Is There Something That Makes You Say – "Wait a Minute"?

- Is there one area/topic in this unit that you found to be questionable or biased? If so, please explain your answer.

More or Less?

- Is there anything you wish were given more emphasis or less emphasis in this unit? What are they? Why?

Unit 4

Course Application:

Many of our students are already working in the fields they are studying. As you complete this course, consider the following:

- Does the content relate to your position in your organization, or to you personally?
- Is there information that might help you or your organization function more effectively?

- Is there additional information that you think should be provided that could help those in your industry or organization improve performance?
- Is there additional information a person interested in this field would find helpful in developing themselves professionally?

Is There Something That Makes You Say – “Wait a Minute”?

Is there one area/topic in this unit that you found to be questionable or biased? If so, please explain your answer.

Expectations:

You are nearing the end of the course.

- What did you expect to gain from taking the class?
- Have your expectations been realized?
- Were there any surprises in the course material?
- If so, how did it change the way you will approach the subject in the future?

Course Resources

Websites to Explore

- [Marijuana Policy Project](#)
- [Human Genome Project](#)
- [Time: Crime](#)

Videos to Explore:

- [Where is Cybercrime Really Coming From?](#)
- [A Vision of Crimes in the Future](#)

Professional Organizations:

- [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences \(ACJS\)](#)
- [International Community Corrections Association \(ICCA\)](#)
- [Justice Research and Statistics Association \(JRSA\)](#)
- [National Criminal Justice Association \(NCJA\)](#)
- [Legal Information Institute](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [D.A.R.E. America](#)
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)
- [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)
- [RAND Drug Policy Research Center](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [Students Against Destructive Decisions](#)
- [Death Penalty Information Center](#)
- [The American Society of Criminology](#)
- [The International Society of Criminology](#)

To view the School Resources, click here

Download GED260 Study Guide

The study guide was designed to help you further understand the materials in the textbook and master the course content. Each study guide chapter corresponds to a chapter in the textbook.

Although this study guide is developed by California Coast University, it may contain materials provided by the publisher of the textbook.

Unit Exams

Unit Exam 1	Unit Exam 2	Unit Exam 3	Unit Exam 4
Grade:	Grade: F	Grade:	Grade:
Score:	Score: 9	Score:	Score:
Posted:	Posted: 04/15/2016	Posted:	Posted:
Received:	Received: 04/15/2016	Received:	Received:
Attempts: 1	Attempts: 0	Attempts: 0	Attempts: 0
Exam History	View Exam	Take Exam	Take Exam
Take Exam	Retake Unit Exam		

Writing Assignments

Writing Assignment 1	Writing Assignment 2	Writing Assignment 3	Writing Assignment 4
Grade: Passed	Grade: Passed	Grade: Passed	Grade: Passed
Score: 23	Score: 20	Score: 19	Score: 19
Posted: 04/19/2016	Posted: 04/24/2016	Posted: 04/24/2016	Posted: 04/24/2016
Received: 04/15/2016	Received: 04/15/2016	Received: 04/15/2016	Received: 04/15/2016
Attempts: 0	Attempts: 0	Attempts: 0	Attempts: 0
View Exam	View Exam	View Exam	View Exam

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