



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The City University of New York

Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department

CRJ 102 - 0501 | Criminology | Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course |

3 Lecture Hours | 3 Credits | FALL 2023 Syllabus

Online Asynchronous

Prof. **Satenik Margaryan, Ph.D.**

Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm in person or on [ZOOM](#).

Fridays, 2 pm to 4 pm, in person or on [ZOOM](#).

by appointment requested at smargaryan@bmcc.cuny.edu

Office Location: 199 Chambers Street, #N656

Phone: 212 776 6391

Email: smargaryan@bmcc.cuny.edu

Course Description

This is an introductory and foundational course in the study of crime and justice. It is designed to introduce students to the various historical and contemporary theories and empirical research used to understand deviant and criminal behavior. This course takes a critical approach to the study of the definition and measurement of crime, as well as applications of these theories to practice and in policy. Offending and victimization, as these relate to specific crime types (i.e., white collar crime, violent crime, sex crime, drug related crimes, etc.) will be explored.

Prerequisites: SOC 100, (ENG 88 or ESL 94) and ACR 94

What makes this course a Zero Textbook Cost course?

This course does not require students to purchase textbooks, using materials that are freely available or are available through the library. In this course, you will access all materials through OpenLab.

Required Texts

All of the required readings for this course are listed in the course timeline below and will be posted to OpenLab. You **must** access these materials for the course on OpenLab, so make sure you have access today. Visit this [site](#) for assistance accessing OpenLab.

What is Supplemental Instruction?

BMCC is committed to student success; many foundational and gateway courses, including this course, utilize Supplemental Instruction (SI). SI Leaders are students who have successfully mastered the content of the course and been trained to facilitate group sessions. SI Leaders attend class meetings and schedule two out-of-class small group sessions per week to review course material, discuss important concepts, develop study strategies, and prepare for exams and assignments. Students who attend SI out-of-class sessions regularly, typically earn higher final course and exam grades than students who do not participate in SI. NOTE: The SI Leader does not grade student assignments or influence student grades. If you have questions about how SI works class, please reach out to the SI Leader and the professor. The SI Leader for our course is: **Ms. Sofia Sundin**.

Use of Technology

I. BMCC OpenLab

[BMCC's OpenLab](#) is an online platform where the College's students, faculty and staff can come together to learn, work, play, share ideas and build community.

All our course materials will be posted on BMCC OpenLab site: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-102-0501-fall2023-margaryan/>

Please follow these steps to register for the course on the OpenLab:

1. Sign up for an OpenLab account with your BMCC email address– it's a quick and easy process! Here are the instructions: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/blog/help/how-to-sign-up-and-log-in-to-bmcc-openlab-students-staff-faculty/>
2. Go to our course site here: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-102-0501-fall2023-margaryan/>
3. Click on “Request Membership.”
4. Once you are a member of the class, you will be able to view all the course materials and post and comment on the site. If you have any trouble with any of these steps, you should email me.

II. BMCC Blackboard

Once you register for the course, you will be enrolled in BMCC Blackboard site for the class. You will find the course syllabus and first few announcements on Blackboard. You will use Blackboard to see your grades posted on Blackboard. Please note that all teaching materials will be placed in OpenLab only.

III. ZOOM

This is an asynchronous online course. We will not meet at specific class times, instead you will be expected to follow the course on your own. Asynchronous learning allows you to learn on your own schedule, within a certain timeframe. You can access and complete lectures, readings, homework, and other learning materials at any time during a one-week period. If you need clarification on the class materials or have questions, you log in onto [ZOOM](#) on Tuesdays, between 12:15 pm and 1:15 pm and on Fridays, between 2 pm and 4 pm, and by appointment requested at smargaryan@bmcc.cuny.edu. *You can also see me in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in person (Office N-656 at 199 Chambers).*

Class Objectives

Students will gain an understanding of:

- A. the core literature and debates that makeup the discipline of criminology.
- B. the key components of criminological theory and the ability to apply theory to specific contexts.
- C. reasoned and informed judgment on issues relating to crime and punishment
- D. the nature and causes of crime.
- E. how well theory is supported by empirical evidence.
- F. theory's implication for social policy.
- G. logic underlying the kinds of casual factors each theory identifies as important for explaining criminal behavior.
- H. the concepts and methods of the social sciences and applied research strategies

II. Student Learning Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Course Student Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
1. Describe the history, structures and purpose of criminology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay exams and written assignments

Course Student Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
2. Identify the extent to which the theories of criminology have been applied both in practice and in policy. 3. Discuss the theories that characterize criminology. 4. Explain all of the preceding in a coherent manner in both oral and written formats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple choice exams • Discussion board posts

III. General Education Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Below are the college's general education goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.

General Education Goals	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
Social & Behavioral Sciences – Students will understand and apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences. Student behaviors include being able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate an understanding of the unique theories and methods of a social or behavioral science • analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Discussion board posts
Information & Technology Literacy- Students will collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board posts • Quizzes

IV. COURSE FORMAT

This is a fully online course. Online classes are not easier than face-to-face lecture classes. To succeed in an online class, you must be extremely motivated and well organized. You will need to log into the class on a daily

basis to access reading materials and assignments via OpenLab and Blackboard (“Bb”). Regular Internet access is essential for the successful completion of the course.

The typical class structure will consist of learning modules, which include:

- Short Videos/PowerPoint Lectures
- Readings
- Online Discussions
- Quizzes/Exams
- Written Exercises

This is an entirely Web-based course. It is important to understand that this is not a self-paced class or an independent study. You will have assigned deadlines, and work must be submitted on time. You may not save up your assignments to complete in the last weeks or days of the semester. **One critical part of this class is regular interaction with other students and with me, your instructor. Each assignment sequence must be completed on schedule – you can't work ahead or get behind and be successful.**

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS: YOUR KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

1. Class Participation

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student’s responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

Participation is essential to your success in this class. In online education courses, you are required to participate just as if you were in a face-to-face course. This means that in order to get full credit for participation, you will have to complete your discussion assignments, assignments, and quizzes on a timely basis. Consistent failure to participate in the class will result in a low grade for participation.

In other words: Ask questions. Be curious. You are more than welcome to have a different interpretation of the reading/video/issue than a classmate or me; just be sure to share your perspective in a productive and supportive manner.

1.1. Discussion Forums

Discussion Forums are a way for you to engage with each other about the course content. Each lesson module will have a question that links to a forum. You can also access each forum by clicking on the DISCUSSIONS tab in OpenLab. In order to get full credit for each discussion, you will need to post a thoughtful, well-written response to the question and respond to two of your classmates' answers.

Due Dates: Weekly, discussion forums have due date by **11:59 pm EST on Sundays**.

When posting on the discussion boards it is important to understand how to interact with one another online, **netiquette**. You can learn more about the rules of netiquette at <https://youtu.be/0VK1FLcPIQk>

Important: Regular meetings with SI leader Ms. Sundin will also count as class participation.

2. Quizzes

Six quizzes will be given at regular intervals. The six exams will count for 40% of your grade.

3. Short Assignments

There will be four short (1-2 pages) assignments throughout the semester. The aim of these short assignments will be to gauge your understanding of the material. Specifically, you will learn how to present a theory in your own words and apply it to a real-world case. You may re-submit this assignment for a higher grade.

EVALUATION OF REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS

I may revise this grading pattern. Final grades may be determined as follows:

Quizzes	40%
Discussion Forum Participation	15%
Supplemental Instruction Participation	5%
Short Assignments	40%
TOTAL	100%

In order to understand what is expected of you for each assignment, please check out the rubric attached to each ASSIGNMENT for the grading criteria.

You can view your grades using the GRADES button in the course navigation links. Please check your grades regularly to make certain that I have received all your assignments. If you have a question about a grade, email me. Please do not post your personal concerns in a discussion forum.

The final grades will be calculated according to the Grading Scale table below.

GRADING SCALE

A 93% and above	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80 - 82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D - 60-61%	F Below 60%

NOTE: YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO OPENLAB AND BLACKBOARD! YOU MUST CHECK OPENLAB AND BLACKBOARD FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS.

Outline of Topics and Calendar

DATES	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
WEEK 1: 08/25 to 09/3	Course Introduction and Overview	Join OpenLab Review the syllabus Complete Online Learning Orientation Discussion Forum 1: Introductions
WEEK 2: 9/4 to 9/10	What Is Crime? What is Criminology? Readings: Bernard, Thomas J. and Mannheim, Hermann. "Criminology". Encyclopedia Britannica, 18 Oct. 2019, https://www.britannica.com/science/criminology	Discussion Forum 2

*Open University. The Meaning of Crime:
<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/sociology/the-meaning-crime/content-section-0?active-tab=content-tab>

WEEK 3:
9/11 to 9/17

Studying Crime and Crime Trends

Readings:

*Federal Bureau of Investigation
Crime Data Explorer: <https://www.fbi.gov/cde>

*Pew Research Center (2020). What the data says (and doesn't say) about crime in the United States:
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/11/20/facts-about-crime-in-the-u-s/>

Discussion Forum 3:
Are Murder Rates Increasing?

Quiz 1

WEEK 4
9/18 to 9/24

Classical Thought: Beccaria and Bentham

Reading:

Chapter 10 in The Handbook of the History and Philosophy of Criminology, edited by Ruth Ann Triplett, John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2018. ProQuest Ebook Central.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=5144712&ppg=223>

Discussion Forum 4:
Classical School

Short Assignment #1 is due

WEEK 5
9/25 to 10/1

Neoclassical Thought: The Rational Choice and Routine Activities

Reading:

Chapter 2: Administrative Criminology. In Tierney, John. Key Perspectives in Criminology, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central,
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635>.

Discussion Forum 5

Quiz 2

WEEK 6
10/2 to 10/8

BioSocial Bases of Criminal Behavior

Readings:

*Chapter 3 in The Handbook of the History and Philosophy of Criminology, edited by Ruth Ann Triplett, John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2018.

Discussion Forum 6

ProQuest Ebook Central,
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=5144712&ppg=78>

*Introduction. In *The Nurture Versus Biosocial Debate in Criminology : On the Origins of Criminal Behavior and Criminality*, edited by Kevin M. Beaver, et al., SAGE Publications, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central,
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=1680058>.

WEEK 7
10/9 to 10/15

Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior

Discussion Forum 7

Reading:

***Chapter 2** in Gadd, David, and Jefferson, Tony. *Psychosocial Criminology*. London: SAGE Publications, 2007. Accessed January 24, 2021. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=370523&ppg=21>

Short Assignment #2 is due

Quiz 3

WEEK 8
10/16 to 10/22

Criminology of W.E.B. DuBois

Discussion Forum 8

Reading:

*Gabbidon, S. L. (2001). W.E.B. Du Bois: Pioneering American Criminologist. *Journal of Black Studies*, 31(5), 581–599

WEEK 9:
10/23 to 10/29

**Theories of Strain and Anomie
Durkheim, Merton and Agnew**

Discussion Forum 9

Reading:

* **Chapter 3: Anomie**. In Tierney, John. *Key Perspectives in Criminology*, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central,
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635>.

Quiz 4

WEEK 10:
10/30 to 11/5

The Social Disorganization Theories

Discussion Forum 10:

Reading:

***Chapter 4: Chicago School**. In Tierney, John. *Key Perspectives in Criminology*, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635>

WEEK 11:
11/6 to 11/12

The Social Learning Theories

Reading:

Chapter 8 in Piquero, Alex R. The Handbook of Criminological Theory, edited by Melissa L. Rorie, John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2015. ProQuest Ebook Central.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=4035968&ppg=254>

Discussion Forum 11

Short Assignment #3 is due

WEEK 12:
11/13 to 11/19

Control Theories

Reading:

***Chapter 6: Control Theories.** In Tierney, John. Key Perspectives in Criminology, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635>

Discussion Forum 12

Quiz 5

WEEK 13:
11/20 to 11/22

Labeling Theory

Reading:

***Chapter 10: Labeling Theory.** In Tierney, John. Key Perspectives in Criminology, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635>

Discussion Forum 13

WEEK 14:
11/27 to 12/3

Critical and Radical Criminology and Feminist Criminology

Readings:

***A Critical Perspective on Violence** by Gregg Barak. In

Advancing Critical Criminology: Theory and Application, edited by Walter S. DeKeseredy, and Barbara Perry, Lexington Books, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=1331606>.

Discussion Forum 14

Short Assignment #4 is due

*Transgressing Criminology Boundaries: Feminist Perspectives in Criminology by MaDonna R. Maidment. Advancing Critical Criminology : Theory and Application, edited by Walter S. DeKeseredy, and Barbara Perry, Lexington Books, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central,
<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=1331606>.

WEEK 15: 12/4 to 12/11	Bringing It All Together: Burning Issues in Criminology Where do we go from here?	Discussion Forum 15 Quiz 6
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FREE BMCC STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s Web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

Gender-Inclusivity

BMCC community members have the right to use and be referred to according to their preferred name, title, and/or personal pronouns. Everyone also has the right to use all spaces according to their self-identification, including restrooms and locker rooms. To learn more about how to change your preferred name and affirm your gender identity at CUNY (including requesting a new ID card and/or email address), go here:

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/> Anyone who has experienced harassment related to gender or sexual identification, who needs assistance, or who wishes to file a complaint, can contact the Office of Compliance and Diversity: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity/>

FREE BMCC STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC)

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/arc/>

Room S230, 212-220-8195, arc@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you are having problems with food or housing insecurity, finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, contact the Advocacy and Resource Center (formerly Single Stop) for assistance. Please contact us at arc@bmcc.cuny.edu, call 212-220-8195, or come by the office at room S230. You may also contact the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220-8130, studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu, for assistance.

Counseling Center

www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling

Room S343, 212-220-8140, counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

Office of Compliance and Diversity <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity>, room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu, or twade@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public safety at 212-220-8080.

Office of Accessibility

www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility

Students who need academic accommodations in connection with a disability must initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA). Students need to register with the Office of Accessibility in order to officially disclose their disability status to the College and to determine eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations (including any prior IEPs or 504s). Please contact the OA at the start of the semester (or as soon as possible) to coordinate any accommodation request/s: www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu.

HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FALL 2023 SEMESTER!