



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The City University of New York

Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department

CRJ 102 - 0502 | Criminology | Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course |

3 Lecture Hours | 3 Credits | Fall 2022 Syllabus

Online Asynchronous

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

Office Hours: Mondays 1 pm -2 pm on [ZOOM](#)

Tuesdays and Thursdays **9:45am to 10:45am** in person (Office N-656 at 199 Chambers)

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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.

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:

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:
2. Go to our course site here:
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 take your exams and submit your written assignments. Your grades will also be 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 Mondays from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm to speak with me. *You can also see me in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:45 am to 10:45 am, in the Main Building, Office N-656.*

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. 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"> • Essay exams and written assignments • Multiple choice exams • Discussion board posts • Research papers

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 • Research papers
Information & Technology Literacy-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board posts

Students will collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research papers
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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 and will not be accepted late. 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 complete your discussion assignments, lesson 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/0VK1FLcPlQk>

2. Exams

Four exams will be given at regular intervals. The four exams will count for 30% of your grade.

Exam Policy: A review document will be provided to all students to assist in preparing for the exams, although the best preparations are through reading and outlining the book chapters, powerpoint presentations, videos and taking notes. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as vignette test questions. Assigned articles and discussion topics will be included in the exam questions.

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:

Exams (1, 2, 3, 4)	40%
Class Participation	20%
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: August 25 th to September 1 st	Course Introduction and Overview	Join OpenLab Review the syllabus Discussion Forum 1: Introductions

<p>WEEK 2: September 6th to September 11th</p>	<p>What Is Crime? What is Criminology?</p> <p>Readings: Bernard, Thomas J. and Mannheim, Hermann. "Criminology". Encyclopedia Britannica, 18 Oct. 2019, https://www.britannica.com/science/criminology</p> <p>*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</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 2: What is Crime?</p>
<p>WEEK 3: September 12th to September 18th</p>	<p>Studying Crime and Crime Trends</p> <p>Readings: *Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer: https://www.fbi.gov/cde</p> <p>*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/</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 3: Are Murder Rates Increasing?</p>
<p>WEEK 4 September 19th to September 25th</p>	<p>Classical Thought: Beccaria and Bentham</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 4: Classical School</p> <p>Short Assignment #1 is due</p>
<p>WEEK 5 September 26th to October 2nd</p>	<p>Neoclassical Thought: The Rational Choice and Routine Activities</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 2: <u>Administrative Criminology</u>. In Tierney, John. Key Perspectives in Criminology, McGraw-Hill Education, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/detail.action?docID=480635.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 5</p> <p>EXAM 1</p>
<p>WEEK 6</p>	<p>BioSocial Bases of Criminal Behavior</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 6</p>

<p>October 3rd to October 9th</p>	<p>Readings: *Chapter 3 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=78</p> <p>*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.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 7</p> <p>Short Assignment #2 is due</p>
<p>WEEK 7 October 11th to October 16th</p>	<p>Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 7</p> <p>Short Assignment #2 is due</p>
<p>WEEK 8 October 17th to October 23rd</p>	<p>Criminology of W.E.B. DuBois</p> <p>Reading: *Gabbidon, S. L. (2001). W.E.B. Du Bois: Pioneering American Criminologist. Journal of Black Studies, 31(5), 581–599</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 8</p>
<p>WEEK 9: October 24th to October 30th</p>	<p>Theories of Strain and Anomie Durkheim, Merton and Agnew</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 9</p> <p>EXAM 2</p>
<p>WEEK 10: October 31st to November 6th</p>	<p>The Social Disorganization Theories</p> <p>Reading:</p>	<p>Discussion Forum 10:</p>

***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:
November 7th to
November 13th

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:
November 14th to
November 20th

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**

EXAM 3

WEEK 13:
November 28th to
December 4th

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:
December 5th to
December 11th

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 December
13th**

*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: December 12th to December 15th	Bringing It All Together: Burning Issues in Criminology Where do we go from here?	Discussion Forum 15 EXAM 4 is due December 15th, 11:59 pm
Finals Week		

VI. HELPFUL INFORMATION

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 HEALTHY FALL 2022 SEMESTER!