

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department

CRJ 102CRJ 102 - 0505 | Criminology | Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course |

3 Lecture Hours | 3 Credits | Fall 2021 Syllabus

Online Asynchronous

Prof. Satenik Margaryan, Ph.D.

Office Hours: T/Th 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Virtual Office: [ZOOM](#)

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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 (Introduction to Sociology)

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: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-102-0505-criminology-professor-satenik-margaryan-fall-2021/>

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: <https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/crj-102-0505-criminology-professor-satenik-margaryan-fall-2021/>
3. Click on “Request Membership” under the image of black and white mug shots.
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 can 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. DISCORD

To create a community and to approximate to live classes where students and professor communicate freely, we will use Discord. You can download and sign up for Discord for free on [desktop](#), [iOS](#), [Android](#), or via your [web browser](#). Our Discord Server is accessed via invitation through this link: <https://discord.gg/s6AUKXWkDm>

IV. 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 T/Th 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm to speak with me.

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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Discussion board posts • Research papers |

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue | |
| <p>Information & Technology Literacy- Students will collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board posts • Research papers |

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 have to attend and actively participate in ZOOM classes, 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/0VK1FLcPIQk>

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 Written 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. In completing these assignments, you will build skills that

will come in handy when the time comes to write the term paper. 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% |
| Written 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 08/29 | Course Introduction and Overview | Review the syllabus, and read the reading assigned for the next class. Discussion Forum 1: Introductions |
| WEEK 2: 08/30 to 09/03 | What Is Crime? What is Criminology? Readings: * Carrabine, Eamonn, et al. Criminology : A Sociological Introduction, Taylor & Francis Group, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=200141&ppg=26 *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 | Discussion Forum 2 |
| WEEK 3: 09/13 to 09/19 | Studying Crime and Crime Trends Readings: *Chapter 2 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=38 *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 |
| WEEK 4: 09/20 to 09/26 | 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. | Discussion Forum 4 Short Assignment #1 is due 9/26, 11:59 pm |

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=5144712&ppg=223>

WEEK 5: Neoclassical Thought: The Rational Choice and Routine Activities **Discussion Forum 5**
09/27 to 10/03 **EXAM 1**

Reading:
Chapter 22 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/detail.action?docID=4035968>.

WEEK 6: BioSocial Bases of Criminal Behavior **Discussion Forum 6**
10/04 to 10/10

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>

*Chapter 19: 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/detail.action?docID=4035968>

WEEK 7: Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior **Discussion Forum 7**
10/12 to 10/17

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 10/17, 11:59 pm

WEEK 8: Criminology of W.E.B. DuBois **Discussion Forum 8**
10/18 to 10/24

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

**Forum 8
Assignment #2 is due 11:59 pm**

WEEK 9: Theories of Strain and Anomie **Discussion Forum 9**
Durkheim, Merton and Agnew

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| 10/25 to 10/31 | Reading: Chapter 11 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=232 | EXAM 2 |
| WEEK 10: 11/01 to 11/07 | The Social Disorganization Theories Reading: Chapter 7 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=143 | Discussion Forum 10: |
| WEEK 11: 11/08 to 11/14 | 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 |
| WEEK 12: 11/15 to 11/21 | Control Theories Reading: Chapter 10 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=205 | Discussion Forum 12 Short Assignment #3 is due 11/21, 11:59 pm |
| WEEK 13: 11/22 to 11/24 | Labeling Theory Reading: Chapter 14 in Piquero, A. R. (2015). The handbook of criminological theory. ProQuest Ebook Central https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/bmcc/reader.action?docID=4035968&ppg=297 | Discussion Forum 13 EXAM 3 |
| WEEK 14: 11/29 to 12/05 | Critical and Radical Criminology and Feminist Criminology Readings: | Discussion Forum 14 |

*Chapter 16 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=327>

*Chapter 15 in 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=316>

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| WEEK 15: 12/06 to 12/13 | Bringing It All Together: Burning Issues in Criminology Where do we go from here? | Discussion Forum 15 Short Assignment #4 is due 12/12, 11:59 pm |
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|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Finals Week: 12/15 to 12/21 | EXAM 4 is on 12/15 |
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VI. HELPFUL INFORMATION

Tired of writing papers on your phone?

Eligible BMCC students can borrow a laptop, iPad, or mobile hot spot. Contact studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu for more information.

Student Distance Learning Information and Services:

<https://sites.google.com/bmcc.cuny.edu/bmccdistanlearning/home>

Tutoring

Tutoring is FREE! Please use your BMCC student email and password to schedule an appointment with a tutor at <https://bmcc.upswing.io/>

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.

Balancing Stress, Life and Academics

Life happens! And sometimes it can make succeeding in your coursework difficult. If you find that you are having a hard time concentrating on your coursework because other issues in your life feel overwhelming, don't hesitate to reach out for assistance. You may talk to me about how your coursework is being affected, and I can refer you to some resources.

You can also go directly to the Counseling Office at BMCC, which is staffed by psychologists and offers free consultations in Room S-343, or call them at (212) 220-8140. You may also email them:

counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. See the [webpage](#) for more information.

You can call, text, or chat online with NYC Well, which offers free mental health support. Visit their [webpage](#), or call 1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355).

Advocacy and Resource Center <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/arc/>, room S230, 212-220-8195, arc@bmcc.cuny.edu. Students can receive assistance to address barriers affecting their abilities to succeed in college. The Advocacy and Resource Center (formerly Single Stop) offers services that include food assistance, finance consultation, health insurance and other services that may address challenges students experience. All of the services that are offered at the Center are FREE! Assistance is also available through the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220-8130, studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Office of Compliance and 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, room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180. The e-mail address to have questions answered and to arrange for academic advisement calls is accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu. This office collaborates with students who have documented disabilities, to

coordinate support services, reasonable accommodations, and programs that enable equal access to education and college life. To request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit or call the office.

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 website, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

HAVE A HEALTHY FALL 2021 SEMESTER!