Course Description
This course offers an overview of the major theories about the causes of crime and deviant behavior. The course includes consideration of theory construction, theory testing, and theoretical integration as they apply to theories of crime causation, and links between these theories and criminal justice policies.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge regarding:
1) the logic and content of the major theories about the causes of crime and deviant behavior;
2) empirical tests of these theories;
3) unresolved problems/issues with these theories and how to examine them empirically; and
4) the links between the theories and criminal justice policies.

Course Requirements
Course requirements are as follows:
1) Write five papers. Each paper should be about five typed, double-spaced pages and will count for 10% of the course grade. In each paper, you will (a) summarize the logic/content of a major theory about the causes of crime and deviant behavior and (b) provide an assessment of the overall predictive accuracy of the theory according to empirical tests. The summary part of the paper should be no more than two pages in length, with the rest of the paper being the assessment. The first paper will be on either deterrence or differential association/social learning theory and will be due on February 10th. The second paper will be on either social control (bonding) or self-control theory and will be due on February 24th. The third paper will be on either situational action or life/course developmental theory and will be due on March 24th. The fourth paper will be on either social disorganization/collective efficacy, anomie/institutional anomie, or general strain theory and will be due on April 7th. The fifth paper will be on either lifestyle/routine activity or labeling/reintegrative shaming theory and will be due on April 21st. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade. The papers should be written in APA format.
2) There will be two examinations that will consist of short-answer questions requiring a thorough understanding of the readings and lecture materials. You will be asked on each examination to define/discuss key concepts (e.g., social disorganization)/principles (e.g.,
principle of differential association) in theories about the causes of crime and deviance. The first will be a take-home examination that will be distributed at the end of class on March 3rd and will be due on March 10th. The first examination will count for 20% of the course grade. The second examination will be comprehensive and count for 30% of the course grade. It will be an in-class examination conducted on April 28.

(3) Class attendance and participation are mandatory.

**Grading**
Five papers, 100 points each
First examination, 100 points
Second examination, 100 points

To compute weighted point total:
(1) Multiply points for each paper by .1 (each paper counts for 10% of course grade).
(2) Multiply points for the first examination by .2 (the first examination counts for 20% of course grade).
(3) Multiply points for the second examination by .3 (the second examination counts for 30% percent of course grade).
(4) Add points from (1), (2), and (3) above.

Conversion of weighted point total to letter grade:
90-100 – A
80-89 - B
70-79 - C
60-69 - D
59 or less – F

**Policies**
I will discuss appropriate accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Before accommodations will be made, you may be required to provide proper documentation.

**Texas State University Honor Code**
As members of a community dedicated to learning, inquiry, and creation, the students, faculty, and administration of our University live by the principles in this Honor Code. These principles require all members of this community to be conscientious, respectful, and honest.

WE ARE CONSCIENTIOUS. We complete our work on time and make every effort to do it right. We come to class and meetings prepared and are willing to demonstrate it. We hold ourselves to doing what is required, embrace rigor, and shun mediocrity, special requests, and excuses.

WE ARE RESPECTFUL. We act civilly toward one another and we cooperate with each other. We will strive to create an environment in which people respect and listen to one another, speaking when appropriate, and permitting other people to participate and express their views.

WE ARE HONEST. We do our own work and are honest with one another in all matters. We understand how various acts of dishonesty, like plagiarizing, falsifying data, and giving or receiving assistance to which one is not entitled, conflict as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.
ADDRESSING ACTS OF DISHONESTY
Students accused of dishonest conduct may have their cases heard by the faculty member. The student may also appeal the faculty member’s decision to the Honor Code Council. Students and faculty will have the option of having an advocate present to insure their rights. Possible actions that may be taken range from exoneration to expulsion.

The policies and procedures regarding Honor Code violations are outlined at http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html.

Required Readings
All required readings are available on TRACS.

Schedule and Required Readings

January 20  Introduction and Metatheory
(3) Mark Stafford and Daniel Mears’ “Causation, Theory, and Policy in the Social Sciences,” in Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, in press.

January 27  Deterrence

February 3  Differential Association/Social Learning
(3) Daniel Ragin’s “Revisiting ‘What They Think,’” Criminology, 2014.
(4) Gregory Zimmerman and Bob Vasquez’s “Decomposing the Peer Effect on Adolescent Substance Use,” Criminology, 2011.

February 10  First Paper Due
February 10  Social Control (Bonding)

February 17  Self-Control

February 24  Second Paper Due

February 24  Situational Action

March 3  Life Course/Developmental

March 3  Take-Home Examination Distributed
March 10  Social Disorganization/Collective Efficacy

March 10  Take-Home Examination Due

SPRING BREAK MARCH 15-22

March 24  Third Paper Due

March 24  Anomie/Institutional Anomie

March 31  General Strain

April 7  Fourth Paper Due

April 7  Lifestyle/Routine Activity
April 14  Labeling/Reintegrative Shaming

April 21  Fifth Paper Due

April 21  Biology
(2) Diana Fishbein’s “Biological Perspectives in Criminology,” *Criminology*, 1990.

April 28  In-Class Examination