CRJS 1123 Crime in America
Spring 2018

Instructor: Sherri Y. Simmons-Horton, LMSW
Section # and CRN: 1123-P03; 24106
Office Location: Don Clark Bldg., Room 331
Office Phone: 936-261-5248
Email Address: ssimonshorton@student.pvamu.edu
Office Hours: MW-9am-Noon and 2pm-4pm; Friday-By appointment only
Mode of Instruction: Face to Face
Course Location: Don Clark Bldg., Room #
Class Days & Times: 

Catalog Description: Credit 3 semester hours. The course requires that students critically examine and analyze crime issues and trends in America. It includes presentations from active practitioners and researchers in the field of criminal justice on the current state of crime in America and an examination of offenders’ rationale for crime. Students will express their ideas effectively through written, oral or visual means. They will compare empirical and quantitative data on typologies of crime, offenders and victims in America. The course addresses cultural and subcultural influences on crime, civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities towards crime prevention.

Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None
Any Criminology or Criminal Justice introductory text.

Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome #</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Examine and analyze critically crime issues and trends in American</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Examine how social, economic and political forces have influenced the definition of and response to crime in America.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examine the typologies of crime, offenders, and victims in America.

Write in clear, correct, and grammatical prose

Discuss and successfully complete assignments that elicit input on cultural influences and civic responsibility and their impact on crime prevention in regional, national and international communities

Cite research correctly according to APA format, but in text and in bibliography

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Class Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Reflection Assignment</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Group project/presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Exam I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Mid-Semester Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Final Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 0%- 59%

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement | Description
--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------
Class Participation                   | Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Class meetings may involve large and/or small group discussions or special projects. Participation in class discussions and/or special projects will be worth 20% of your final grade. Excused absences are based on campus-related activities, and those approved at the instructor’s discretion. Excused absence excuses must be in writing to the instructor by email @ ssimmonshorton@student.pvamu.edu. Included in class participation will be weekly written assignments based on each of the assigned chapters. Students will write a one-page response to one of the critical thinking exercises found at the end of the chapter. This assignment is expected to enhance your knowledge of the material and enhance writing. Weekly assignments are due on Friday’s at 11:30 by email to ssimmonshorton@student.pvamu.edu. These will not be accepted late.

Reflection Assignment                 | Each student will be required to complete a reflection assignment related to course content. The topic will be formulated by the student and approved by the instructor. A reflection paper should not be less than two pages in length (excluding the cover and reference pages), typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. The reflection assignment will make up 10% of your final grade. Penalty for late submission of a reflection paper is a one-point deduction per day off the paper score. Late submissions will not be accepted after final exams.
A detailed rubric will be provided and made available on e-courses. Directions from rubric must be followed in order to have an opportunity for full credit. The final (edited) copy must be uploaded on Turnitin and Taskstream. No hard copies will be accepted.

Final paper is due Saturday, March 31, 2016 by 11:30pm.

**Group Project/Presentation**

Students will be assigned to groups with between 3-5 individuals. The group project will involve students researching and presenting on a criminal justice or juvenile justice issue. All group members are expected to participate in the formulation of the project as well as the presentation. Changing of group members is generally not allowed unless approved by the instructor. A full rubric on instructions for the presentation and project will be provided on e-courses. A presentation schedule will be developed and shared in class and on e-courses. This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

There will be three exams (each worth 20% of the final grade). The second and third are the mid-semester and final exams respectively. Exams will be based on the text, supplemental readings and videos, lecture information, and any other materials provided during the semester. Each exam will comprise restricted response items (multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching) and essay questions. It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams! If, however, a student misses an exam, one make-up exam will be allowed. The makeup exam will cover the same material, but will be a modified version of the original exam. It is the student’s responsibility to request a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be taken prior to a subsequent exam.

**Readings**

It is advisable for students to follow the schedule of reading assignments as set out in the Semester Calendar. Students should complete the reading assignments before coming to class. Apart from facilitating class discussion, this will allow you time to formulate questions for presentation in class. In addition to the required text, the course will utilize video presentations and additional handouts that concern issues pertinent to crime in America. Information from all sources (textbooks, lectures, video presentations, handouts) may be included on course examinations.

**Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies**

**TASKSTREAM:** Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments will be REQUIRED to be submitted as an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in e-Courses.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** This may be given during the semester at the instructor’s discretion. If an extra credit is given, it will be available to every student in the class who qualifies for it.

**ATTENDANCE:** Prairie View A & M University requires regular class attendance. Consequently, students are expected to attend all class sessions promptly and regularly. The instructor will take attendance at some point during each class session. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or an assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class. A student who misses any class session will be responsible for the subject matter discussed during that particular session. Notes missed (from lectures, guest speakers, presentations, etc.) will need to be obtained from a fellow classmate. It will be extremely difficult for you to obtain an acceptable grade in this course if you consistently miss class.

**Department Policy on Mobile Devices and Technology**

It is imperative that instructors be afforded reasonable authority to manage the classroom learning environment. An important component of management of the classroom environment is control of topic and pedagogical method. Empirical data shows that student use of mobile devices and other forms of technology that are not approved by
the instructor for the educational endeavor of interest serve as distractors to student attention. When students attempt to divide their time between paying attention to the classroom topic and/or pedagogical method used by the instructor and the use of a mobile device, the student may miss important course content or details. Unsanctioned use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course. It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible to the student. It is also the policy of the department that unsanctioned student use (use that is not approved of by the instructor of record and/or is unrelated to classroom activities) of mobile devices and/or other technological devices during classroom activity (defined here as activity occurring during the time that class is scheduled to meet) is strictly prohibited. It is within the scope of the instructor's authority to, over the course of the semester, demand that mobile devices and/or other technological devices be turned completely off and stored away. This is a broad policy statement. The instructor of record may and is encouraged to further elaborate his or her own course-specific mobile device policies in writing in the course syllabus. Consequently, cell phone use during exams in this class is strictly prohibited. Having any electronic device on and visible during a closed book examination will lead to an assumption of cheating. However, if there is an urgent need to use a cell phone during any class period not scheduled for testing, you are advised to do so outside (and not inside) the class.

**Food and Drinks:**
No food or drinks are allowed in class per building policy.

**Formatting Documents:**
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, RichText, or plain text format.

**Submission of Assignments:**
Please pay special attention to the submission instructions given for any written assignments, as stated above, as well as the consequences for being late.

**Exam Policy**
Exams should be taken as scheduled. Makeup examinations will be allowed save as stated in this syllabus, i.e. the next exam, if any.

**Important Dates**
Mid-Semester Exam Period – March 8-10
Spring Break – March 19 – 23
Reflection Papers Due March 31
Course Review Day/Last Day of Class – May 01
Final Exam Period – May 2 – 8
Final Grades Due for Graduating Students – May 9
Final Grades Due for All Other Students – May 15
Check the Academic Calendar for all other important dates and deadlines, or ask the course instructor.
Semester Calendar

Week One:
Topic Description
Jan 15-19, 2018
Introduction to the Course
Readings:
Chapter 1.
Assignment (s):
M: NO CLASS; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)
W: Introductions and Review of Syllabus
F: Guest Speaker: Dr. David Rembert, Department Head, Justice Studies

Week Two:
Topic Description
Jan 22-26, 2018
Chapter One- Criminal Justice and Social Control
Readings:
Chapter 1.
Assignment (s):
M: Lecture-Chapter 1
W: Lecture-Chapter 1 (continued)
F: Assignment of groups and group assignment discussion

Week Three:
Topic Description
Jan 29-Feb 2, 2018
Chapter 2-Crime in Society
Readings:
Chapter 2.
Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 2
W:
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 2; Due by email @ 11:30pm

Week Four:
Topic Description
Feb 5-Feb 9, 2018
Chapter 3-Why Has Crime Declined?
Readings:
Chapter 3.
Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 3
W:
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 3; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Five:
Topic Description
Feb 12-16, 2018
Chapter 4-Police in America
Readings:
Chapter 4.
Assignment (s):
M: Lecture on Chapter 4-Police in America
W: Guest Speaker: TBA
F: Exam #1-Online in e-courses; Chapters 1-4, videos, and guest speakers (Do not come to class-take the exam online)
Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 4
W: Prepare of exam #1
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 4; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Six:
Topic Description
Feb 19-23, 2018
Readings:
M: Lecture on Chapter 5-Police Operations
W: Lecture on Chapter 5-(continued)
F: TBA

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 5
W:
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 5; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Seven:
Topic Description
Feb 26-March 2, 2018
Readings:
M: Lecture on Chapter 6-Policing and the Legal Process
W: Guest Speaker: TBA
F: Lecture on Chapter 6 (continued)

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 6
W:
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 6; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Eight:
Topic Description
March 5-9, 2018
Readings:
M: Lecture on Chapter 7-Law and Society; and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ygtX2nyexo
W: Mid-Term Exam Review
F: MID TERM EXAM-NO SCANTRON NEEDED (Covers Chapters 5-7, videos, guest speakers)

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 7
W: Study for mid-term exam
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 7; Due by email @ 11:30 pm (optional)

Week Nine:
Topic Description
March 12-16, 2018
SPRING BREAK (UNIVERSITY CLOSED)

Week Ten:
Topic Description
March 19-23, 2018
Readings:
M: Lecture on Chapter 8-Criminal Prosecution
W: Criminal Prosecution (continued)
F: Guest Speaker: TBA

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapter 8
W:
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 8; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.
Week Eleven:
Topic Description
March 26-30, 2018
Readings: Chapter 9

Assignment(s):
M: Read Chapter 9
W: F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 9; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

FINAL REFLECTION PAPERS DUE SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018 IN TURNITN AND TASKSTREAM

Week Twelve:
Topic Description
April 2-6, 2018
Readings:
Chapter 10

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapters 10
W: F: Weekly critical thinking exercise on Chapter 10; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Thirteen:
Topic Description
April 9-13, 2018
Readings:
Chapters 11 & 13

Assignment (s):
M: Read Chapters 11 & 13
W: Prepare for Group Presentations
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 11 or 13 (one or the other) Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Fourteen:
Topic Description
April 16-20, 2018
Readings:

Assignment(s):
M:
W: F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 12; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.

Week Fifteen:
Topic Description
April 23-27, 2018
Readings: Chapter 14

Assignment(s):
F: Weekly critical thinking exercise-Chapter 14; Due by email @ 11:30 pm.
COURSE REVIEW WEEK

MONDAY: REVIEW FOR FINALS-LAST CLASS DAY

MAY 2-8, 2018 FINAL EXAM PERIOD-REFER TO CAMPUS FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE FOR DATE AND TIME OF FINAL EXAM.
Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library
The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. https://www.pvamu.edu/library/ Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)
The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services
The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing
The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services
As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs
Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563
Office for Student Engagement
The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services
Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures
Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement
Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual
harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University’s attendance policy in each course syllabus. Decisions on excused absences will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Student Academic Appeals Process
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS
Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):
Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:
Students should go to https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/ if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding e-Courses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:
Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.