CRJS 1123 Crime in America  
Spring 2016

Instructor: Joe Ugwu, LL.M, MSCJ, Ph.D.  
Section # and CRN: P01 20002  
Office Location: Don Clark Room 359  
Office Phone: 936-261-5227  
Email Address: jougwu@pvamu.edu  
Office Hours: TR 12:00 noon-12:30 pm and 2:00-5:00 pm  
Mode of Instruction: Face To Face  
Course Location: Don Clark Room 235  
Class Days & Times: TR 12:30 pm-1:50 pm  
Catalog Description: (3-0) 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: 

Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome # Alignment</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Critically examine and analyze crime issues and trends in America</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Examine how social, economic and political forces have influenced the definition and response to crime in America</td>
<td>Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Examine the typologies of crime, offenders and victims in America.</td>
<td>1 Empirical and Quantitative Analyses</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Write in clear, correct, and grammatical prose.</td>
<td>2 Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>1 Social Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cite research correctly according to APA format, both in the text and in the bibliography.</td>
<td>1 Personal Responsibility</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Reflection Assignment</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Exam I</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Mid-Semester Exam</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Final Exam</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</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. Participation in class/these discussions will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**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 20% of your final grade. Penalty for late submission of a reflection paper is a one point deduction per day off the paper score, up to a maximum of five points only. Late submissions will not be accepted after final exams.

The following must be submitted to receive full credit: 1) a slip from the
Writing Center in Hilliard Hall (or from a doctoral tutor) showing that you visited for consultation on improving your writing. 2) a copy of the typed paper that you took to the lab 3) a typed copy of the corrected paper after your lab visit. * The **final (edited) copy must be uploaded on Taskstream. Hard copies of papers are due Thursday March 31, 2016 by Noon.

**Exams**

There will be three exams (each worth 20% of the final grade). The second and third are the mid-semester and final exams respectively, and none of them will be comprehensive. Exams will be based on the text, supplemental readings and videos, lecture information, and any other materials provided during the semester. Any of the exams may be taken at once, or in two or more instalments. Each exam will comprise restricted response items (multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching) and essay questions. There are no set dates for the exams (aside from the final). The instructor will provide exam dates as soon as possible (notice will be given in class and on eCourse at least one week in advance). It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams! If, however, a student misses an exam, the next one will count twice towards the final grade.

**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 may be considered 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 eCourses.

**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, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

**Submission of Assignments:**
Please pay special attention to the submission instructions given for your reflection paper as stated above, as well as the consequences for being late. On the due date, this particular assignment will be submitted within the first 15 minutes of the scheduled class.

**Exam Policy**
Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed save as stated in this syllabus, i.e. the next exam, if any, will count twice towards the final grade.

**Important Dates**
- Mid-Semester Exam Period – March 10 – 12
- Spring Break – March 14 – 19
- Reflection Papers Due March 31
- Course Review Day/Last Day of Class – May 03
- Final Exam Period – May 4 – 10
Final Grades Due for Graduating Students – May 10
Final Grades Due for All Other Students – May 17
Check the Academic Calendar for all other important dates and deadlines, or ask the course instructor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One:</th>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Introductions, syllabus review, text review</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Bohm, et al (2013) Introduction; R: Kappeler Ch. 1; Hagan Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Look through the required text and decide on a topic for your reflection assignment</td>
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<td>Week Two:</td>
<td>Topic Description</td>
<td>Theory and Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Bohm, Ch. 3 &amp; 4 R: Kappeler Ch. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Selection of topics for reflection papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Three:</td>
<td>Topic Description</td>
<td>Measurement &amp; Crime Wave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Prepare for Exam I next week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Four:</td>
<td>Topic Description</td>
<td>The Cause of Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Read Bohm, Ch. 10, 11 &amp; 12 R: Kappeler Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Exam 1 due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five:</td>
<td>Topic Description:</td>
<td>Conventional Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Read Bohm. Chs. 10, 11 R: Bohm Ch. 12.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Report progress of work on reflection paper</td>
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<td>Week Six:</td>
<td>Topic Description:</td>
<td>Corporate Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Read Bohm. Ch. 9; R: Kappeler Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Work on your reflection paper</td>
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<td>Week Seven:</td>
<td>Topic Description:</td>
<td>War on Drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Bohm Chs. 7 &amp; 8 R: Kappeler Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Work on your reflection paper</td>
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<td>Week Eight:</td>
<td>Topic Description</td>
<td>Juvenile Super Predators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>T: Bohm. Ch. 4 R: Kappeler Chap 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment:</td>
<td>Work on your reflection paper</td>
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<td>Week Nine:</td>
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</table>
Week Ten:
**Topic Description:** Law Enforcers
**Readings:**
T: Bohm, Chs. 14 & 17  
R: Bohm Chs. 18 & 19
**Assignment:** Have your reflection paper edited

Week Eleven:
**Topic Description:** The Courts
**Readings:**
T: Bohm Ch. 23  
R: Bohm Ch. 23
**Assignment:** Upload your reflection paper on Taskstream

Week Twelve:
**Topic Description:** Punishment or Correction: Does Punishment Work?
**Readings:**
T: Bohm Ch. 21  
R: Bohm Ch. 22
**Assignment:** Reflection Papers Due (in hard copies)

Week Thirteen:
**Topic Description:** The Myth of Closure and Capital Punishment
**Readings:**
T: Bohm Ch. 24  
R: Bohm Ch. 24
**Assignment:** Watch the video @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9DtjFQnmY

Week Fourteen:
**Topic Description:** The Myth That Correctional Rehabilitation Does Not Work
**Readings:**
T: Bohm Ch. 28  
R: Bohm Ch. 29
**Assignment:** Does Criminal Rehabilitation Work? @ https://youtu.be/Y2Xz_Jg6PoM

Week Fifteen:
**Topic Description:** The Myth That Science Solves Crimes
**Readings:**
T: Bohm Ch. 15  
R: Bohm Ch. 15
**Assignment:** Video on forensic science @ https://youtu.be/QP9IE0XWqw0

Week Sixteen:
**Topic Description:** Final Exam
**Readings:**
**Assignment:**
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.

Center for Academic Support
The Center for Academic Support (CAS) 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 Tutoring Center 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

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

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. Location: Hilliard Hall 121

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook): Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

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.

Attendance Policy
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. 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.

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.

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

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

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 eCourses, 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.

**Discussion Requirement:**
Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.