CRJS 1123 Crime in America  
Spring 2017

Instructor: Shantaé Motley, B.S., M.S.  
Section # and CRN: P01 - 20002  
Office Location: Don Clark Bldg., Room 320  
Office Phone: 936-261-5246  
Email Address: smotley@student.pvamu.edu  
Office Hours: W-10am-Noon; Th-10am-noon; F-By appointment  
Mode of Instruction: Face to Face  
Course Location: Don Clark Bldg., Room 236  
Class Days & Times: T-Th: 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: 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 critical crime issues and trends in America.</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>
<tr>
<td>3 Examine the typologies of crime, offenders, and victims in America.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Empirical and</td>
</tr>
</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>10 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Group Project/Presentations</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Reflection Assignment</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Taskstream Assessment</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Exam I</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Mid-Semester Exam</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) 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>
</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

Attendance/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 **10% of your final grade**. Class participation includes: (1) prompt and regular attendance in class, (2) pop quizzes, (3) objective and respectful participation in class discussions, and any other activities at the discretion of the instructor.

Group Project/Presentations
- Students will be assigned to small groups to research and present on a "hot topic" in criminal justice. The topics will be assigned to each group. Presentations will be a group grade and each group member is expected to equally participate and contribute. Student presentations will be expected to be well-articulated by group members. Professional attire guidelines are as follows:

  **Women:** Dark colored suits - blue, black, gray (skirts or pants); closed toe pumps, stockings (no mesh); no chipped nail polish, nor nails that look like claws, no dangling earrings, no visible tattoos, no visible body piercings besides the ear, no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth, skirts should not be shorter than the span of your arms, nor too tight; no cleavage, hairdo should be neat and not overly creative; minimize the number of accessories.

  **Men:** Dark colored suit – navy or black preferred (no zoot suits); dress shoes and
socks; dress pants (no khaki); white shirt (or other non-bright color shirt – without patterns and well-coordinated with the choice of pants), and a tie; no earring(s); no visible tattoos; no visible body piercings; no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth; hair and face neatly groomed (no braids; no pony tails; flowing locks or dreadlocks need to be neatly pulled back).

Attire is calculated into your presentation grade. You have been given this sheet prior to your presentation date. Therefore, no excuses about attire will be accepted! A full matrix of what is expected will be provided by the instructor. Group presentations will be worth 10% 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 or more than two pages in length (excluding the cover and reference pages), 500 words, typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. The reflection assignment will make up 15% 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.

The following must be submitted to receive full credit: 1) a slip from the Writing Center in Hilliard Hall (or signature and note 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. **Hard copies of papers are due Thursday, March 2, 2017 in class. Must upload on ecourses before 12:30pm Thursday, March 2, 2017.**

**Taskstream Assessment**  
(Communication, Social Responsibility, and Critical Thinking)

This assignment is designed to highlight students’ understanding of social responsibility and criminal justice with the aim of engendering civic engagement. Further details will be provided. This assignment accounts for 10% of the final grade. **Due Thursday, March 30, 2016.**

**Examinations**

**There will be three examinations.** The first examination is worth 15% of your final grade; the second and third are the mid-semester and final exams respectively, and each worth 20% of your final grade. None of the exams will be comprehensive. Exams will be based on the text, supplemental readings and videos, lecture information, and any other materials provided during the semester.

Students will be allowed a makeup exam on the first exam, only after taking the initial exam. The higher of the two grades will be the one added to the final grade matrix. Each exam will comprise restricted response items (multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching) and essay questions. Makeup exams for missed exams will only be allowed for excused absences-documentation is required. The instructor has a right to make the makeup exam all essay. It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams!

**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, guest speakers, and additional handouts that concern issues pertinent to crime in America. Information from all sources (textbooks, lectures, video presentations, guest speakers, and 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. At least one of your assignments is 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 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 distracters 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. Certain use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course.

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. It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during closed book examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible to the student. 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 and an “F” for the test. 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 to limit distractions.

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. Make-up exams will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor, arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the examination date unless there is an emergency.
## Semester Calendar

### Week One:
**Topic Description**: Introductions, syllabus review, text review  
**Description**: Introduction to Crime Myths, Crime Measurement, and Criminals v. Non-Criminals  
**Readings**:  
T: Bohm et al (2013)-Introduction  
Th: Bohm et al (2013)-Chapter 1 & 2  
**Assignment (s)**: Review the required text and select a topic for your reflection assignment.

### Week Two:
**Topic Description**: Rational Choice theory; Violent Juveniles and Adult Criminals  
**Readings**:  
T: Bohm et al (2013) - Ch. 3 & 4  
Th: Bohm et al (2013)-Ch. 5 & 6  
**Assignment (s)**:  
Topic selection for reflection paper  
Assignment of groups

### Week Three:
**Topic Description**: Drug Legalization; Drug Use  
**Readings**:  
T: Bohm et al (2013) Ch. 7 & 8  
Th: Guest Speaker- TBA & Exam Review  
**Assignment (s)**: Prepare for Exam I

### Week Four:
**Topic Description**: White Collar Crime; Gun Control Policies; Exam 1  
**Readings**:  
T: Exam 1  
Th: Bohm et al (2013) Ch. 9 & 10  
**Assignment (s)**: Prepare for Group Presentations & work on both the Reflection Paper & Taskstream Assessment

### Week Five:
**Topic Description**: Myths about Gun Control and Crime  
**Readings**:  
T: Bohm et al (2013)-Ch. 9 & 10  
Th: Bohm et al (2013)-Ch. 11 & 12  
**Assignment (s)**: Work on Reflection Paper-Do not forget to have paper reviewed & Prepare for Group Presentations & Work on Taskstream Assessment

### Week Six:
**Topic Description**: Terrorism; Police & Crime Fighting  
**Readings**:  
T: Bohm et. al (2013)-Ch. 13 & 14  
Th: Bohm et al (2013)-Ch. 15 & 16  
**Assignment (s)**: Work on Reflection Paper & Taskstream Assessment & Prepare for Group Presentations

### Week Seven:
**Topic Description**: Presentations  
**Readings**:  
T: Presentations: Group 1, 2, 3, & 4  
Th: Presentations: Group 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9  
**Assignment (s)**: Reflection Paper is Due March 2, 2017

### Week Eight:
**Topic Description**: Mid-Term Week  
**Readings**:  
T: Remaining Presentations & Mid-Term Review
Week Nine:
Topic Description: Spring Break- Be Safe & Enjoy!
Readings:
Assignment (s): Study and prepare for Mid-Terms

Week Ten:
Topic Description: Police Use of Force; Racial Profiling
Readings:
Assignment (s): Work on Taskstream Assessment

Week Eleven:
Topic Description: Punishment; Imprisonment
Death Penalty; Capital Punishment
Readings:
Assignment (s): Work on Taskstream Assessment

Week Twelve:
Topic Description: Prisons as Country Clubs; Prisons as Self-Supporting
Readings:
Assignment (s):

Week Thirteen:
Topic Description: Privatization of Prisons; Correctional Rehabilitation
Readings:
Assignment (s):

Week Fourteen:
Topic Description: Response to Domestic Violence
Exclusionary Rule
Readings:
Assignment (s):

Week Fifteen:
Topic Description: Special Topics Week
Readings:

Week Sixteen:
Topic Description: Finals Review Week
Readings:
Assignment (s): All notes, videos, and other course information after Mid-Term Exam; Study your review guide

Week Seventeen:
Topic Description: Final Exam Week

Students should check Ecourses frequently to assess grades!

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.

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 WiFi
- High speed internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800 x 600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/ speakers
- Keyboard and 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 (or a program comparable or convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):
Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to others in any online communication. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:
Students should go to https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/ if there are any 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 will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent email messages should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.