



Course Syllabus

Name of Course

CCJ1010 Introduction to Criminology/ CRN 84816 / Fall 2026

Credit Hours/Contact Hours: 3 Credit Hours

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

Name: Brianna Boston
Title: Adjunct
Email: bboston1@gulfcoast.edu
Phone Number: N/A

Office Location: North Bay Campus Room: N/A
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Response Time: 48 hours

Division Chair

Name: Bruce Harber
Title: Chair/Director, Public Safety
Email: bharber@gulfcoast.edu
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Division Administrative Assistant

Name: Elizabeth Kelly
Title: Senior Administrative Assistant
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Course Information

Catalog Description:

This course examines crime and criminals with a particular emphasis on what actions society can or should take regarding crime and criminals. Explains why and how crime occurs and how this knowledge can guide governmental and legislative policy development. Factors that contribute to crime, the social reactions to crime, and the policies presently in place to combine crime will be examined. The focus will be on crime theories and perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Determine the differences between criminology and criminal justice studies.
2. Examine and analyze the factors that contribute to crime and criminal behavior:
 - a. Theories on the causes of crime
 - b. How to address/mitigate crime causing factors
3. Examine the effects of crime:
 - a. Social reaction to crime
 - b. Policies, laws, ordinances to address criminal activity

Course Materials & Resources:

Criminology: The Essentials, Fifth Edition (2024), Sage Publications

Walsh, Anthony, and Jorgensen, Cody

Student Edition: Sage Vantage Learning Platform ISBN:9781071956380

Important Note: Students are required to obtain access to the **Sage Vantage learning platform**. The textbook, course materials, and polls will be delivered through this system. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have access by the end of the first week of class.

Delivery Method:

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas and the Vantage Learning Platform as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Students must have access to a computer and internet service, and should periodically check Canvas for updates – at least every 48 hours.

Note: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams/quizzes with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Sage Vantage Learning Platform, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send occasional reminders via Canvas announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Description
AUG 17-23	1	Ch. 1: An Overview of Crime and Criminology
AUG 24-30	2	Ch. 2: Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

AUG 31-SEP 6	3	Ch. 3: Victimology: Exploring the Experience of Victimization
SEP 7-13	4	Ch. 4: The Early Schools of Criminology
SEP 14-20	5	Ch. 5: Crime as Choice: Rationality, Emotion, and Criminal Behavior
SEP 21-27	6	Ch. 6: Social Structural Theories
SEP 28-OCT 4	7	Ch. 7: Social Process Theories
OCT 5-11	8	Ch. 8: Critical and Feminist Theories
OCT 12-18	9	Ch. 9: Psychosocial Theories: Individual Traits and Criminal Behavior
OCT 19-25	10	Ch. 10: Biosocial Approaches
OCT 26-NOV 1	11	Ch. 11: Developmental Theories: Delinquency to Crime to Desistance
NOV 2-8	12	Ch. 12: Crimes of Violence
NOV 9-15	13	Ch. 13: Terrorism
NOV 16-22	14	Ch. 14: Property Crime
NOV 23-29	15	Ch. 15: Public Order Crime
NOV 30-DEC 3	16	Ch. 16: White-Collar Crime and Ch. 17: Organized Crime
DEC 4-11	17	FINAL EXAM – DECEMBER 10

Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 0-59

Calculation of Grades

The instructor will calculate grades based on the following weights/points. Please read each assignment in its entirety and ensure you answer all parts of the assignment by its due date.

Quizzes:

There are 17 quizzes, one for each class chapter. Each quiz is worth 10 points. (Total of 170 pts.) Students will have two attempts on the first quiz only, one attempt on quizzes 2-17.

Presentation Project:

There is a research presentation project worth 75 points, and 2 additional related assignments worth 12.5 points each (total of 25 points.) The assignment total is 100 pts.

Writing Assignments/Weekly Discussions:

There are 17 critical thinking question writing exercises of the instructor's choosing. Writing assignments are due each week – see due dates in the modules. Students will write a 200-word response that fully explains the topic discussed in the question. Each quiz is worth 10 points. To receive full credit/10 points, the student's post must reference classroom discussion/slides, the textbook, or a classmate's post. Students are NOT required to respond to other students' posts, but may do so if they choose.

One point will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. (Total of 170 pts.)

Final Exam:

The comprehensive final exam will consist of 50 questions covered throughout the course.
(Total of 100 pts.)

Course Total: 540 pts.

Final Grade:

A = 540-486 points; B = 485-432 points; C = 431-378 points; D = 377-323 points; F = 322-0 points

Make-Up Work Policy:

Students are expected to complete all examinations, assignments, and coursework by the scheduled due dates. Make-up work may be permitted only for excused absences due to illness, emergency, or other circumstances approved by the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor and arrange for completion of missed work within the timeframe established by the course instructor. Failure to complete make-up work by the designated deadline may result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment or examination.

Incomplete Grades

An Incomplete ("I") grade may be assigned only in cases of documented illness, emergency, or other extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing course requirements. Approval is at the discretion of the instructor and EMS Program Coordinator. All remaining coursework must be completed within the timeframe established by Gulf Coast State College; otherwise, the Incomplete grade will convert to the appropriate final grade based on work completed.

Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI): See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure: Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

The preceding paragraph about AI use is for this course only. Check with your other instructor(s) for their course-specific policy on the use of Generative AI.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.

- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.