



## CRIM 2015 FDE: Criminological Theory Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Brian Krupp

Office: OA 3021

Meetings: by appointment only

Email: [dbkrupp@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dbkrupp@lakeheadu.ca) (do not message me through myCourseLink)

Course location: online

Course times: N/A

Course website: available on myCourseLink. (Please ensure that you have full access to the course site. If you do not, contact [mycourselink@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:mycourselink@lakeheadu.ca) for help.)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (on the course website).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As is implied by the name, you will learn about historical and contemporary theories of criminal behaviour in this course. This will require you to understand the basic elements of a variety of criminological theories, including their causal structure, as well as the hypotheses and predictions that can be drawn from them. You will also learn about empirical tests of these theories.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a student in this course, you will learn to articulate some of the broad principles of social scientific inquiry, such as theory development, hypothesis generation, and empirical prediction. Furthermore, you will develop the skills to list and describe the major theoretical perspectives in criminology, apply these theories to practical problems in the field, and to think critically about the place of theory in research. In this way, you will develop a deeper appreciation for the criminological enterprise as a whole, and of the diversity and value of theoretical perspectives in particular.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Students are responsible for reading the following items, in keeping with the schedule at the end of this document:

Akers, R. L., Sellers, C. S., & Jennings, W. G. (2017). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application* (7th Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Krupp, D. B. (2019). *The biology of crime*. Available on myCourseLink.

## LECTURES

Lectures for each topic will be released and posted on the course website *after* each quiz has been submitted (see below). Note that you will be tested on content drawn from both the lectures and the readings.

## EVALUATION

First, students will be required to complete the online Academic Writing and Research E-learning (**AWARE**) course. Students will then be evaluated on the basis of: (1) **ten equally weighted short-answer quizzes, worth 70% in total**; and (2) **one final exam, worth 30%**. Here is a summary of each evaluation component:

### 1. AWARE course

You will first be required to successfully complete and upload **all seven** of the certificates for the AWARE course. **This is mandatory**. Its purpose is to ensure that you know how to write and conduct research with integrity. Until you have successfully completed the AWARE course, you will be given a grade of 0% (zero) on all tests. You must upload your certificates of completion to the appropriate folder under the “Assignments” tab in myCourseLink by 11:59pm on **September 20**.

You can find the AWARE course on myCourseLink. Simply go to the home screen (where all of your courses are listed), and click on the “Self-Registration: Academic Support and Training” link on the right. From there, you will see the AWARE course listed in a table, with an option to enroll on the right. Click this link and complete each of the modules and every quiz (there are nine quizzes in total). To earn the certificates, **you must score at least 90% on each quiz**. Note that this course may take up to 6 hours to complete, so schedule your time accordingly.

### 2. Quizzes

**Quizzes are due each week on Monday by 11:59pm**, but you can write them sooner if you prefer. Failure to complete a quiz by the deadline will lead to a grade of 0% (zero) on that quiz. **There are no “make-up” tests**. If you are unable to complete a quiz for reasons beyond your control, or if you are facing difficulties that put your success in this course at risk, please inform me immediately. Given sufficient notice and appropriate documentation, I may be able to re-weight your final exam—entirely at my discretion.

All quizzes are **open-book**, but they are **timed** and you must **provide all of your answers in your own words**. I will give you a set of preparation quiz questions in advance, and select some of these questions for each quiz. Using the set of preparation questions, you should prepare for the quizzes by reading through each assigned chapter

and lecture and typing your answers to the questions as you go. Save your typed answers in an organized file so that, once you begin a quiz, you can simply copy and paste these answers from your notes to respond to each quiz question. Again, however, you must use your own words: **do not copy from other sources**, such as the lectures, the readings, or other students. Copying your answers will lead to a charge of academic dishonesty which, *at a minimum*, will result in a grade of 0% on the relevant test and a note in your file if upheld (see the Academic Integrity section below).

The quizzes are **cumulative**, meaning that they will require you to discuss content from the current week's reading, but may also ask you to discuss content from previous weeks' readings, too. In other words, you should be ready to answer questions from previous weeks' preparation questions, so keep all of your prepared answers together if possible.

### 3. Final exam

Like the quizzes, the final exam will be cumulative and will be administered on myCourseLink. However, the final exam will take place at a specific date and time, to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the period of December 10 to December 20, with a contingency date of December 21. **You are strongly advised not to plan any commitments, such as travel or work, during this period of time.** It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and write the exam on the designated date and time. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Note that I reserve the right to adjust final grades up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the student's total performance in the course.

### **GRADING SCALE**

The official Lakehead University grading scale is as follows: A+ = 90-100%, A = 80-89%, B = 70-79%, C = 60-69%, D = 50-59%, E Failed = 40-49%, F Failed = 1-39%, F Academic Dishonesty = 0%.

### **STUDENT COURTESY**

With regard to online discussion, students are expected to be respectful, open-minded, and to use good judgement. It ought to be clear from the outset that critical comments and questions should strive to be collegial and constructive, at a minimum.

### **SCHEDULE DELAYS**

While we will try to keep to the schedule below, it may be subject to some adjustment.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to know the University Regulations and, in particular, to heed the Student Code of Conduct on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct/academic-integrity/node/51239>

Plagiarism and cheating on tests and assignments are serious offenses. Nevertheless, every year I discover acts of academic dishonesty—some committed on purpose and others by accident. The consequences, however, are the same: I *will* report any case of suspected academic dishonesty, as I am obligated to do, and **a grade of zero at a minimum** will be assigned to the work. If, after reading the Student Code of Conduct linked above, you are still unsure whether you may be plagiarizing or committing an act of academic dishonesty, contact me to ask.

## COURSE DROP DEADLINE

Please be aware that the deadline to drop this course is **November 6**.

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make use of those accommodations. I am here to assist you, but I need your help in ensuring that you are properly accommodated. More generally, Lakehead University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinates services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, do not hesitate to ask for help. Email me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

**The Student Success Centre** has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, cooperative opportunities, and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

**The Lakehead University Library** provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online (via chat) and in person. More details are available here: <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

**Public Computer Labs** are available on campus, where you may write and print out your work. For more details, go to: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

**Student Life and Services** offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

**The Office of Human Rights and Equity:** You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.

## SCHEDULE

Required readings are identified in **boldface**.

Week	Activity	Test
September 8–13	Introduction to Criminological Theory <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 1</b>	
September 14–20	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 2</b>	AWARE course
September 21–27	Biological Theories <b>Krupp (2019)</b> , on the course site	Quiz 1
September 28– October 4	Psychological Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 4</b>	Quiz 2
October 5–11	Social Learning Theory <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 5</b>	Quiz 3
October 12–18	Fall Break: no lecture, quiz, or reading	--
October 19–25	Social Bonding and Control Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 6</b>	Quiz 4
October 26– November 1	Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 7</b>	Quiz 5
November 2–8	Social Disorganization Theory <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 8</b>	Quiz 6
November 9–15	Anomie and Strain Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 9</b>	Quiz 7
November 16–22	Conflict Theory <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 10</b>	Quiz 8
November 23–29	Developmental and Life-Course Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 14</b>	Quiz 9
November 30– December 6	Integrating Criminological Theories <b>Akers et al. (2017) chapter 15</b>	Quiz 10