



# Independent Study | in Idaho

CRIM 301  
CRIMINOLOGICAL  
THEORY

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The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with  
Boise State University — Idaho State University — Lewis-Clark State College

# Course Guide

Independent  
Study | in Idaho

*Self-paced study. Anytime. Anywhere!*

## **Criminology 301 Criminological Theory**

University of Idaho  
3 Semester-Hour Credits

**Prepared by:**

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## **CRIM 301: Criminological Theory 3 Semester-Hour Credits: U of I**

### **Welcome!**

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about assignments, exams, and grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

### **Policies and Procedures**

Refer to the ISI website at [www.uidaho.edu/isi](http://www.uidaho.edu/isi) and select *Students* for the most current policies and procedures, including information on setting up accounts, student confidentiality, exams, proctors, transcripts, course exchanges, refunds, academic integrity, library resources, and disability support and other services.

### **Course Description**

Review and assessment of common explanations of crime, deviant behavior and control. May include field trips. Prerequisite: CRIM 101

*12 graded assignments, 2 self-study practice exams, 2 proctored exams  
Available online only.*

Students may submit up to 2 assignments per week. Before taking exams, students MUST wait for grades and feedback on assignments, which may take up to three weeks after date of receipt by the instructor.

ALL assignments and exams must be submitted to receive a final grade for the course.

### **Course Materials**

#### **Required Course Materials**

Vito, Gennaro F., and Jeffrey R. Maahs. *Criminology: Theory, Research, and Policy, 5<sup>th</sup> edition*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2020. ISBN 9781284181784

Paternoster, Raymond, and Ronet Bachman. (2001). *Explaining Criminals and Crime*. Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN 9780195329933

### **Course Delivery**

All ISI courses are delivered through Canvas, an online management system that hosts the course lessons and assignments and other items that are essential to the course. Upon registration, the student will receive a *Registration Confirmation Email* with information on how to access ISI courses online.

### **Course Introduction**

This course will provide an introduction to the theories of criminal and deviant behavior. Criminological theories have a fascinating and often-times disturbing history that can be traced back to the Middle Ages and the Age of Enlightenment. Over the centuries, they have evolved and become a key guiding force in contemporary criminal justice system policy and practice. This course will cover the historical

development of criminological theories, their basic premises and key concepts, and their application in today's world.

For each section of the course, you will be required to write short essays that are informed by the course textbooks and the material presented in the course guide. You will also be required to complete two non-cumulative multiple choice exams that will test your understanding of the subject matter covered in the course. Enjoy the class!

## **Course Objectives**

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- Learning and integration: students will gain an understanding of the history and development of criminological thought and how it has shaped policy and practice over time. Students should be able to apply and critique theoretical explanations for criminal and deviant behavior.
- Thinking and creating: students will comprehend the logic of theoretical undertakings and will be able to apply that logic to typical and non-typical behaviors, redefining their understanding of human motivation and action.
- Communication: students will articulate and convey the meaning of theory in historical and contemporary contexts across a spectrum of behaviors.
- Perspective: students will explore their own perspectives about crime and deviance in order to better understand the root causes of atypical behavior.
- Practicing citizenship: students will apply principles of empathic and informed objectivity in order to understand and respect the many factors that contribute to offending behavior.

## **Lessons**

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### **Overview**

Each lesson includes lesson objectives, an introductory lecture, and a reading and writing assignment. Each written assignment is worth 10 points and consists of three essays. All answers are to be written in essay form using complete sentences. Students should write in their own words when referencing authorities and all quotations must include complete citations of the work from which they are taken. Do not copy from the textbook or any other book.

Each lesson may include the following components:

- Lesson objectives
- Reading assignments
- Important terms
- Lecture
- Written assignment

### **Study Hints:**

- Keep a copy of every assignment submitted.
- Complete all reading assignments.
- Set a schedule allowing for course completion one month before your personal deadline. An *Assignment Submission Log* is provided for this purpose.
- Web pages and URL links in the World Wide Web are continuously changing. Contact your instructor if you find a broken Web page or URL.
- The assigned readings must be read thoroughly and completely. The exams will be based on material covered in your textbooks and the course guide.

- Please note that the Paternoster and Bachman textbook assigned for this course has subchapters within each chapter (there will be an introductory subchapter followed by one or more essays). You are expected to read all of the subchapters and essay in each assigned chapter.
- Follow the essay guidelines carefully. The written assignments comprise 50% of your final grade.

### **Essay Guidelines**

Essays are evaluated on a number of factors. The best essays will directly address the topic being discussed, will incorporate the relevant material and, when appropriate, will demonstrate critical thought.

**Font and spacing:** Please use Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and double spacing.

**Page Heading and numbering:** Each essay must include page numbering and a heading in the upper right hand corner that includes:

First and last name  
Date of submission  
CRIM 301  
Lesson number

**Essay length:** There is no set length for the essays, but your essay should be long enough to fully address the essay prompt/question. This will most likely result in lesson submissions that are 2-3 pages in length (each lesson submission is comprised of three essays). Given that there is no in-class component to this course and, therefore, no opportunity to discuss the material as a group, your essays should demonstrate that you understand the material. Make sure to provide enough content in your essays to meet this expectation.

Please ensure that your essay is written using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If your essay is difficult to read, it will be difficult to grade. Plagiarism will absolutely not be tolerated. If you are uncertain of what constitutes plagiarism, see the Student Code of Conduct policy at [www.webs.uidaho.edu/fsh](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/fsh), the Faculty-Staff Handbook, Chapter 2: Student Affairs Policies, Student Code of Conduct, 2300, Article II, Academic Honesty.

Refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas for further details on assignment requirements and submission.

### **Exams**

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- You must wait for grades and comments on assignments before taking subsequent exams.
- Exams are closed-book. You will not be allowed to consult your textbooks or the course guide while taking the exam.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas.

Refer to *Grading* for specific information on assignment/exam points and percentages.

### **Proctor Selection/Scheduling Exams**

All exams require a proctor.

To submit your *Proctor Information Form* online, visit the ISI website and select *Forms, Proctor Information Form*. Submit this form at least two weeks before your first exam. Refer to *Students, Assignments and Exams* on the ISI website for information on acceptable and unacceptable proctors.

## **Grading**

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The course grade will be based upon the following considerations:

Twelve lessons

Two exams

Twelve lessons	(10 points each)	50% of final grade =	120
Exam 1	(60 points)	25% of final grade =	60
Exam 2	(60 points)	25% of final grade =	60
			240 total possible points

Final Grade	Points Earned	Percentage Earned
A	216-240	90-100%
B	192-215	80-89%
C	168-191	70-79%
D	144-167	60-69%
F	0-143	Below 60%

**Exams:** There are two exams in this course, each worth 60 points or 25% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of 40 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point each) and four short answer questions (worth five points each).

**Practice exams:** Two practice exams are provided; one for exam 1 and one for exam 2. The answer key is located at the back of this course guide.

The final course grade is issued after all assignments and exams have been graded.

Acts of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, are considered a very serious transgression and may result in a grade of F for the course.

## **About the Course Developer**

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Omi Hodwitz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Idaho. She received her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland in 2015. Dr. Hodwitz's research interests include terrorism studies, theory construction and application, prison education, and research methods.

## **Contacting Your Instructor**

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Instructor contact information is posted on your Canvas site under *Course Rules*.

### Assignment Submission Log Template

Send the completed *Proctor Information Form* to the ISI office at least two weeks before taking your first exam.

Lesson	Projected Date for Completion	Date Submitted	Grade Received	Cumulative Point Totals
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 1.</b>				
<b>Exam 1</b>				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
<b>It is time to make arrangements with your proctor to take Exam 2.</b>				
<b>Exam 2</b>				