



**SYLLABUS
CRIM 3330
COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES IN CRIME
FALL 2025**

Instructor: Michelle Willingham
Email: mwilling@tamusa.edu
Class Hours: N/A
Classroom: online
Office Hours: email my jaguar email to coordinate

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

American cities are places where predatory crimes disproportionately occur. The cost of living in lower economic neighborhoods is that street crimes exist closely enough to foster fear and potentially impose a life changing harm. What happens within the confines of the “slums” can affect the quality of life in an entire metropolitan area. Do people avoid a certain area of a city? Perhaps the downtown area because it is known for high drug activity? Shootings? Is the city known for something prideful or is it a decaying symbol for the decline of a whole region?

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course has the following learning objectives and expected outcomes:

1. Seven major images that have shaped the development of theory, research, and policy in the area of communities and crime.
2. Understand theories that lead to explanations for why differences in communities are so enduring.
3. Learn about neighborhood processes.
4. Why some communities experience higher crime rates than others.

C. TEXTBOOK

Required Textbook

Communities and Crime: An Enduring American Challenge
Pamela Wilcox, Francis T. Cullen & Ben Feldmeyer ISBN 978-1-1-59213-974-3

D. GRADING

Grades are based on weight! Midterm and final are worth 40% of your overall grade. The research paper is worth 30% and the discussions are worth 30%. Each of these categories added provide a total which is your final grade. Missing assignments will have a bigger impact than you think!

Grading Scale

90-99 (A)

80-89 (B)

75-79 (C)

70-74 (D)

69 and below (F)

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE.

This Course Utilizes Blackboard!

You will be expected to utilize Blackboard for this course. The instructor will inform you as to what assignments will be conducted through Blackboard and the respective due dates. In addition, grades, announcements, and key documents will be posted here. If you have a question about access to Blackboard, please contact the instructor via email or call the Help Desk!

ASSESSMENT

Research Paper. There will be **one** writing assignment in this course. Instructions and due date will be available on Blackboard. **The highest grade you can receive on the writing assignment is a one hundred (100).**

Exams. There will also be two exams; a midterm exam and a final exam. Each will consist of multiple choice questions. **The highest grade you can receive on each exam is a one hundred (100).**

Discussions. There will also be weekly discussions, which will be posted on Blackboard. **The highest grade you can receive on each discussion is a one hundred (100).** You must answer the discussion completely and respond to at least two other posts. “Good job” is NOT a response. A good response is one that includes your thoughts about the person’s post. Do not expect full points for minimum effort. All discussions open on Mondays midnight. Your initial post is due each Thursday at 1159pm and responses are due Sunday at 1159. This is one full week.

Assessing your performance in this class is based on several factors. One is how well you write your answers. Clear, concise answers are expected. You are also expected to integrate material from the textbook and outside sources into your written work wherever relevant. Misspelled words and grammatical errors should be corrected before submitting your work. Also, you should demonstrate the capability to think clearly about the answers you post. These should be well-thought out in advance.

Your final grade is an indication of the amount of information you have learned in this course, as well as the amount of dedication you have given. **There are no make ups in this course; this includes discussions, exams, and one paper.** Every assignment has a **DUE DATE**. Failure to observe a given due date for ANY assignment means a zero ("0") grade for that assignment once the due date has passed.

You will be given feedback during the course. This feedback is intended to enable you to improve your answers on future tests and in your written work. Please take these comments and

suggestions seriously because your learning is essential to your progress in the course as well as in the university. This course is not just about learning new material. You are interacting with other students as well throughout the course, primarily through the discussion board and the on-line forum. It is through this medium that you can communicate your thoughts to other students. This site also has a mail box where you may contact me or any other student, if you choose. All mail submitted to me will be answered. Good luck in your course completion!

Attendance- I will be checking attendance based on your participation. Students INACTIVE risk being dropped from course. It is imperative that you are actively participating as early as class begins and each week. I am also required to submit a census report.

LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS (DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Lesson 1, Week Aug 25	Introduction Criminological Thought
Lesson 2, Week Sept 1	Social Disorganization
Lesson 3, Week Sept 8	Social Disorganization Continued
Lesson 4, Week Sept 15	Community as a System
Lesson 5, Week Sept 22	Community as the Truly Disadvantaged
Lesson 6, Week Sept 29	Community as the Truly Disadvantaged; Racial-Spatial Divide
Lesson 7, Week Oct 6	Community as a Criminal Culture

MIDTERM: October 6 THIS IS A MONDAY 9AM-11AM

Covers First Half of Semester

Lesson 8, Week Oct 13	Community as a Broken Window
Lesson 9, Week Oct 20	Community as a Broken Window; Do the Police Reduce Crime?
Lesson 10, Week Oct 27	Community as Criminal Opportunity
Lesson 11, Week Nov 3	Community as Criminal Opportunity; Cross Level Interactions
Lesson 12, Week Nov 10	Community as Collective Efficacy
Lesson 13, Week Nov 17	Community as Collective Efficacy and the Immigrant Paradox
Lesson 14, Week Nov 24	Communities and Crime; Looking Ahead

RESEARCH PAPER: Nov 30 1159pm

FINAL EXAM: Dec 8 THIS IS A MONDAY 9am-11am

Last Half of Semester

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the

provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any

student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.

- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are

required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.