

The University of New Mexico—Valencia

Syllabus for CJUS 1170/Introduction to Criminology

Introduction:

Hi, I'm Linda Silber, and I'll be your instructor this term. Welcome to Introduction to Criminology! I enjoy teaching this online class; it's interesting and fun, and it's also exciting because a lot of the material is new for people. I also enjoy the different students in the class, both majors and non-majors alike, as it gives the class a lot of variety and energy. I hope you will enjoy taking the class with me. 😊 Also, feel free to call me Linda or Dr. Silber, whichever is most comfortable for you.

How to reach me:

Cell phone: (505) 227-1136

This is my cell phone number. Feel free to call me between 9 a.m.-9 p.m. any day of the week. I will get back to you as soon as possible and no longer than 24 hours. Just to be clear: I don't text!

Email: lsilber1956@unm.edu

I'm available by email every day of the week, but I have a slower turnaround time on the weekend.

Student Hours:

My student hours are from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Zoom on Tuesdays and I am happy to meet with you over Zoom at other times. The student hours are optional.

Brief check-in:

The optional brief check-in is from 5:00-5:15 p.m. on Zoom on Thursdays. You can also do a brief check-in with me via email or over the phone if you can't make the Zoom meeting.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As a class, we will examine explanations for both deviant and criminal behavior. Topics will include the foundations of crime; general characteristics of crime, criminals, and victims; various theories of criminology, both early and modern (and there are a lot!); how crime is measured; and various typologies of crime, including violent crime, white-collar crime, and organized crime, among others. We will also discuss how our understanding of crime and delinquency connects to criminal justice policy. Finally, I expect people to have a point of view about what they are studying and writing about, and that's fine. It would be strange if you did not! I recognize that criminology is a sensitive topic, so I ask you to keep an open mind.

FYI: This is a fully online class. The class operates on a schedule with deadlines, just as with face-to-face classes. And it will go fast since it's only eight weeks! If you miss assignments, you will fall behind. 😊 If you don't have time to devote to the class, consider taking it in the regular semester since this class is essentially "double time." I also know that "life happens." If something has thrown you off and you need an extra day or two to turn in an assignment, let me know by the due date. I am happy to accommodate late work once or twice a semester.

Each week I will send out an email on Sunday to let you know what's up for the week, and I will also post the email in the weekly module. I will also post a short video. Please be aware that you will only be able to see one module (week) at a time. I don't open all the modules because I am still working on them.

Also, in addition to student hours (otherwise known as office hours!), I'm offering a 15-minute virtual check-in every week, which you will get a small amount of credit for. It is OPTIONAL but helpful! **Also, you can do a check-in over the phone or via email if the virtual meeting doesn't work.**

I am a sociologist by training, and I have taught criminal justice classes on a regular basis since 2015. It's always fun to interact with students about the course material, which can be both interesting and disturbing. YIKES!

Prerequisites: Students must meet prerequisites in English and mathematics by achievement of minimum placement scores on the Accuplacer or ACT or through completion of course work. However, there are no CJUS prerequisites for taking the class.

Required textbook:

Barkan (2023). *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*. 8th edition. Pearson.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CANNOT DO WELL IN THE CLASS WITHOUT READING THE TEXTBOOK SINCE THE WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS ARE BASED ON ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXTBOOK. I WILL POST THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS OF THE TEXT IN THE WEEK 1 MODULE, BUT AFTER THAT YOU NEED THE TEXTBOOK.

Also, I have placed the book on reserve in the UNM Valencia library if you are desperate.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes (Thank you, Sarah Morrison):

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

1. Understand the historical development of criminology.
2. Evaluate and identify the assumptions of various criminological theories.
3. Understand the research methods that are used to generate data and theories.
4. Communicate an understanding of criminological theories.
5. Apply theories of criminology to crime problems in New Mexico.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Weekly papers

Everyone completes **seven out of eight of the weekly papers**, each of which should be two-three pages, typed double-spaced. **You decide which week to skip based on your schedule.** Each of the weekly papers is worth 20 points. I will post the questions for the papers on Canvas. The weekly papers are due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Please note that these papers are super important for the basis of your learning as there are no tests or quizzes. Also, do you struggle with writing? If so, the Tutoring Center is available both virtually and in-person.

My expectation is that you will use our text and only our text as you answer the weekly questions. The real focus in this class is for you to show understanding of our textbook, which I chose because I think it's great. This means utilizing and citing our text, rather than using outside sources. If you use other sources, it will affect your grade negatively. 😞

2. Short response papers

Everyone completes **four out of five short response papers** over the course of the semester. **You decide which week to skip based on your schedule.** These papers should be one-two pages, typed double-spaced. For each assignment, you read several articles or view media that are connected to the topic we're studying, then write a short 1–2-page response to it. Each short response paper is worth 15 points and is due Sunday night by 11:59 p.m.

3. Discussion board

Students participate in four out of five online discussion boards in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. **You decide which week to skip.** The discussion board is an opportunity to discuss one specific “What would you do?” question from the text with other students and get their ideas and insights. Each week I will choose which questions for students to answer. The questions are located at the end of each chapter. The initial post should be between 100-200 words. Each student also responds to two other student posts. Each of the two responses to other students should be between 50-100 words in length.

Please note that the initial posts and responses to other students have two different due dates. The initial post is due Friday night, while the responses to other students are due Sunday night by 11:59 p.m.

IF THE POSTS TO OTHER STUDENTS ARE LATE, YOU WON'T GET CREDIT SINCE THE POINT IS TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. The discussion boards are worth a possible total of 20 points each. That's quite a bit!

4. Reflection paper

Everyone completes a reflection paper in which they apply a particular aspect of criminology theory to their own life, the life of someone you are close to, or a prominent criminal case. Also, white-collar crime is fair game as well as behavior you engaged in as a juvenile which would be considered a status offense. The paper should be four-five pages, typed double-spaced. Please note that this is not a research paper; it is an application paper in which you apply criminological theory to a specific case. Any of the theory chapters (chapters 5-9) are fair game, and you can also use more than one theory if you feel that several apply. **Do NOT do outside research.**

The first draft is worth a possible total of 20 points, while the final draft is worth a possible total of 50 points. There are reflection paper samples on our website as well as guidelines. The first draft of the paper is due December 7th by 11:59 p.m. while the final draft is due December 13th by 11:59 p.m.

5. Weekly check-ins

Participate in an **OPTIONAL** weekly check-in via Zoom for 15 minutes for 2 extra credit points per week. The purpose of the check-in is to make sure that your questions and concerns about the course are addressed, and to help build community in the class. *** This will count as extra credit, so you will not see any points in Canvas, and I will add the points manually each week. * Also, if you don't have time for the Zoom meeting, we can check-in over the phone or via email.**

Also, the first week of the class I am traveling, so I can only communicate via email.

Paper formatting:

All writing assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced in a 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Also, papers must be submitted to Canvas in either a Word document or a PDF. Google Docs are not compatible.

GRADING

Grading will generally conform to the following:

140 POINTS WEEKLY PAPERS (7 @ 20 points each)
60 POINTS SHORT RESPONSE PAPERS (4 @ 15 points each)
80 POINTS DISCUSSION BOARD (4 @ 20 points each)
20 POINTS DRAFT OF THE REFLECTION PAPER
50 POINTS REFLECTION PAPER
10 POINTS INTRODUCTION
5 POINTS SYLLABUS QUESTIONS
5 POINTS MID-SEMESTER SURVEY
5 POINTS STUDENT EVALUATION

375 POINTS TOTAL

Grade	Percent	Points
A	100-90	375-338
B	89-80	337-300
C	79-70	299-263
D	69-60	262-222
F	59% and below	221 and below

Grades will be posted in the Canvas gradebook throughout the term. This allows you to see where you stand at any time. Please do not wait until the last week of class to ask about how you are doing, or how to improve because then it's too late, unfortunately.

Attendance and Participation Policy

• Attendance and overall participation will be measured by how often (and whether) you are on Canvas. I want to stress that everyone submits assignments on a schedule; it is not a class in which you can turn in all the work in the last week. That would be an impossible workload for anyone! Also, I totally understand that “life happens” from time to time. Send me an email if you need a one- or two-day extension. However, this should not be something that happens on a weekly basis.

• **Students who miss the first two weeks of class, which include several assignments per week, may be dropped from the course. If you fall behind it can be hard to catch up since the course is only 8 weeks! YIKES!!!!**

Late Work Policy (thanks to Fabiola Torres and Sarah Morrison)

You should plan to submit your work on time, but if you are unable, late work will be accepted with a penalty of 10% deduction for the first week, 20% for the second week, and after that, I won't accept the assignment. The deadlines are designed to help you stay on track as I know that can be an issue with online classes and people's complicated lives.

HOWEVER! If you experience a medical emergency, family situation, or other serious event, please let me know as soon as possible and then we can talk about a solution.

Academic Integrity

Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy:

<https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>. The policy states:

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as:

"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Course Communications

Please communicate with me using your UNM email address rather than other email addresses. My email address is lsilber1956@unm.edu. You can expect a response from me within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends to course messages, email messages, or phone calls. When you receive a communication from me, you should attempt to reply within 48 hours. You can also call me on my cell phone at (505) 227-1136 between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day of the week but I don't text. On weekends and holidays, I will get back to you within 48 hours, and during the week I will get back to you within 24 hours. I have noticed that Canvas email can be slow. If you want a quicker response from me, email my UNM email address: lsilber1956@unm.edu.

My goal is to grade your work within several days so that you get feedback on a regular basis. I may sometimes fall short of this goal, but it is important to me so I will try my best. Generally, I don't email about grades, but I am happy to talk about them in a Zoom meeting or over the phone.

Technical Needs

All files must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document so that I can read it within Canvas. You need to make sure that you have submitted the files correctly. If not, you will receive a zero for the assignment, and you will need to resubmit it.

Since this course is taught online, frequent use of a computer is required. You must have access to a computer and to the internet, and you need to be familiar with the use of a browser such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari, or Firefox. Access at least part time to a broadband (high speed) internet network, such as DSL, cable, wireless, or satellite, is strongly recommended since some of the assignments involve audio and video clips. You can access broadband networks at many libraries and on campus. Some minimum hardware and software are required to complete the course. You may find this link helpful: <http://it.unm.edu/support/>

UNM Computer Account Policy

You are required to have a UNM campus account (NetID). You will use this account to access this course via Canvas, which is the learning management system for UNM. You will also use this account to register for classes through MyUNM, <http://my.unm.edu>. This account is also used to read and send e-mail (the UNM email address looks like NetID@unm.edu), print transcripts, check financial status, and check degree progress. The NetID and password for Canvas is the same as your login for your UNM Main Campus account. For this class, you should check your UNM email (LoboMail) periodically, as this is the main communication method used by the university. You can access your email via MyUNM by clicking on the “MyUNM” link on either the Main Campus web page (<http://www.unm.edu>), or by typing in the web address <http://my.unm.edu>. You must then log in using your NetID and password. Email is available on the UNM Email tab.

Support and Resources for Canvas, our learning management system

Here is how you access Canvas: <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/students/index.html>. Note that Canvas works with a limited number of browsers and versions, so you should make sure you are using one of these. For all browsers, JavaScript and cookies must be enabled. If you need support, use this link: <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html>. Also, here is a link to UNM’s policy on netiquette: <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/students/intro-to-canvas/netiquette.html>, which refers to polite behavior while interacting with others either in virtual discussions or discussion boards.

Technical Support

If you are having technical problems with Canvas, you can contact free technical support in one of the following ways: ▪ Phone: 505-277-0857, Canvas support on Main Campus. ▪ UNM-Valencia Technology Support: <https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/technology-support/contact-ts.html>. You can also call Technology Support at (505) 925-8911 Monday through Friday from 8-5. I’m sorry, but I am not able to help you with tech issues but there are plenty of people who can, thankfully!

Academic Support

The Library at UNM has many electronic databases that you may find useful. You can link to the UNM-Valencia Library here: <http://valencia.unm.edu/library/index.html>. For more information about accessibility at UNM-Valencia, go to <https://valencia.unm.edu/about/accessibility.html>. [UNM-Valencia Learning Commons \(Tutoring\)](#)

UNM-Valencia Tutoring Services:

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Tutoring Services - Learning Center and Writing Center. In person tutoring and Zoom tutoring are available in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). For writing, tutoring through email is also available. Making use of tutoring is a fantastic way to use your resources and set yourself up to learn deeply and well in your courses.

To schedule an appointment, please go to: [Learning Commons Bookings](#). If you are making an email appointment with the Writing Center, email your draft to tutor@unm.edu after you fill out the form above. If you have difficulty with the scheduling link above, would like an appointment in a subject not listed at that link, or have a question, email tutor@unm.edu. You will receive a response during business hours Monday through Friday. The webpage, with more details about available hours, is here: [Learning Commons Tutoring webpage](#). At UNM Albuquerque, you may contact: [Center for Academic Program Support \(CAPS\)](#).

UNM Policies Drop Policy

If you decide to drop the class, it is your responsibility to do so; you should be aware of university-wide posted deadlines for tuition refunds and mandatory assignment of grades. I will not drop you before a deadline if you simply stop attending a face-to-face class or stop logging in to an online class. Dropping a course may affect your financial aid status and/or tuition refund. A drop will result in a grade of “W.” If you do not officially drop the class, you will receive the grade earned based on the syllabus grading criteria, which may be an “F.”

Students’ Online Classroom Participation May Be Monitored

The online classroom provides tools for the instructor to monitor students’ participation in online classes. I have access to records of when you logged in, what course materials you opened during each session, and when you submitted coursework. This data allows me to evaluate class participation and to help me identify students having difficulties using online classroom features.

Course Evaluations and Surveys

UNM requests that all students participate in course evaluations because the information they provide is helpful in improving courses for future students. Although I know they are a pain, surveys and evaluations are useful to me since I always want to improve. Also, there is a mid-semester survey, for which you’ll get credit. Thank you!

Credit Hour Statement

This is a three credit-hour course delivered online over eight weeks during the fall 2024 semester. Please plan for a minimum of 12 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

Title IX

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and the opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-3506.

Title IX: The University of New Mexico and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. The University’s programs and activities, including the classroom, should always provide a space of mutual respect, kindness, and support without fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. You can access the confidential resources available on campus at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (<https://loborespect.unm.edu>), the Women’s Resource Center (<https://women.unm.edu>), and the LGBTQ Resource Center (<https://lgbtqrc.unm.edu>). If you speak with an instructor (including a TA or a GA) regarding an incident connected to discrimination on the basis of sex, they must notify UNM’s Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX, even if you ask the instructor not to disclose it. The Title IX Coordinator is available to assist you in understanding your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html> and CEE’s [website](#).

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition, you may contact UNM's Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity at ceeo@unm.edu. The CEEO staff will provide you with access to available resources and supportive measures and assist you in understanding your rights.

Student Support: Confidential services for students are available at [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#), [Women's Resource Center](#), and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#). The Women's Resource Center supports all students, including those who are pregnant or are parents. UNM's lactation stations are marked on the [UNM campus map](#).

Respectful and Responsible Learning:

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS/READINGS

WEEK 1 October 13-19

Introduction to the course and one another

Chapters 1 & 2 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 1 due October 19 by 11:59 p.m.

Introduction due October 19 by 11:59 p.m.

Syllabus questions due October 19 by 11:59 p.m.

The weekly check-in this week needs to be via email as I will be travelling.

WEEK 2 October 20-26

Chapters 3 & 4 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 2 due October 26 by 11:59 p.m.

Short response week 2 due October 26 by 11:59 p.m.

Discussion board: initial post due October 24 by 11:59 p.m. Responses to two other students due October 26 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

WEEK 3 October 27-November 2

Chapters 5 & 6 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 3 due November 2 by 11:59 p.m.

Short response week 3 due November 2 by 11:59 p.m.

Discussion board: initial post due October 31 by 11:59 p.m. Responses to two other students due November 2 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

WEEK 4 November 3-9

Chapters 7 & 8 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 4 due November 9 by 11:59 p.m.

Short response week 4 due November 9 by 11:59 p.m.

Discussion board: initial post due November 7 by 11:59 p.m. Responses to two other students due November 9 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

Mid-semester survey due November 9 by 11:59 p.m.

WEEK 5 November 10-16

Chapters 9 & 10 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 5 due November 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Short response week 5 due November 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Discussion board: initial post due November 14 by 11:59 p.m. Responses to two other students due November 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

WEEK 6 November 17-23

Chapters 11 & 12 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 6 due November 23 by 11:59 p.m.

Short response week 6 due November 23 by 11:59 p.m.

Discussion board: initial post due November 21 by 11:59 p.m. Responses to two other students due November 23 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

WEEK 7 November 24-30

Chapters 13 & 14 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 7 due November 30 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

There is only one assignment in week 7 because of Thanksgiving

WEEK 8 December 1-7 **THE END IS NEAR** 😊

Chapters 15 & 18 in *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Paper 8 due December 7 by 11:59 p.m.

Reflection paper FIRST DRAFT due December 7 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

WEEK 9 December 8-13 **THE END IS HERE** 😊

Reflection paper FINAL DRAFT due December 13 by 11:59 p.m.

Weekly check-in

Course evaluation due December 12th by 11:59 p.m.

No assignments of any kind can be submitted after December 13th at 11:59 p.m. as I need to grade the final paper and calculate grades for the class! Thanks for your understanding.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including [opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support such as tutoring](#), [resource centers](#), free food at [Valencia Campus Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your advisor, staff at the [resource centers](#) and [Academic Affairs Office](#), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

Wellness: If you do need to stay home due to illness, please take advantage of the resources below. You can contact me at lsilber1956@unm.edu; I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. Let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community.

Support:

[PASOS Resource Center](#) (505) 925-8546, <mailto:pasos@unm.edu>. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

[Student Health and Counseling](#) (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

[TimelyCare](#): Free 24/7 virtual care services (medical, emotional support, health coaching, self-care, basic needs support. Go to <http://timelycare.com/unm>.

[LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.