

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

---

### **CJUS 340**

#### **CRIMINOLOGY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to examine theories regarding the nature and cause of criminal behavior and society's response. It approaches crime from a philosophical, psychological, and sociological perspective. Most importantly, this course strives to integrate a theological perspective to crime and punishment. (Formerly CJUS 210)

#### **RATIONALE**

The purpose of this class is to expose the student to introductory concepts in the field of criminology including: classical, positivist, Marxist, sociological, and multifactor theories of crime. These ideas will be discussed within the context of a Christian worldview.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Define the concepts of crime, law, and criminology.
- B. Trace the general development of theories of crime causation.
- C. Differentiate between current biological, social, psychological, and developmental theories of crime.
- D. Categorize crime typologies associated with violent, property, white collar, and public order crimes.
- E. Identify and evaluate the theological and Christian perspectives regarding the source of and potential solutions to criminal behavior.

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

For each Discussion Board Forum, the student is required to post a thread of at least 500 words. For each thread, the student must support his/her assertions with at least 2 citations in current APA format. Acceptable sources include peer-reviewed journal articles from [Liberty University's Online Library](#) and other scholarly works to include volumes or books (as well as Scripture). The student must post 2 replies of at least 200 words each, incorporating at least 1 citation.

- D. Christian Worldview Paper

The Christian Worldview Paper is a 2-page document outlining the student's perception of his/her own Christian worldview as it relates to criminology. In this document (completed in current APA format), the student must explain how his/her perception of criminal behavior was formed by his/her own experience and prior biblical instruction. While the student's perception regarding criminology may change during the course, this exercise demonstrates to the instructor that the student understands how to present a paper in current APA format.

## E. Research Paper

This assignment requires the submission of 2 distinct works: a research development proposal and the Research Paper.

## Development Proposal

Using the template provided, the student will develop his/her own research proposal based on interests or topical areas highlighted in the course. This research proposal must be in the form of a hypothesis, not a question. Complete directions are on the template. The research proposal must be submitted on the provided template for approval.

## Final Submission

The Research Paper will present the hypothesis, review the literature that supports or does not support the hypothesis, and form a conclusion. It is to be at least 7 pages and written in current APA format.

## F. Tests (3)

There are 3 tests in this course. Even though the questions are in multiple-choice format, they cannot be answered by simply looking up the answers in the readings. The student must think, reflect upon, and choose the best answer based on the readings. Tests are open-book/open-note, but they may not be discussed with any person. Each test will contain 47 multiple-choice and 3 short answer questions and have a time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

## A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Christian Worldview Paper	25
Research Paper	
Development Proposal	75
Final Submission	200
Tests (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

## B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **CJUS 340**

Textbook: Schmallegger, *Criminology* (2018).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 12 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Christian Worldview Paper	10 0 25
<b>2</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 3–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 1	100
<b>3</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	Test 1	100
<b>4</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Research Paper – Development Proposal	100 75
<b>5</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	Test 2	100
<b>6</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
<b>7</b>	Schmallegger: chs. 13–14 1 presentation	Research Paper – Final Submission	200
<b>8</b>	Schmallegger: ch. 15 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Test 3	100 100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.