

**CCJ 330: Criminology****Research Paper Requirements**

The research paper will focus on crime typology and theoretical insight. There are a number of valuable insights offered for different trends or specific patterns in crime through a wide variety of theories developed to explain the causes, consequences, and control efforts involved. Your task is to become an expert in a specific type of crime by identifying and defining it legally, examining historic trends through validated measurement tools, unpacking theoretical insights and explanations, and offering insights for theoretical and practical consideration.

The paper will be graded on how you demonstrate comprehension of the chosen crime, connect your topic to different criminological theories, as well as how you reflect on recommendations for criminal justice professionals and the public at large. You are required to identify, explain, and apply at least two theories to your chosen topic. You are required to logically connect the theoretical underpinnings to the crime phenomenon, and provide a compare and contrast assessment of the theories. How do they stand up against each other in your context? What are the similarities and differences between these theories? Which one provides a better explanation of your chosen crime?

The paper will also involve incorporating empirical research into the validity of each chosen theory, using at least two peer reviewed research papers for each theory that test the constructs of the theories, and/or summarize existing empirical evidence of the theory.

Grading will be influenced by reflection on the practical grounding of this crime, comprehension of theories, clarity and organization, as well as spelling and grammar.

Specific details to keep in mind:

- 15-20 pages, double-spaced
- Size 12 font with 1" margins
- Professional font (e.g., Times New Roman)
- At least 4 independently identified peer-reviewed references, properly cited



CCJ 330 CRIMINOLOGY REVIEW SHEET FOR RESEARCH  
PAPER STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

| EVALUATION ELEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes/<br>No | Weight | Points<br>Taken | Score | NOTES |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| <b>SUBMITTED ON-TIME</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |            | N/A    |                 |       |       |
| <b>ELEMENTS OF PAPER (Title Page, References, Length)</b>                                                                                                                                        |            | 5      |                 |       |       |
| <b>CONTENT OF PAPER</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | X          | X      | X               | X     | X     |
| Introduction: Defines type of crime in specific context, sets up body of text for reader                                                                                                         |            | 5      |                 |       |       |
| Comprehension: Provides insight into patterns of activity through at least one valid measurement tool                                                                                            |            | 10     |                 |       |       |
| Theories: Paper identifies and correctly explains two relevant criminological theories                                                                                                           |            | 5      |                 |       |       |
| Connection: Paper logically and clearly connects theories to crime focus; includes empirically validated support from two sources for each theory                                                |            | 25     |                 |       |       |
| Comparison: Paper logically compares theories against each other in applied context; author demonstrates comprehension of distinct value of theories, identifies contextually stronger theory    |            | 25     |                 |       |       |
| Recommendations/Conclusions: Provides insightful thought for law enforcement, criminologists, and/or public at large on how to consider topic; recommendations draw directly from prior sections |            | 15     |                 |       |       |
| Organization/Clarity/Spelling & Grammar                                                                                                                                                          |            | 10     |                 |       |       |
| <b>COMPOSITE SCORE</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |            | 100    |                 |       |       |

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