

ANONYMOUS – NO NAMES

PUT IN DR. TAYLOR'S MAILBOX, NOT THE COURSE EVAL ENVELOPE!

TO: Students in Graduate Theory in Criminal Justice
 FROM: R. B. Taylor
 DATE: 12/8/08
 RE: Considering closely if course aligned with stated goals

The standardized course evaluations you are about to complete are important. Please take your time with them. Please also put in open-ended comments which you think would be helpful. The standardized forms are important because they will go “up the chain” and become part of the record about how I teach and about how the department teaches. I also am interested in further improving this course, and so seek your reactions to how well you think the course succeeded in **meeting course-specific goals outlined at the beginning of the semester**. These goals were stated in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and in the handout passed around in the first class.

<i>Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements using the scale at right.</i>		Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly
In this course ...						
1	I have been exposed to important theoretical works in criminology	0	1	2	3	4
2	I have gained experience in responding to the types of questions likely to be on the advanced exam for theory (please answer even if you are an MA student)	0	1	2	3	4
3	I have gained experience in how to prepare for questions likely to be on the advanced exam for theory (please answer even if you are an MA student)	0	1	2	3	4
4	I have gained a better appreciation of how criminological theorizing works	0	1	2	3	4
5	I have learned how to approach (i.e., “unpack”) a particular theory	0	1	2	3	4
6	I have learned how to gauge the connection between a theory and the relevant empirical evidence	0	1	2	3	4
7	I have learned how to gauge the scope of a theory	0	1	2	3	4
8	I have learned how to identify the level of aggregation relevant for a particular theory	0	1	2	3	4
9	I have learned tools which will help me approach other criminological theories I read	0	1	2	3	4

Tips on getting ready for the theory advanced exam

1. Go back over each of the books we have read this semester, except for Enron, and be sure you are familiar with the model, evidence, and issues.
2. Try and find a review of each book in either *Contemporary Sociology* or *Contemporary Psychology*. Reviews may appear in other journals as well, and you could find those reviews by using the *Web of Science* citation search. WOS is accessed through the Paley database front end.
3. For each of these theories, be aware of at least some relevant empirical work, either supporting or not supporting the theory. I have given you many leads to these sources in the various memos introducing and then commenting on each theory. Use citation searches to find more. Try and stick with the major criminal justice / criminology / sociology journals. In CJ those are:
4. Work your way through the major additional readings highlighted on the main course page. *These are going to be updated, so be sure to check back.*
5. Read a good undergraduate selection. I recommend: Bachman and paternoster (2000) *Explaining criminals and crime* (Roxbury). Their introductory sections are invaluable.
6. *Talk to each person who is on the theory committee about a semester before you are scheduled to take it.* Get suggestions from them about important new works to be covered.
7. *Develop specific stages of preparation.* Happy to provide more details on this for those who wish.

Criminal Justice and Behavior
Criminology
Criminology & Public Policy
Crime & Delinquency
Journal of Criminal Justice
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
Journal of Quantitative Criminology
Justice Quarterly
Law & Society Review
Theoretical Criminology

In sociology those journals at the very top include:

American Sociological Review
American Journal of Sociology
Social Forces

Other good ones include:

Sociological Quarterly
Social Problems
Social Science Quarterly
Social Psychology Quarterly

Others may differ with this list.