NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Department Criminology and Criminal Justice

College Social Work and Criminal Justice

*(To obtain a course number, contact **coursenumbers@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 10-12-2026
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Prefix CCJ **Number** 4612	*(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)* **Lab Code**	**Type of Course** Lecture	**Course Title** Biosocial Criminology

Credits *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)*: 3

Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)*: Spring 2027

Grading *(Select One Option)*
Regular ◉
Sat/UnSat ☐

Course Description *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)*

This course is designed to provide instruction on foundational concepts related to biosocial criminology, such as genetics, the environment, and mental and physical health correlates, and latest research supporting these theoretical frameworks. Biosocial criminology integrates biological and social constructs as they relate to the development of behaviors often observed in the criminal legal system.

Prerequisites, with minimum grade*	**Corequisites**	**Registration Controls** *(Major, College, Level)*
N/A	N/A	

***Default minimum passing grade is D-.** **Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course**

C

Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) Course

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

WAC criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

General Education Requirement *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See General Education Guidelines.

Minimum qualifications to teach course

Masters level

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone	**List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course**
Sigal Rubin / rubins@fau.edu / 561-297-4287	N/A

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair [signature]	September 28, 2026
College Curriculum Chair Sigal Rubin	09/28/2026
College Dean [signature]	09/28/2026
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	10-12-2026
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff	10-12-2026
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

CCJ 4612-000-00000

Biosocial Criminology 3

Credit(s)

Spring 2027 - 1 Full Term

Instructor Information

Meghan Royle
Email: roylem@fau.edu
Office: N/A
Office Hours: By appointment only
Phone: N/A

Please see the virtual office for Zoom information.

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There are no prerequisites for this course.

Instructional Method

Fully Online Class
100% of the course is delivered online.

Required Texts/Materials

Course materials will be provided by instructor
Course materials will be provided by instructor

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this semester, you should be able to:

1. Describe the interconnected influence of biological factors, social factors, and environmental factors on the development of antisocial and criminal behaviors.

2. Outline and apply contemporary biosocial criminological theories to explaining the development of antisocial and criminal behaviors.

3. Understand the ways in which trauma, violence, or abuse may influence health and behavior.

4. Apply an understanding of biosocial criminological concepts to policies and practices implemented in the criminal legal system.

5. Understand ethical implications of integrating biological, social, and psychological factors with criminological study.

Course Evaluation Method

This course will be graded out a total of seven hundred (700) points. The points allotted to each assessment are provided below:

Exams: There will be a total of two (2) exams delivered this semester due on Friday, October 23rd at 11:59 pm EST and Wednesday, December 16th at 11:59 pm EST. These exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each exam will consist of fifty (50) questions. You will have an hour and thirty minutes to complete each exam, and you are permitted a single attempt. You will be assessed on accuracy and critical thinking skills. Exams will each be worth one hundred (100) points, and each question will be worth two (2) points.

Knowledge check questions: There will be a total of ten (10) short knowledge check assessments throughout the course. These assessments will be a series of five (5) questions, consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions designed to assess your understanding of course material. Please see the schedule below for due dates for these questions, though please be aware that the course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be communicated through Canvas. These questions are graded on accuracy. *Please note that the first knowledge check question is graded for completion and will be used to verify your activity in the course for financial aid purposes*. You have an unlimited amount of time (before their due date) to answer these questions, and an unlimited number of attempts. Knowledge check questions will be worth 15 points and each question will be worth three (3) points.

Assignments: There will be three (3) critical thinking assignments throughout this course designed to evaluate what you have learned in this course and how you apply that knowledge to criminal legal system practice. There will be more information about the specific assignment instructions, including a rubric (when applicable), in Canvas. These assignments will be worth 100 points each and will be due on Friday, September 25th at 11:59 pm EST, Friday, November 13th at 11:50 pm EST, and Friday, December 4th at 11:59 pm EST.

Discussions: Discussion boards for this course will be a valuable tool for you to dive deeper on a course topic and to interact with classmates in positive ways. Each week, I will pose a question to the group via the discussion boards for you to discuss. You do not have to respond to each question. Instead, to receive fifty (50) discussion points, you will need to respond to two (2) questions and to four (4) other students responses throughout the semester. Discussion responses are due Wednesday, December 16 at 11:59 PM EST.

Grades in this course are cumulative, meaning that your grade will correspond with the point values you accumulate from that exam/assignment/assessment. For example, if you answer 30 questions correctly on exam 1, you have earned 60 points for the class. At the end of the semester, your final grade will be based on the total number of points you have accumulated through the semester, divided by the total number of points possible for the course (e.g., seven hundred [700] points).

Disability Policy In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

Code of Academic Integrity Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100 - 93%
A-	< 92 - 90%
B+	< 89 - 87%
B	< 86 - 83%
B-	< 82 - 80%
C+	< 79 - 77%
C	< 76 - 73%
C-	< 72 - 70%
D+	< 69 - 67%
D	< 66 - 63%
D-	< 62 - 60%

Letter Grade	Percentage
F	< 60 - 0%

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

It is the student's responsibility to contact me regarding extensions prior to the submission due date for all knowledge check questions, assignments, and exams. Late work will be accepted with a university recognized excuse. Please communicate any issues in meeting assessment due dates before they pass so that we may come to a decision regarding whether or not the work will be accepted. Late exam and assignment submissions without prior communication will receive a ten (10) point deduction for every calendar day the submission is late. After five (5) calendar days of no communication from the student, the student will receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Late knowledge check question submissions will receive a two (2) point deduction for every calendar day the submission is late. After five (5) calendar days of no communication from the student, the student will receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Make-up exams will be permitted with communication before the date of the exam, unless under extenuating circumstances at the professor's discretion. I understand that there are emergencies that may prevent students from communicating the need to miss an exam or due date for an assignment. Please communicate with me as soon as possible so we may come to a satisfactory conclusion regarding assignments/exams.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

AI Language Specific To This Course

The use of AI is prohibited for all assignments in this course.

Course Topical Outline

Date	Topic	Reading/Video	Due
Saturday, August 22 – Friday, August 28	Introduction	• Syllabus	Knowledge Check 1 due Friday, August 28 at 11:59 pm
Saturday, August 29 – Friday, September 4	Neuroscience	• https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/22638-brain	Knowledge Check 2 due Friday, September 4 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, September 12 – Friday, September 18	Behavioral Genetics	• Plomin, R. (2023). Celebrating a century of research in behavioral genetics. Behavior Genetics, 53, 75–84. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10519-023-10132-3	Knowledge Check 3 due Friday, September 18 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, September 19 – Friday, September 25	Molecular Genetics		Assignment 1 due Friday, September 25 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, September 26 – Friday, October 2	Gene-by-Environment Interplay		Knowledge Check 4 due Friday, October 2 at 11:59 pm EST

Saturday, October3 – Friday, October 9	Epigenetics	• https://www.cdc.gov/genomics-and-health/epigenetics/index.html • https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/epigenetics	Knowledge Check 5 due Friday, October 9 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, October 10 – Friday, October 16	Evolutionary Psychology	• Royle, M. L., & Connolly, E. J. (2024). Alcohol use and Moffitt's Maturity Gap Thesis for adolescent offending: An evolutionary perspective and analysis. Evolutionary Psychology, 22(1), 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1177/14747049241241432	Knowledge Check 6 due Friday, October 16 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, October 17 – Friday, October 23	Midterm		Exam 1 due on Friday, October 23 at 11:59 pm EST

Saturday, October 24 – Friday, October 30	Sleep	• Clark, A. E., D'Ambrosio, C., & Zhu, R. (2019). Crime victimization over time and sleep quality. SSM – Population Health, 7, 100401. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100401 • Block, K., & Connolly, E. J. (2023). Frequency of adequate sleep and different forms of delinquency across adolescence: Evidence from nationally representative samples of youth. Youth & Society, 56(3), 622–646. https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X231190665 • Meldrum, R. C., Barnes, J. C., & Hay, C. (2015). Sleep deprivation, low self-control, and delinquency: A test of the Strength Model of Self-Control. Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 44, 465–477. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-013-0024-4 • Connolly, E. J., Jackson, D. B., & Semenza, D. C. (2021). Quality over quantity? Using sibling comparisons to examine relations between sleep quality, sleep duration, and delinquency. Social Science & Medicine, 280, 114053. https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114053	Knowledge Check 7 due Friday, October 30 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, October 31 – Friday, November 6	Environmental Toxins	• Haynes, E. N., Chen, A., Ryan, P., Succop, P., Wright, J., & Dietrich, K. N. (2011). Exposure to airborne metals and particulate matter and risk for youth adjudicated for criminal activity. Environmental Research, 111(8). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2011.08.008	Knowledge Check 8 due Friday, November 6 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, November 7 – Friday, November 13	Malnutrition		Assignment 2 due Friday, November 13 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, November 14 – Friday, November 20	Biological Markers	• Ling, S., Umbach, R., & Raine, A. (2019). Biological explanations for criminal behavior. Psychology, Crime, & Law, 25(6), 626–640. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2019.1572753	Knowledge Check 9 due Friday, November 20 at 11:59 pm EST

Saturday, November 21 – Tuesday, November 24	Biological Intervention Programs/Studies	• van der Sluys, M. E., Zijlmans, J., Ket, J. C. F., Marhe, R., Popma, A., Scherder, E. J. A., & van der Laan, P. H. (2022). The efficacy of physical activity interventions in reducing antisocial behavior: A meta-analytic review. Journal of Experimental Criminology. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-022-09536-8	Knowledge Check 10 due Tuesday, November 24 at 11:59 pm EST
Wednesday, November 25 – Sunday, November 29*	Off for Thanksgiving	• Enjoy the break!	
Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 4	Legal Cases relevant to Biosocial Criminology	• Scurich, N., & Appelbaum, P. S. (2018). Behavioral genetics in criminal court. Nature Human Behaviour, 1, 772–774. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-022-09536-8	Assignment 3 due Friday, December 4 at 11:59 pm EST
Saturday, December 5 – Wednesday, December 9	Reading Days/Extra Study days		
Thursday, December 10 – Wednesday, December 16	Final Exam		Exam 2 due on Wednesday, December 16 at 11:59 pm EST

Course Topical Outline

Due	Assignment	Type	Description	Points
August 28 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 1			15

Due	Assignment	Type	Description	Points
December 16 at 11:59 PM EST	Discussion responses (2 new, 4 responses to others)			50
December 16 at 11:59 PM EST	Exam 2			100
December 4 at 11:59 PM EST	Assignment 3			100
November 13 at 11:59 PM EST	Assignment 2			100
November 20 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 9			15
November 24 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 10			15
November 6 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 8			15
October 16 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 6			15
October 2 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowlede Check 4			15
October 23 at 11:59 PM EST	Exam 1			100

Due	Assignment	Type	Description	Points
October 30at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 7			15
October 9 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 5			15
September 18 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 3			15
September 25 at 11:59 PM EST	Assignment 1			100
September 4 at 11:59 PM EST	Knowledge Check 2			15

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.