

CJ 262: Criminology
Fall 2007
Class Time: M, W, F 8:00-8:50

Instructor: Matthew Johnson
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Classroom: A213
Office Hours: Monday 8:55-9:55 A.M. Wednesday 8:55-9:55 A.M. and 1:45-2:45 P.M.
or by appt.

Course Description and Objectives

Catalog Description: Crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crime; past and present theories; evaluation of prevention, control, and treatment programs.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the basic terms and concepts related to criminology
2. Understand the major criminological theories from the late 18th century through the mid-20th century
3. Understand the leading contemporary criminological theories from the latter part of the 20th century to the present
4. Be able to critique general aspects of criminological theories

Required Text

Williams, Frank P. III and Marilyn D. McShane. 2004. *Criminological Theory*. 4th edition. Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Additional readings as assigned

Course Requirements

Readings: Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to each class session.

Exams: There will be four exams. The fourth exam is the final and will not be comprehensive. Exams will be based on the text, class notes, and any other materials provided during the semester. Exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay items.

Homework Assignments and Quizzes: Homework assignments will be given occasionally throughout the semester. Quizzes may be given at the beginning of some classes during the semester and will be based on the assigned readings for that day.

Short Papers: Two short papers will be assigned during the semester. Details regarding the requirements for these papers will be provided at a later date.

Class Participation: A portion of the course grade will be based on class participation. Class participation includes attendance, involvement in class discussion, and any group work that may be required. Despite the fact that this class meets at 8:00 in the morning, students are expected to remain awake. Students who sleep during class will be treated as if they are absent when class participation grades are decided. If you cannot remain awake during class, you may as well stay home.

Grading

Weighting of Course Requirements:

Exams: 60% (Each exam will be worth 15% of the total grade)

Homework Assignments and Quizzes: 10%

Short Papers: 25%

Class Participation: 5%

Grading Scale:

90%-100%: A

80%-89%: B

70%-79%: C

60%-69%: D

59% or lower: F

Tentative Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading*</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to course 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to criminological theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aspects of good theory ○ Levels of theory ▪ What is crime? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Definitions and concepts ▪ Types of crime 	Chapter 1 TBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early explanations of crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-classical ○ Classical 	Chapter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exam 1 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early theories of the positive school ▪ 20th century positivism 	Chapter 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rational choice theories 	Chapter 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Chicago School 	Chapter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Differential association theory 	Chapter 5

▪ Social learning theory	Chapter 11
▪ Exam 2	
▪ Anomie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early strain and subcultural theories 	Chapter 6
▪ General strain theory	TBA
▪ Institutional anomie	
▪ Social control theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early control theories ○ Self-control theory 	Chapter 10 TBA
▪ Labeling theories	Chapter 8
▪ Exam 3	
▪ Conflict/radical theories	Chapter 9
▪ Gender-based theories	Chapter 13
▪ The status of old theories	Chapter 14: p.273-
▪ Recent developments	274, 278-281
▪ The interdisciplinary nature of contemporary theory	TBA
▪ Integrated theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interactional theory ○ Elliott's integrated theory of delinquent behavior ○ Control balance theory 	Chapter 15: p. 290- 291 TBA
▪ Developmental theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moffitt's developmental taxonomy ○ Sampson and Laub's age-graded theory of informal social control ○ The social development model of delinquent behavior 	TBA
▪ The future of criminological theory	Chapter 16
▪ Final exam	

*Additional readings not listed may be assigned

Important Dates

September 3: Labor Day; **no class**

November 15 and 17: American Society of Criminology annual meeting, **no class**

November 21 and 23: Thanksgiving holiday; **no class**

December 6: Last class day

December 10 (Monday): Final exam, 8:00-10:00 A.M.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

Makeup Work

Makeup exams will only be permitted if the student provides a valid excuse before the exam is administered. Late work for homework assignments and short papers will be accepted with points deducted. Missed quizzes may not be made-up.

Student Conduct

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. All cell phones, pagers, or other noise-making devices must be turned off or set to silent mode. The use of laptop computers for purposes of note taking is permitted with prior approval of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Honesty: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

The instructor reserves the right to submit any work to turnitin.com to ensure academic integrity.

Disabled Student Policy: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Services for Disabled Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day

Policy: <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Students will be notified in advance of any changes.