

CJ 262: Criminology
Spring 2008
Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:20

Instructor: Matthew Johnson
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Classroom: A115
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:50-10:55 A.M.; Wednesday 10:00-11:00 A.M; Thursday
1:20-2:20 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

- Gain exposure to the nature and extent of crime in the United States
- Understand the major criminological theories from the late 18th century through the mid-20th century
- Understand the leading contemporary criminological theories from the latter part of the 20th century to the present
- 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 exam 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, and short answer items.

Homework Assignments and Quizzes: Homework assignments will be given occasionally throughout the semester. Short quizzes will be given periodically during the semester based on the assigned readings.

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.

Grading

Weighting of Course Requirements:

Exams: 70% (Each exam will be worth 17.5% of the total grade)

Homework Assignments and Quizzes: 20%

Class Participation: 10%

Grading Scale:

90%-100%: A

80%-89%: B

70%-79%: C

60%-69%: D

59% or lower: F

Tentative Course Outline

Topic	Reading*
▪ Introduction to course	
▪ What is crime? Definitions and concepts	None
▪ Types of crime ▪ Crime in the United States	
▪ Introduction to criminological theory ○ Aspects of good theory ○ Levels of theory	Chapter 1
▪ Early explanations of crime ○ Pre-classical ○ Classical	Chapter 2
▪ Early theories of the positive school ▪ 20th century positivism	Chapter 3
▪ Rational choice theories	Chapter 12
▪ Exam 1	
▪ The Chicago School	Chapter 4
▪ Differential association theory	Chapter 5
▪ Social learning theory	Chapter 11
▪ Anomie ○ Early strain and subcultural theories	Chapter 6
▪ General strain theory ▪ Institutional anomie	TBA
▪ Exam 2	
▪ Social control theories ○ Early control theories ○ Self-control theory	Chapter 10 TBA

▪ Labeling theories	Chapter 8
▪ Conflict/radical theories	Chapter 9
▪ Exam 3	
▪ Gender-based theories	Chapter 13
▪ The status of old theories	Chapter 14: p.273-274, 278-281 TBA
▪ Recent developments	
▪ The interdisciplinary nature of contemporary theory	
▪ Integrated theories	Chapter 15: p. 290-291 TBA
▪ Developmental theories	TBA
▪ The future of criminological theory	Chapter 16
▪ Final exam	

*Additional readings not listed may be assigned

Important Dates

March 10-14: Spring Break

May 8: Last class day

May 15 (Thursday): Final exam, 11:00-1:00

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.