

Sam Houston State University
College of Criminal Justice
CJ 262: Criminology – SPRING 2008

Room/Time: CJC A290; Tu/Th 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Instructor: Todd Armstrong
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Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the nature and causes of criminal behavior. For this introduction, we will first consider how information regarding criminal behavior is developed. During this section of the course we will examine different types of research and measures of crime. Once we understand how information on crime is developed, we will then consider the relationship between measures of crime and a variety of characteristics including age, gender, race, social class and community. Understanding how crime varies across these characteristics will afford us a deeper understanding of the explanations of crime we will address in the next section of the class. The potential explanations of criminal behavior that we will address include: 1) biological and psychological characteristics, 2) elements of the social environment such as the peer group and family, and 3) community characteristics including unemployment and social organization.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

Conklin: Criminology

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on exams and exercises. There will be two standard exams and a final. Exams will be based on multiple-choice questions. Each will be worth 25% of your final grade.. Exercises will also be worth 25% of your final grade. Overall grades will correspond to the scale below

Percent of Points	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and below	E

ATTENDANCE

I expect that you will attend each class session. Past experience has show that students who do not routinely attend this course perform very poorly and achieve low course grades.

MAKE UP WORK

Make up exams will only be given when the student has a University-recognized absence. These include illness, religious observance, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. If an exam is to be missed for a legitimate reason, see me as soon as possible prior to the exam being given. If an exam is missed for unforeseen reasons, **contact me within two days of the missed exam**. Official documentation of your excuse must be provided. Make up exams will be essay format.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Academic Honesty: Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines available at www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

Disable Student Policy: Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines available at: www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Services for Disabled Students: Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines available at: www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy: Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines available at: www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday

COURSE OUTLINE

The course outline is listed below. Class readings are to be done by the class date listed to their left.

Date	Topic	Reading
1/17	Introduction	
1/22	The Study of Crime	Chapter 1
1/24	Measuring Crime	Chapter 2
1/29, 1/31	Crime and Its Costs	Chapter 3
2/5, 2/7 2/12, 2/14	Dimensions of Crime	Chapter 4
2/19	Exam #1	
2/21, 2/26, 2/28	Biological and Psychological Explanations of Crime	Chapter 5
3/4, 3/6	Social, Cultural, and Economic Sources of Crime	Chapter 6
3/11, 3/13	Spring Break	
3/18, 3/20, 3/25	Social Control and Commitment to the Law	Chapter 7
3/27	Exam #2	
4/1, 4/3	Learning to Commit Crime	Chapter 8
4/8, 4/10, 4/15	Applying Theory to Understanding Actual Crime	
4/17, 4/22, 4/24	Opportunities and Facilitating Factors	Chapter 9
4/29, 5/1 5/6, 5/8	Criminal Careers	Chapter 10
5/15	Final Exam 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	