

Syllabus

CJ 262W.7 Criminology
Fall 2007

Instructor: Jim Mabry
Adjunct Office: CL-01
Email: jem006@shsu.edu
Class Hours: Tuesday 6-9 pm
Classroom: A205
Office Hours: **(Before and after class or by appointment)**
(Conference)

Home Telephone: 291-1511

Required Textbook: Criminology (Siegel, L. 9th edition)

THIS COURSE IS WRITING ENHANCED

Course Description:

Criminology comprises the body of knowledge dealing with the causes and consequences of crime as a social phenomenon. It also involves the study of criminal behavior, and the impact of laws on human behavior (and vice versa).

This course will provide an overview of the major criminological theories (that explain why laws are broken) in conjunction with their application to various forms of criminality and types of crime. The primary emphasis will be on crime, criminals and society's reaction to criminal behavior.

A portion of the class will be conducted in a seminar format involving individual assignments, reports, presentations and discussions.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a learning foundation of valid and basic information.
2. Strive to bring criminology into the lives of students and invite students into the world of criminologists.
3. To introduce the student to research and theories that are relevant to understanding crime and deviant behavior.
4. To understand the different types of criminal acts.
5. To acquire knowledge and understanding of the organization and operation of the criminal justice system.
6. To understand the flow of offenders through the criminal justice process.
7. To understand the major purposes of punishment in our system of justice.
8. To promote maximizing student success in the classroom atmosphere that develops active participation, critical thinking skills, effective communication and recognition of the role of values in criminology.
9. To provide a forum for students to express their ideas and feelings regarding the criminal justice system and how it responds to people.
10. To make the study of criminology enjoyable, understandable and worthwhile.

Attendance Policy:

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student.
2. Students are expected to remain in each class session for the full time period.
3. Individuals not officially enrolled in our class are not permitted to be present (except guest speakers selected and authorized by the instructor).
4. The instructor is required to take regular class attendance and maintain a record of student attendance.
5. Class attendance will be recorded and counted from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in this specific class.
6. A student may be penalized for more than three (3) hours of absence.

7. For each additional absence five (5) points shall be deducted from the final grade average.
8. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying assignments or examinations.
9. Students are expected to personally meet with the instructor to arrange for accepting late work or making-up tests, prior to the next class period. Failure to accept this responsibility by the student results in receiving a zero grade.
10. Students are expected to perform assigned reading and acquire class information for any class sessions missed due to absences.
11. A personal telephone call to the instructor, prior to any class, concerning attendance and assignments is appropriate and encouraged.

Grading Policy:

1. There will be three (3) tests scheduled and administered during this class. Tests will be based on any material from lectures, required textbook reading and specific assigned materials. Each test will have the value of 100 possible points.
2. To demonstrate acquired knowledge and utilize personal skills, each student will be assigned six (6) writing enhanced topics. Each completed assignment will require a defined written report. Completion of each assignment will have a grade value of 100 possible points. Specific information will be provided when these assignments are made. Additionally, students may be called upon to give two (2) oral presentations.
3. The final examination will be given according to the university schedule and will have a grade value of 100 possible points.
4. Failure to complete any assignment which earns a grade will result in a zero for that particular assessment.
5. To promote the importance of assigned textbook reading, students answer in writing a single question each week. The correct answer to each question can be derived from the assigned reading. Each question has the value of five (5) points. The total points possible from this assignment will equal 100 points (from 20 questions on random weeks). Questions will have a simple right or wrong answer. You either make a 5 or a 0 for each question. Failure to turn in the assignment for any reason results in a grade of zero (0).

Evaluation:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Test #1 | 0-100 possible points |
| 2. | Test #2 | 0-100 possible points |
| 3. | Test #3 | 0-100 possible points |
| 4. | W E Topic #1 | 0-100 possible points |
| 5. | W E Topic #2 | 0-100 possible points |
| 6. | W E Topic #3 | 0-100 possible points |
| 7. | W E Topic #4 | 0-100 possible points |
| 8. | W E Topic #5 | 0-100 possible points |
| 9. | W E Topic #6 | 0-100 possible points |
| 10. | Weekly Questions | 0-100 possible points |
| 11. | Final | 0-100 possible points |

All grades accrued will be totaled and averaged by number of acquired assessments to reflect acquired grade average.

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|---|----------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | below 60 |

Additional information:

1. Students must complete all required textbook reading assignments prior to each class meeting.
2. Students are expected to bring materials necessary to take notes and complete written assignments.
3. Students are encouraged to have an inquiring mind and actively participate in discussion, appropriate to the course material.
4. Students are responsible for any material or information missed during a class absence.
5. Students should feel free to contact the instructor for appointments to provide needed assistance with course material. Please know that your individual success in this course is important to both of us.
6. There will be no use of any tobacco products allowed in the classroom.
7. No use of cell phones allowed during class. If you have an emergency or on "duty status" bring this situation to the instructors attention prior to class.
8. Any use of recording devices must have prior approval of the instructor. If such devices distract others their use must be eliminated.
9. All tests and examinations will be taken without assisting materials in sight. Sorry, but caps are not allowed on testing days.

10. You are certainly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions, but remember to respect others present. Please avoid bringing up personal situations unless called upon by the instructor to do so.
11. If we go on scheduled field trips, a specific dress code will be required and certain items cannot be in your possession. Confidentiality will be explained prior to any such trips.
12. Individuals not enrolled in this course (children, friends, etc.) are simply not allowed to be present.
13. Sleeping and distractions are not considered appropriate behaviors in our classroom.
14. Acts of dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in consequences (university policy).
ACADEMIC HONESTY:
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>
15. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired (university policy).
DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html
SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:
<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>
16. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor concerning excuses to observe religious holy days.
STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:
<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>
17. Failure to attend class and perform required assignments and assessments will be reported to the Dean.
18. Exams turned in with the answers Typed will not be graded.
19. You are university students but please remember to make certain you have your name readable on all work submitted for a grade.

Expectations:

- I expect your presence.
- I expect your participation and preparation.
- I expect your very best behavior.
- I expect your very best efforts to learn.

Please don't leave class confused or not knowing something.
Sometimes during our class I'll ask your input on how we are doing and how we can do better for you.
Also you will be asked to evaluate the course and the instructor with this confidential information going to the Dean.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT CLASS.

Writing Enhanced Course:

One mission of the College of Criminal Justice is to provide the foundation for talents necessary to succeed in the profession and in society. These talents include:

- An ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Your class has been designated as a writing enhanced course. Each student will write six, two page papers throughout the semester on specific assigned topics.

Topic #1 Formulate your own theory of crime causation (survey).

Topic #2 So what can you do to lessen your chances of victimization?

Topic #3 Does Punishment deter criminal behavior (survey)?

Topic #4 Research and develop a profile on a serial killer.

Topic #5 A critique on a guest speaker.

Topic #6 A critique on a field trip to a prison.

Each assigned topic will be further discussed by your instructor and due dates established. Some topics will be presented orally in addition to the written papers. More than 50% of your course grade will result from the writing enhanced assignments.

Course Calendar:

Please note: the following schedule is subject to some change at the instructors discretion to accommodate more discussion, speakers, films, field trip, review and exams. You will be notified immediately of any significant changes.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Textbook Reading</u> |
|--------------|--|--|
| 8/21 | Syllabus and Preview Assignments Terminology | |
| 8/28 | What is Criminology What Criminologist Do Overview of Criminal Law | Chapter 1 |
| 9/4 | How Criminologists Study Crime Crime Patterns | Chapter 2 |
| 9/11 | Victims and Victimization Prevention and Safety <u>REVIEW</u> | Chapter 3 |
| 9/18 | <u>TEST # 1</u> Choice Theories | Chapter 4 |
| 9/25 | Trait Theories | Chapter 5 |
| 10/2 | Social Structure Theories | Chapter 6 |
| 10/9 | Social Process Theories | Chapter 7 |
| 10/16 | Social Conflict Theories <u>REVIEW</u> | Chapter 8 |
| 10/23 | <u>TEST #2</u> Overview of Crime Violent Crime | Chapter 10 |
| 10/30 | Property Crime Enterprise Crime Public Order Crime | Chapter 11 Chapter 12 Chapter 13 |
| 11/6 | Overview Bill of Rights <u>REVIEW</u> | |
| 11/13 | <u>TEST #3</u> Overview Criminal Justice System | Chapter 14 |
| 11/20 | Overview of Law Enforcement Overview of Courts | Chapter 15 Chapter 16 |
| 11/27 | Overview Criminal Justice Process | Chapter 14 |
| 12/4 | Overview of Corrections | Chapter 17 |
| 12/11 | FINAL EXAM (8:00pm-10:00pm) | |