

CRIMINOLOGY/CJ262.02
SUMMER II – 2008
SYLLABUS

PROFESSOR: Ms. Proctor
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CLASS HOURS: M&W 6:00 - 9:50 p.m.
CLASSROOM: A115
OFFICE HOURS: M&W 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
*and by appointment

TEXTBOOK: Siegel, Larry J. (2006). *Criminology* (10th ed.) Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth

*There will also be additional readings assigned throughout the course and will be made available to you as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce you to the major theories and theorists in the dominant areas of criminological theory. You will be required to read literature on certain criminological theories and those who developed those theories. You will be expected to discuss what you have read and what that means. This will require you to develop and use your critical thinking skills as well as your writing skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Identify the prominent theories in criminology
- Identify the originators and contributors of each theory
- Identify the propositions of each theory
- Be able to discuss the strengths, criticisms, and policy implications of each theory

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance will be taken each class period. You are encouraged to be on time and stay the entire class period or risk being counted absent. In accordance with University attendance policy, each student is allowed a maximum of three hours of absences. Please try to be on time and ready to learn.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: There are to be no electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, iPods, etc...) in use during the class period.

RESPECT IN THE CLASSROOM: I expect thoughtful and lively discussions throughout the semester. I also expect each of you to contribute to these discussions. It is important that we all have respect for one another no matter how different our opinions may be. I think a good rule here is to treat others as you would like to be treated.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to conduct themselves in all academic pursuits, both in and out of the classroom, with complete honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others on assignments offered for credit), and abuse of resource materials. The disciplinary procedures for academic dishonesty may be found in section 5.3 of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. For more information you can go to:
www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007_2008.pdf

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. This policy can be accessed at www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html. For information regarding services for disabled students you can go to www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student who is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. You can access the website at the following link:
www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADE SCALE:

This will be a fun, fast paced course. Since we only have a few weeks in which to cover criminological theory, I expect every student to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss the material in an informed and respectful manner.

You are **required** to read/watch the news **daily**. You are also required to bring relevant articles to class and to share your thoughts and opinions on those articles. You may get articles from any legitimate news source (i.e. CNN, New York Times, Houston Chronicle, MSNBC, etc...).

Papers: You will have two (2) writing assignments worth 25 points each. These papers are designed to apply theory to reality. We will be looking at the crimes people commit and **THEORIZING** why they allegedly committed the crime or what explanations criminology might offer to help us understand criminal behavior and society's reaction. The requirements for these papers will be covered further in class.

Exams: There will be five (5) exams worth 100 points each, for a total of 500 points. Exams may include multiple choice questions, true/false, matching or short answer/essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only upon prior approval of the instructor.

Grading Scale: 550 Total Possible Points

550-495 (100-90%) = A

494-440 (89-80%) = B

439- 385 (79-70%) = C

384-330 (69-60%) = D

329-0 = F

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be given at the discretion of the instructor and may be in the form of pop quizzes, extra credit questions on tests, or extra writing assignments.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may spend more or less time on certain subjects.

Date	Topic/Assignments
Wed. July 9	<p>Introduction and icebreaker – Getting to know one another.</p> <p>Ch. 1- Crime and Criminology Introduction to Criminological Theory – What is criminological theory? What makes good theory? Why do we need theory? What do criminologists do?</p> <p>Ch. 2 – Nature and Extent of Crime – Sources of Crime Data, Measuring Crime, official data, secondary data, victim surveys, self-report surveys</p> <p>Ch. 3 – Victims and Victimization – problems of crime victims, theories of victimization, Routine Activities Theory, Cohen & Felson</p> <p>Review Test #1: Chs. 1-3</p>
Mon. July 14	<p>Test: Chs. 1-3</p> <p>Ch. 4 – Rational Choice Theory – Classical Theory of Crime, Beccaria, Bentham, deterrence, just deserts, hedonistic calculus, social contract</p> <p>Ch. 5 – Trait Theories – Sociobiology, neurophysiology, Denno, genetics and crime, Evolutionary theory, Freud, Psychodynamic Theory, Behavioral Theory, Cognitive Theory</p> <p>Review Test #2: Chs. 4-5</p>
Wed. July 16	<p>Test: Ch. 4-5</p> <p>Ch. 6 – Social Structure Theories – socioeconomic structure and crime, Social disorganization theory, Shaw & McKay, Bursik, Sampson & Groves, Anomie Theory, Durkheim, Strain Theory, Merton, General Strain Theory, Agnew, Subculture (Cultural Deviance Theory) Cohen, middle-class measuring rod, Cloward & Ohlin, Differential Opportunity Theory, Focal Concern of Lower-Class, Miller</p>

Mon. July 21	Ch. 7 – Social Process Theories – Socialization and crime, Differential Association Theory, Differential Reinforcement theory, Social Learning Theory, Neutralization Theory, Social Control Theory, Hirschi, Labeling Theory (social reaction theory) Tannenbaum, Lemert, Becker, Review Test #3: Chs. 6-7
Wed. July 23	Test: Ch. 6-7 Paper #1 Due Ch. 8 – Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice – Marxist Criminology, Marx, Culture Conflict, Sellin, Instrumental Theory, Structural Theory, Critical Criminology, Social Reality of Crime, Quinney, Feminist theories, Chesney-Lind, Power Control Theory, Hagan, Peacemaking Theory, Restorative Justice, Braithewaite
Mon. July 28	Ch. 9 – Developmental Theories: Life Course and Latent Trait – Problem Behavior Syndrome, Pathways to Crime, adolescent Limited, Persistent Offenders, Moffit, social capital, Career Criminals, Sampson & Laub, General Theory of Crime, Gottfredson & Hirschi Review Test #4: Chs. 8-9
Wed. July 30	Test: Ch. 8-9 Ch. 10,12, & 14 Crime Typology: Interpersonal violence, Property Crime, Public Order Crimes – Causes of violence, history of rape, nature and extent of murder, assault, hate crimes, contemporary theft, burglary, larceny, arson, law and morality, social harm, prostitution, pornography, substance abuse
Mon. Aug. 4	Crime typology continued; Review Final (Test #5) Chs. 10, 12, & 14
Wed. Aug. 6	LAST DAY!!!! Paper #2 Due Final Exam: Chs. 10, 12, 14