

CJ 532
Perspectives in Criminology

Fall 2007

TU: noon—3:00 PM
Beto CJ Center A201

Instructor: Dr. Jurg Gerber
Office: C-111
Phone: 294-3172
Office Hours: MO, WE 9:00 – 11:00
TH 1:00 – 3:00
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Course Description

Catalogue: Survey of the field of criminology emphasizing perspectives regarding the making of law, breaking of law and societal reaction to the breaking of law

Discussion: This class is an overview of the field of criminology at the graduate level. We will approach this class from the perspective of Sutherland's famous definition (which was the basis for the catalogue description). We will consider the sources of law, why and how people break the laws, and societal reaction to the breaking of law.

Required Readings

One of the following:

1. Einstadter, Werner, and Stuart Henry. 1995. *Criminological Theory*. Harcourt (out of print, but by far the best book).
2. Henry, Stuart, and Werner Einstadter. 1998. *The Criminology Theory Reader*. New York University Press.
3. Williams, Frank P. and Marilyn D. McShane. 2004. *Criminological Theory, Fourth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Becker, Howard. 1963. *Outsiders*. Free Press.

Gottfredson, Michael, and Travis Hirschi. 1990. *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford Press.

Messner, Steven, and Richard Rosenfeld. 2006. *Crime and the American Dream*, fourth edition. Wadsworth.

Reiman, Jeffrey. 2006. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison*, eighth edition. Allyn and Bacon.

Sutherland, Edwin. 1937. *The Professional Thief*. Chicago Press.

JH

Class Requirements

This class will be taught as a combination of seminar and lecture. This means that the students will have to assume considerable responsibility for the content of the course.

Grading

Four (4) take-home examinations. These examinations will be distributed throughout the semester. Answers are to be typed and double-spaced—approximate length is 5-8 pp. (4 x 50 points)

A research paper (to be submitted in two drafts—each is graded)

Class Participation

Total

200 Points

100 Points

50 Points

350 Points

Make-up Examinations

All examinations are in the form of take-home examinations and are distributed at least two weeks before they are due. Except under highly unusual circumstances (e.g., lengthy hospitalization) there will be no opportunity to make up an examination.

Grade Distribution

315-350 Points	A
280-314 Points	B
245-279 Points	C
0-278 Points	F

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual, entitled, *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the guidelines—my translation of the material: you cheat, you flunk).

Attendance

Random checks at the discretion of the professor.

Disabled Student Policy

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Consistent with the Texas Education Code and SHSU University Policy 861001, students who desire to be absent from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present the professor with a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). I will then notify the students of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Tobacco Products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

Electronic Devices in the Class Room

Students are free to record class lectures and/or discussions with the understanding that no copies of these lectures and/or transcripts made from these recordings are sold or otherwise distributed for use by others. Please make sure to set any electronic communication devices to "silent mode" during class sessions.

SHSU Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Wilson 114, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Annotated Outline of Topics To Be Covered Each Class Meeting

Section 1: Making of Law refers to the processes through which law comes into existence. Among other ideas, we will talk about consensus and conflict models and the role of moral entrepreneurs in the law making processes.

8-21	Introduction	
8-28	Making of Law	Becker (ch. 8) E&H (ch. 1)
9-4	Mini Prospectus for Term Paper Due	
9-4	Making of Law	E& H (ch. 10)

Section 2: Breaking of Law refers to the reasons why people violate normative restraints in general, and laws in particular. We will discuss the various theories that are dominant in the field of criminology.

9-11	Breaking of Law—Demonology	E&H (2)
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9-18	First Take Home Examination Due	
9-18	Breaking of Law—Classical and Neo-Classical—I	E&H (3) Gottfredson and Hirschi
9-25	Breaking of Law—Classical and Neo-Classical—II	E&H (3) Gottfredson and Hirschi
10-2	Breaking of Law—Individual Positivism	E&H (4&5)
10-9	Breaking of Law—Functionalism and Social Disorganization	E&H (6)
10-16	Second Take Home Examination Due	
10-16	Breaking of Law—Social Learning	E&H (8) Sutherland
10-23	Breaking of Law—Social Learning/ Anomie	Sutherland E&H (7)
10-30	First Draft of Term Paper Due	
10-30	Breaking of Law—Anomie	Messner and Rosenfeld
11-6	Breaking of Law—Social Control	E&H (8)
11-13	Third Take Home Examination Due	
11-13	Breaking of Law—Radical Theory	E&H (11)

Section 3: Reactions to the Breaking of Law refers to society's response to the violation of law. In particular, we will look at issues such as social constructionism, labeling, and Reiman's ideas about ideology, class, and criminal justice

11-20	Reactions to Breaking of Law—I	Becker E&H (9)
11-27	Second Draft of Term Paper Due	
11-27	Reactions to Breaking of Law—II	Reiman
12-4	Reactions to Breaking of Law—III	Reiman
12-11	Final Exam Due	

Guidelines for the Term Paper for CJ 532

The purpose of a term paper is to give students an opportunity to pursue a research topic in greater detail than is possible in class discussions. I am flexible in terms of topics you wish to pursue, but the papers must focus on a **theoretical perspective that is covered in this class**. Some general guidelines are as follows:

1. The paper will be submitted in three stages: (1) a mini-proposal that is not graded, (2) a first draft that will be graded, and (3) a final draft that will also be graded. The grade on the first draft may be dropped at *the professor's discretion*.
2. First and second draft of the paper must be submitted **in hard copy and electronic form. Papers may be submitted to Turnitin.com for an evaluation.** The first draft **must be resubmitted** when the second draft is submitted for the first time.
3. Length of the paper is not determined in advance. The topic of the paper determines how long it should be.
4. Number of citations. This depends on the nature of the topic. Some topics have been researched extensively while others have not. Include as many citations as are necessary to make your discussion complete.
5. Appropriate References. Except for unusual topics (e.g., Criminology in the Media), I expect you to refer in your paper primarily to the scholarly literature: books should be published by major presses and journal articles should be indexed in major scholar indexes such as *Criminal Justice Abstracts*.
6. Four sub-rules to rule 5:
 - a. *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* does not count as a scholarly index.
 - b. If a book or journal has a lot of pictures, it is probably not of a scholarly nature.
 - c. There is relevant literature in addition to what is available on the Internet. In fact, most of what is on the Internet is NOT appropriate for a graduate level term paper.
 - d. Wikipedia.com is not a scholarly source (but it can be used as a resource)
7. Style and format of the paper should be professional (or at least semi-professional). Follow a standard referencing format throughout the paper (APA, ASA, *Criminology*, and so on).
8. Academic Honesty. When someone else's work or scholarship is a part of material submitted to demonstrate competency, the source of the material should be given credit. It should not be stated or implied that such material is the student's own work.
9. Multiple Submissions. The same piece of work should be submitted for credit in more than one course only with the permission of all instructors involved.

10. The papers are supposed to be **research** papers:
 - a. Provide appropriate documentation (both in the text and in a separate reference section)
 - b. Intro texts are not appropriate as a source of information as a general rule—read the original works
 - c. Dictionaries are not appropriate as a general rule
 - d. Personal experiences are relevant at times, but mostly in introductions
 - e. There is a fine line between sloppy documentation and plagiarism:
“copying what somebody else has written or taking somebody’s else’s idea and trying to pass it off as original” (MSN Encarta)
If you have not read the original works, be careful in how you cite them. Do not pass the summaries of someone else as your own.
 - f. Provide page numbers if you are quoting material verbatim.
 - g. Including a quote from someone that has been reported by another writer is fine, if that source is the only one for the quote (e.g., it is the result of a personal interview). Citing the secondary source because you did not look up the original is not a good enough reason.
11. There is an important difference between the short papers and this paper (the term paper). The short ones rely on personal interpretation and while this one relies on research.
12. One consequence of #11 is the following: **review the relevant literature**. If your paper deals with deviance among police officers, for instance, be sure to review the literature on the police subculture. Your paper must be focused on the literature, not just your personal experiences.
13. Be sure not to rewrite a “book review.” Review the literature as a whole, do not focus exclusively on one book or article.