

College of Criminal Justice - Sam Houston State University
CJ - 436 - Understanding Human Behavior

Course Syllabus - Fall 2007

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Classroom	Criminal Justice Center A-201
Class Hours	Thursday's - 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM
Office	CL-01
Office Hours	Thursday's 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM & By Appointment

Required Text Book

Bartol, Curt R., & Bartol, Anne M. (2008).
Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Approach (8th Ed.).

Course Description

This course is designed to provide criminal justice students with a view of criminal behavior from a psycho-social perspective. The course will explore causes, prediction, prevention, intervention, and treatment of criminal behavior. An analysis of biological, cultural, psychological, and sociological aspects of human behavior will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on integrating course material into criminal and juvenile justice settings.

Course Objectives

1. To learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories that will assist in understanding human & criminal behavior.
2. To assist students in better understanding roles and functions of criminal and juvenile justice agencies - with special emphasis focused on the Texas Juvenile Justice System.
3. To educate students regarding rehabilitative programs and intervention strategies commonly implemented in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
4. Gain factual knowledge regarding criminal & delinquent behavior and the criminal & juvenile justice systems.
5. Acquire an interest in learning about criminal justice by asking questions and seeking answers.
6. To better understand the relationship between certain types of mental illness / disorders and criminal behavior.

Student Responsibility

Attendance Regular and punctual attendance is required. Attendance records will be kept. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy statement 800401. For details please see http://www.shsu.edu/-vaf_www/aps/documents/800401.pdf

Participation Students are expected to participate appropriately in all class activities and to conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful, professional & ethical manner at all times. Class participation may involve group and individual activities in addition to class presentations and in-depth discussions. Must bring text & notes to each class.

Read Students are to read assignments (text chapters) before they are due to be discussed in class. Students are to be prepared to discuss reading assignment(s) in class.

Drinks Non-alcoholic beverages are allowed in class.

Food Snack foods (candy, chips, etc), are allowable in class. Hot or full-course meals are not allowed in class. Students will be expected to clean up after themselves.

Tobacco Tobacco products are not allowable in class.

Cell Phones Talking on phones, text messaging, or checking messages is prohibited during class. Phones must be on “silent” mode or turned off prior to beginning of class session.

Pagers Set on “silent” mode only.

Headphones / Radios / I-pods, etc., are not Permissible.

Computers Not Permissible

Electronic devices are not permissible in class without prior permission from Instructor.

Behavior or actions that are deemed to be disruptive, rude, offensive, degrading, or distracting will not be tolerated and may be cause for dismissal from class and failure of the course.

Academic Honesty

Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of this course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, (1) cheating on course assignments, (2) plagiarism, and (3) collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

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The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student guidelines).

Disabled Student Policy

Students with a disability which may affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as the semester begins in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure, if reasonable and possible, that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Services For Disabled Students

Please refer to the information located online at the following site:

<http://www.shsu.edu/-counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holiday Policy

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 whose absence 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made within the first fifteen days of a semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and / or examinations are to be completed.

Grading System

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>	
Exams	(3)	100	Points each
Project (1)	<u>100</u>	Points	
Total Points		400	Points Possible

Points Earned	360 - 400	A
Points Earned	320 - 359	B
Points Earned	280 - 319	C
Points Earned	240 - 279	D
Points Earned	Sub - 240	F

Exam 1	Thursday September 27, 2007	Chapters - 1,2,3,4 & Instructor Notes.
Exam 2	Thursday October 25, 2007	Chapters - 7,8,12,13,16 & Instructor Notes
Project Due	Thursday November 15, 2007	Interview Project Due.
Make-Up	Thursday December 06, 2007	Make Up Exam(s) & Final Review.
Final Exam	Thursday December 13, 2007	Chapters - 17,18, & other material.

Exam Information -

1. Exams will test student knowledge of **(1) text, (2) lecture, & (3) other material as presented**. Lecture information will consistently go beyond material covered in text book. Students are responsible for learning all information presented by assigned text book.

Students are responsible for learning additional information not found in text book that is presented by the instructor and others. **Therefore regular class attendance and thorough note taking is strongly encouraged.**

2. Exams 1 & 2 will be time limited. The first two exams will be given near the beginning of the class on the designated dates. Students will have approximately 60 minutes to complete exam 1 & 2. After the exam time limit expires, other class activities will resume for the remainder of the class period.
3. Exams may be formatted entirely, or a combination of; (1) multiple choice, (2) short answer, (3) essay, (4) matching, (5) true-false, or (6) other at discretion of the professor.
4. Some exam material may be comprehensive in nature in that some exam questions may come from previous units, lectures, & exams.
5. **There will be no “make-up exams” offered during the semester.** Students who miss one or more exams with excused and professor-approved absences during the regular semester must take a **“Make-Up Exam(s)”** on the date scheduled on the course outline.

Project - Due Thursday November 15, 2007.

1. Students will be required to interview one (1) professional person from any profession listed below. The person you interview may **not** be a relative or a family friend of yours. The person may not have already granted an interview to another student in our class.. The interview must be conducted in person (not over the phone) by the student.
 - a. Juvenile Probation Officer, Supervisor, Manager, or Chief
 - b. Adult Probation Officer, Supervisor, Manager, or Chief
 - c. Police Officer, Supervisor, Manager, investigator, or Chief
 - d. Sheriff’s Officer, Supervisor, Manager, Investigator, or Sheriff
 - e. Juvenile Detention Officer, Supervisor, Manager, or Superintendent
 - f. Adult Parole Officer, Supervisor, Manager, or Chief

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- g. Juvenile Parole Officer, Supervisor, Manager, or Chief
- h. Criminal Court Judge or Magistrate

- I. Juvenile Court Judge or Magistrate
 - j. Licensed Psychologist working in the criminal or juvenile justice system
 - k. Licensed Counselor working in the criminal or juvenile justice system
 - l. Licensed Social Worker working in the justice system
 - m. Criminal Prosecutor - District or County Attorney
 - n. Juvenile Court Prosecutor
 - a. Criminal Defense Attorney
 - b. Juvenile Defense Attorney
2. Interview must comprise the following 20 questions only. Each question is worth 5 points. Once completed, the interview questions followed by the answers must be typed by the student using 12 point font before submitting to the Instructor for evaluation. Failure to type report will result in loss of 50 points.
3. A loss of 10 points per week will occur for un-excused failure to turn in interview report as scheduled. Interviewing someone other than a professional from the list above will not be accepted. **The report will not be accepted if not received by December 6, 2007.**
4. Interview Questions / Information: Each question is worth 5 points.
- 1. First and Last Name of Interviewee
 - 2. Day and Date of the Interview
 - 3. Location Address of Interview (include street address, city, state, zip code).
 - 4. Interviewee Job Title - Be specific & exact.
 - 5. Interviewee work Phone Number with Area Code.
 - 6. Full name of organization / business interviewee works for
 - 7. How long interviewee has worked there - years & months.
 - 8. Educational Degree(s) of Interviewee - list all & in what field.
 - 9. Professional certification / license of Interviewee
 - 10. Normal or current work schedule for interviewee (be specific on hours and off days)
 - 11. What do you like best about your job?
 - 12. What do you like least about your job?
 - 13. What is the most important thing your profession does?
 - 14. Describe the main job activities you must do on a regular basis in order to fulfill the core components of your job description.
 - 15. What personality characteristic(s) are needed to be successful at your job?
 - 16. What specific skill(s) are most important to be successful at your job?
 - 17. What are the three most important needs of the clients you serve?
 - 18. Why do you think people engage in criminal behavior?
 - 19. In what way(s) has your profession changed over the past decade?

- 20. In one or two short paragraphs summarize your thoughts regarding what impressed you most about the interview, and note the way(s) this project may benefit you.

5. On a separate sheet of paper students will need to re-type the 20 interview questions listed above and type the answers provided after each particular question. The interview questions must be reproduced in the exact order (1-20) as listed above. Single space the questions and answers to each individual question, but double space between questions. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a loss of 50 points. **Students must type the question and the answers. Typing just the answers only will not be accepted.**

Tentative Class Schedule

Some deviations may occur with or without prior notice at Instructor's discretion. Material from text book chapters will not cover all of required information. A significant amount of exam material will come from sources (i.e. lecture) other than the assigned Text Book.

<u>No:</u>	<u>Month Day</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>	<u>Topic(s) to be Covered</u>	
1.	August	23	Chapter 1	Syllabus Review & Intro to Criminal Behavior
2.	August	30	Chapter 1, 2	Introduction to Criminal Behavior & Risk Factors
3.	September	06	Chapter 2, 3	Risk Factors & Origins of Criminal Behavior
4.	September	13	Chapter 3, 4	Origins of Criminal Behavior & Learning Factors
5.	September	20	Chapter 4	Learning Factors
6.	September	27	Exam 1	Take Exam & Begin Chapters 7-8
7.	October	04	Chapter 7, 8	Crime & Mental Disorders
8.	October	11	Chapter 12, 13	Sexual Assault
9.	October	18	Chapter 16	Drugs, Alcohol & Crime
10.	October	25	Exam 2	Take Exam & Begin Chapter 17
11.	November	01	Chapter 17	Juvenile Delinquency
12.	November	08	Chapter 17-18	Juvenile Delinquency
13.	November	15	Project Due	Correctional Psychology & Management
14.	November	22	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday
15.	November	29	Chapter 18	Correctional Psychology & Management
16.	December	06	Review for Final	Make Up Exam(s) Given.
17.	December	13	Exam 3 - Final	Chapters 17, 18, & Instructor Notes

Notes

1. Exams will cover both text material & instructor notes. Instructor notes may include significant amount of information that is not found in the assigned text book..
2. Regular class attendance and taking detailed notes are strongly recommended.