

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

Course Syllabus - Spring 2008

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Classroom	Criminal Justice Center C-110
Class Hours	Wednesday's - 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM
Office	CL-01
Office Hours	Wednesday'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.
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. **Grade penalties to students may occur at the discretion of the Instructor for more than one (1) un-excused absence. Leaving class early (failing to return from break) may be considered an un-excused absence and may result in a grade penalty being issued to the student.**

For an absence to be considered as “excused” proper documentation may be required, and the Instructor must deem the reason as “excusable.” Even “excused absences” can become excessive and thus may negatively impact a student’s grade average.

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. This class will rely heavily upon lecture material, so extensive note taking is strongly encouraged.

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

Drinks Non-alcoholic beverages only 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 phone messages is prohibited during class. Phones must be on “silent” mode or turned off prior to beginning of class.

Pagers Set on “silent” mode only.

Headphones / Radios / I-pods, electronic devices, or recording devices are not Permissible.

Computers **Not** Permissible without prior Instructor approval. **Not** permissible for during exams.

Conduct Behaviors, words, actions, dress, or circumstances that are deemed to be disruptive, rude, offensive, degrading, distracting, or inappropriate, 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.

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>	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>360 - 400</u>	<u>A</u>
Exams	(3)	100 Points each	Points Earned	320 - 359	B
Project	(1)	100 Points	Points Earned	280 - 319	C
Total Points		400 Points Possible	Points Earned	240 - 279	D
			Points Earned	Sub - 240	F

Exam / Project Schedule - (May be subject to change at professor discretion)

Exam 1	Wednesday February 20, 2008	Chapters - 1,2,3,4 & Instructor Notes.
Exam 2	Wednesday March 26, 2008	Chapters - 7,8,12,13,16 & Instructor Notes
Project Due	Wednesday April 16, 2008	Interview Project Due.
Make-Up	Wednesday May 07, 2008	Make Up Exam(s) & Final Review.
Final Exam	Wednesday May 14, 2008	Chapters - 17,18, & other material.

Exam Information -

- 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. Lecture and other instructor information will be a major source of test material.

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 extensive note taking is strongly encouraged.**

- Exams 1 & 2 will be time limited. Students will have approximately 60 minutes to complete exam 1, and to complete exam 2. After the exam time limit expires, other class activities will resume for the remainder of the class period.
- 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.
- Some exam material may be comprehensive in nature in that some exam questions may come from previous units, lectures, & exams.
- There will be no “make-up exams” offered during the semester.** Students who miss one or more exams for an “excused absence” only, must take a comprehensive essay / short-answer **“Make-Up Exam(s)”** on the date scheduled on the course outline. Reasons for missing an exam deemed not acceptable by the Instructor will result in the student receiving no credit for that particular exam.
- Extra credit opportunities will **not** be available.

Project - Due Wednesday April 16, 2008

1. Students will be required to interview one (1) professional person from any profession listed below. The person you interview may **not** be a (1) relative, (2) family friend, (3) a student or a professor at SHSU. The person may **not** have already granted an interview to another student in our class.. The interview must be conducted by the student in person (not over the phone).
 - 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
 - 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
 - o. Criminal Defense Attorney
 - p. 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 20 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 April 30, 2008.**
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 required information. A significant amount of exam material will come from sources (i.e. lecture) other than the assigned Text Book.

No:	Month	Day	Chapter(s)	Topic(s) to be Covered
1.	January	16	Chapter 1	Syllabus Review & Intro to Criminal Behavior
2.	January	23	Chapter 1, 2	Introduction to Criminal Behavior & Risk Factors
3.	January	30	Chapter 2, 3	Risk Factors & Origins of Criminal Behavior
4.	February	06	Chapter 3, 4	Origins of Criminal Behavior & Learning Factors
5.	February	13	Chapter 4	Learning Factors
6.	February	20	Exam 1	Take Exam & Begin Chapters 7-8
7.	February	27	Chapter 7, 8	Crime & Mental Disorders
8.	March	05	Chapter 12, 13	Sexual Assault
9.	March	12	N/A	Spring Break
10.	March	19	Chapter 16	Drugs, Alcohol & Crime
11.	March	26	Exam 2	Take Exam & Begin Chapter 17
12.	April	02	Chapter 17	Juvenile Delinquency
13.	April	09	Chapter 17-18	Juvenile Delinquency
14.	April	16	Project Due	Correctional Psychology & Management
15.	April	23	Chapter 18	Correctional Psychology & Management
16.	April	30	Chapter 18	Correctional Counseling / Programming
17.	May	07	Review for Final	Make Up Exam(s) Given.
18.	May	14	Exam 3 - Final	Chapters 17, 18, & Instructor Notes

Notes

1. Exams will cover both text material & instructor notes. Instructor notes may account for a significant amount of exam material.
2. Regular class attendance and taking detailed notes are strongly recommended.
3. Project will not be accepted after April 30, 2008.