
Criminological Theory Section 81

JS 151

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/11/2023

Contact Information

Instructor : Natalie Birthelmer

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Office: HB 125

Office Hours

Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Zoom

by appointment

Monday, 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM, HB125

In-person office hours will be held on Monday after class starting at 1:15pm, by appointment only

Course Description and Requisites

Analysis of the nature and extent of crime, including causation and prevention. Descriptions of offenses, criminal typologies and victim surveys. Evaluation of various control and prevention strategies.

Prerequisite(s): JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11

Pre/Corequisite(s): JS 100W. Justice Studies Minors: Any 100W.

Note(s): Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
5. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

At the end of a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies in the Department of Justice Studies, students should be able to:

1. Explain the major concepts, theories, and historical trends within studies of crime, law, and social justice at all levels, from local to global.
2. Describe and apply ways to gather valid information and conduct research to answer questions about crime, law, and social justice issues.
3. Understand and critically analyze individual, institutional, and societal responses to crime, law, and social justice issues.
4. Employ interdisciplinary perspectives on systems of inequality and concepts of justice to propose grounded, informed, and sustainable solutions to social problems in communities and/or institutions.
5. Articulate compelling, reasoned, and empirically-informed positions on issues of justice to diverse audiences. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Confidently discuss criminological theories, including history, limitations, and applications of theories. (CLO1)
2. Apply criminological theories to real life situations. (CLO2)
3. Write papers evaluating and applying criminological theories. (CLO3)
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about readings on criminological theories. (CLO4)
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. (CLO5)

Course Materials

Criminological Theory: The Essentials

Author: Tibbets, S.G.

Publisher: Sage

Edition: 3rd

ISBN: 9781506367897

You can also purchase the Tibbets & Hemmens Text/Reader version of the 3rd edition, OR the 4th edition of the Essentials by Tibbets & Piquero

Concise Guide to APA Style

Publisher: American Psychological Association

Edition: 7th

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3273-4

Optional

Consider investing in an APA style guide, there are many different formats including a pocket size one, that are very affordable

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements

This course is an interactive seminar with online reading, and writing assignments. All assigned materials and activities are intended to develop and enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the application of theoretical principles in criminology to real world scenarios. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, which, in an asynchronous online format, includes self-motivated independent study. All coursework must be thorough, complete, and thoughtful and should reveal command of the course content as well as of critical reading, writing, speaking, and thinking.

1. Late work will not be accepted. Missing, late, or plagiarized work will receive a grade of zero points.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have

issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

4. Quality of writing must be appropriate for university level education and must include proper APA citation. Refer to an APA style guide or the [Excelsior Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](https://owl.excelsior.edu/citation-and-documentation/apa-style/) (<https://owl.excelsior.edu/citation-and-documentation/apa-style/>) at if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.
5. To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com on Canvas, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Turnitin.com is integrated into all Canvas assignments, but students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Written Assignments : Discussions & Short Projects (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

This course is an interactive seminar with online activities and focused discussions via discussion boards. Short project activities and discussion board prompts are used to develop and enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the application of theoretical principles in criminology to real world scenarios. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, which, in an asynchronous online format, includes self-motivated independent study. All coursework must be thorough, complete, and thoughtful and should reveal command of the course content as well as of critical reading, writing, speaking, and thinking.

Written Assignments : Theory Application Papers (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

Each student will write two (2) theory application papers in order to learn to evaluate and apply criminological theories. Topics for each paper, as well as further instructions detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements for each assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Students must reference any sources in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the [Excelsior Online Writing Lab](https://owl.excelsior.edu/citation-and-documentation/apa-style/) if unclear about APA guidelines.

Exam: Midterm (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The midterm will cover the first part of the semester. It will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions.

Exam: Final (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The final exam will cover the latter part of the semester, will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The final exam will be taken at the time of the scheduled in-class final on Canvas.

Policy Presentation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4)

Individually or in groups of up to 3, you will sign up to present on a current issue in criminal justice by completing a series of tasks, including:

1. discussing the issue in depth,
2. discussing 2 applicable criminological theories in depth,
3. applying those criminological theory to issue,
4. provide policy recommendations based on your theory, and
5. generating discussion questions.

Each member of the group must participate actively in the presentation, and your presentation must be cohesive. As a group, you will create a power point to guide your presentation, and record yourself presenting. Your discussion of the material should be

thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. You are NOT allowed to read an essay or notes out loud during your presentation.

✓ Grading Information

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Theory Application Papers	20%	100 points	2 TAPs @ 50 points each
Midterm	20%	100 points	
Final	20%	100 points	
Presentation	20%	100 points	
Projects	20%	100 points	10 Projects @ 10 points each

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	490 to 500	98.0 to 100%
A	470 to 489	94.0 to 97.99%
A-	455 to 469	91.0 to 93.99%
B+	440 to 454	88.0 to 90.99%
B	420 to 439	84.0 to 87.99%
B-	405 to 419	81.0 to 83.99%
C+	390 to 404	78.0 to 80.99%
C	370 to 389	74.0 to 77.99%
C-	355 to 369	71.0 to 73.99%
D+	340 to 354	68.0 to 70.99%
D	320 to 339	64.0 to 67.99%
D-	305 to 319	61.0 to 63.99%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
Week 1	Introduction & Review of Syllabus	Due: Plagiarism Tutorials & Quiz Read syllabus and watch introductory video
Week 2	Introduction to Criminological Theory	Due: Project/Discussion 1 Chapter 1: An overview of issues in criminological theory Freakonomics: Abortion & Crime, Revisited (Episode 384) (https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/384-abortion-and-crime-revisited/id354668519?i=1000444184627)
Week 3	Classical School of Criminology	Chapter 2: Preclassical and classical theories of crime Canvas: Britto, S. & Noga-Styron, K.E. (2014). Media consumption and support for capital punishment.
Week 4	Modern Classical Applications	Due: Project/Discussion 2 Chapter 3: Modern applications of the classical perspective Canvas: Stotzer, R.L. & MacCartney, D. (2016). The Role of Institutional Factors on On-Campus Reported Rape Prevalence. (Routine Activities Theory) Canvas: Bouffard, L.A. & Bouffard, J.A. (2011). Understanding men's perceptions of risks and rewards in a date rape scenario. (Rational Choice Theory)
Week 5	Positivist School of Criminology	Due: Project/Discussion 3 Chapter 4: Early positive school perspectives of criminality Canvas: Johnson, B.D. & King, R.D. (2017). Facial profiling: Race, physical appearance, and punishment
Week 6	Modern Positivist Applications	Due: Project/Discussion 4 Chapter 5: Modern biosocial perspectives of criminal behavior Canvas: Roque, M., Welsh, B.C., & Raine, A. (2012). Biosocial criminology and modern crime prevention. (5 1/2 pages long) Canvas: Dabbs, J.M. & Morris, R. (1990). Testosterone, Social Class, and Antisocial Behavior in a Sample of 4,462 Men. (2 pages long)
Week 7	Strain Theory	Project/Discussion 5 Chapter 6: Early social structure and strain theories of crime Canvas: Levin, J. & Madfis, E. (2009). Mass murder at school and cumulative strain: A sequential model.
Exam Week 8	Midterm Exam	Midterm
Week 9	Social Disorganization Theory	Due: Project/Discussion 6 Chapter 7: The Chicago school and cultural and subcultural theories of crime Canvas: McDowell, M. & Reinhard, D. (2023). Community characteristics and the geographic distribution of Intimate Partner Violence: A partial test of social disorganization theory
Spring Break Week 10	Spring Break	
Week 11	Theory Application Paper 1	Due Wednesday 4/6: Theory Application Paper 1

When	Topic	Notes
Week 12	Learning & Control Theories	<p>Due: Project/Discussion 7</p> <p>Chapter 8: Social process and learning theories of crime</p> <p>Canvas: Harris, M.G. (1994). Cholas, Mexican-American Girls, and Gangs</p>
Week 13	Labeling Theory & Critical Criminology	<p>Due: Project/Discussion 8</p> <p>Chapter 9: Social reaction and critical models of crime</p> <p>Canvas: Aiello, B. & McQueeney, K. (2016). "How can you live without your kids?": Distancing from and embracing the stigma of "incarcerated mother."</p>
Week 14	Feminist Pathways Theory	<p>Due: Project/Discussion 9</p> <p>Chapter 10: Feminist models of crime</p> <p>Canvas: Burgess-Proctor, A. (2012). Pathways of victimization and resistance: Toward a feminist theory of battered women's help-seeking.</p> <p><i>Sin by Silence</i></p>
Week 15	Life-Course Theories	<p>Due: Project/Discussion 10</p> <p>Chapter 11: Life-course perspectives of criminality</p> <p>Canvas: Pyrooz, D.C. & Decker, S.H. (2011) Motives and methods for leaving the gang: Understanding the process of gang desistance.</p>
Week 16	Theory Application Paper 2	Due: Theory Application Paper 2
Week 17	Presentations	Due: Presentations
Final Exam Week 18 05/18/2023 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM	Final Exam	Take your final exam on 5/18