Dr. Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards,
AJ 201 TH 17.30-20.15, MH 526, Fall, 2000
Office: MH 509, Phone: 924-2945
Office hrs.: T 11.00-12.00, 1.00-4.30; W 11.00-12.00, 1.00-2.30; TH 2.30- 5.30

SEMINAR IN THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AJ 201, Fall 2000

Course Description
Analysis of theories of causes of crime and theories of crime control and crime prevention. Evaluations of various control and prevention strategies in juvenile and criminal justice, and a discussion of current issues.

Course Objectives
The objectives of the course are to:
1. Understand the history of crime control.
2. Enable the students to draw the connection between different theories of crime causation and crime control.
3. Enable the students to discuss and evaluate the major approaches to criminal justice, such as retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation, prevention and societal reform.
4. Discuss major current issues in crime control and the criminal justice system.
5. Evaluate future needs for research and policy in criminal justice.

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Articles and Chapters from other Books:
Additional articles and chapters are required and listed under each subject heading.

Course Requirements

1) Class Participation
Students are expected to attend class and participate actively and constructively in class discussions. Assigned materials should be read prior to each class meeting. Discussion should indicated knowledge of the subject matter, familiarity with the readings and ability to ask and answer probing questions. Students are encouraged to keep informed about current issues, and bring such issues to the class discussion. Grading on class participation will depend on how well the student participates in class discussions. Obviously, attendance is necessary for participation. Attendance
and participation will be recorded for each class meeting. Students should call in with an explanation if they are unable to attend a class meeting.

2) **Outside Readings Presentation and Short Written Report**
Each student must make an oral presentation, lead a class discussion, and turn in a written report on one of the assigned class topics. Students may select a sub-area within an assigned topic and must base the report primarily on five outside sources. The report is not intended to be a rehash of the regularly assigned materials, but rather an interesting augmentation of outside materials. Some of these could be from news-articles, but three of the five sources must be from the professional literature. The brief written report must be typed, double-spaced, and turned in on the day of the presentation (3 pages average, min. 2, max 4). In addition, each student must make a brief oral presentation of the term paper project towards the end of the semester. The term paper and the oral presentation can both be within the same general topic area, but the report and the term paper should not be identical.

3) **Term Paper**
Each student must prepare a term paper on a self-selected, but approved topic within the subject areas of the course. The paper must include a review of the relevant literature, summarize and analyze the state of knowledge in the area, and suggest problems, dilemmas, future trends, research and policy needs. Papers will be graded on their clarity, coherence and creativity. A simple literature review is not adequate. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with an average of 15 pages, maximum 20 pages, minimum 10 pages.

The paper must be written specifically for this class, and based on materials/issues discussed in AJ 201. All paper topics must be approved by the instructor, and students must provide a typed outline and 10 references in APA format by October 12. (Eight of these references must be from 1990 or more recent). The paper is due on December 7, 2000 and will be downgraded ½ grade for each late date. Papers must conform to the APA standards, 4th edition.

The following standards apply to the term paper:
- Typewritten and double-spaced, 12 font
- Correct punctuation, spelling and mechanics
- Properly footnoted or end-noted (where appropriate)
- Appendices where appropriate

**Grade Evaluation**

The course grade will be assigned according to the following weight distribution:
Class Participation: 1/3
Class Presentations and Short Report: 1/3
Term Paper: 1/3

Grading will conform to university regulations. Two thirds of the course must be completed and permission from the instructor must be obtained in advance to get an
Incomplete. A U will be given for unauthorized withdrawal; this will count as an F in the GPA.

AJ 201, Fall, 2000
COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 Overview of course outline. Explanation of course mechanics.

PART I. THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL

A. Introduction
Zimring and Hawkins: ch. 1. What Americans fear
ch. 2. Violence and the growth of crime
ch. 6. On causes and prevention
Akers, ch. 1: Introduction to criminological theories

II. PART II. THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Sept. 7 Field trip to library. Orientation to reference materials and computer resources for criminal justice research.

Sept. 14 Friedman: A. Criminal justice in the colonial period
B. Revolution to end of the nineteenth century
C. Criminal justice in the twentieth century
Duncan: Part I. Cradles on the sea: positive images of prison and theories of punishment (recommended)
Duncan, Part II. Strange Liking: Our admiration for criminals (recommended)

III. THEORIES OF CAUSES OF CRIME

Sept. 21 A. Biological, Psychological, and Social-Psychological Theories
Akers: ch. 3: Biological and psychological theories
Ch. 4: Social learning theories
Ch. 5: Social bonding and control theories
Ch. 6: Labeling theory

Sept. 28 Library Assignment: Work on term paper topic and reference sources

Oct. 5 B. Social Context Theories of Crime
Akers: ch. 7: Social disorganization, anomie, and strain theories,
Ch. 10: Feminist theories
Zimring and Hawkins; ch. 4, American lethal violence,
Ch. 5: New Perspectives
Carrington, K. (1998). Ch. 5: Postmodernism and feminist criminologies:
Disconnecting discourse. Daley, K. and Maher, L. (Eds). Criminology at
the crossroads: Feminist readings in crime and justice. New York: Oxford
University Press.
Merton, R. (1997). On the evolving synthesis of differential association and
Anomie theory: Criminology, 35(3), 517-524.
Student Presentations/Short Reports

Oct. 12

C. Structural Theories of Crime
Akers: ch. 8: Conflict theory; ch. 9: Marxist and critical theories
Zimring and Hawkins: ch. 7: Firearms; ch. 8: Mass media effects;
Ch. 9: Illicit drugs and the death rate from violence
(Eds).
Parker, K., and McCall, P. (1999). Structural conditions and racial homicide
Patterns: A look at the multiple disadvantages in urban areas. Criminology,
37(3), 447-479.
Short paragraph on term paper topic is due
Student Presentations/Short Reports

PART IV. THEORIES AND MODELS OF CRIME CONTROL

Oct. 19

A. Revenge and Retribution Theories
Theories of criminal justice. Wakefield, New Hampshire: Longwood
Academic.
Duncan: Part III. In slime and darkness: The metaphor of filth in criminal
justice. (recommended)
Student presentations/Short Reports

Oct. 26

B. Deterrence and Incapacitation Theories
Akers: ch. 2: Deterrence and rational choice theories
Auerhahn, K. Selective incapacitation and the problem of prediction.
Criminology, 37(4), 703-735.
Van den Haag, E. (1986). The ultimate punishment: A defense, and
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/angel/procon/greenbergarticle.html
Punishment: An examination of the deterrence question. Criminology,
29(3), 367-395.
Criminology, 36(4), 711-735. (recommended)
Student Presentations/Short Reports

Nov. 2
C. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Victims’ Rights Theories
Student Presentations/Short Reports

Nov. 9
D. Crime Prevention as Crime Control Theories
Crime Bill of 1994
Zimring and Hawkins: ch. 10: Lethal violence and the criminal law
Ch. 11: Strategies of prevention
Rosenbaum, D.P. Lurigio, and Davis: ch. 1: A thirty year war on crime:
Finding a place for crime prevention; Ch. 11. Some concluding thoughts on
Weisburd (1997). Reorienting crime prevention research and policy. From
Rhodes, ch. 22: Strategies of prevention and control (recommended)
35(1), 1-11.
Student presentations/Short Reports

Nov. 16
American Society of Criminology meetings in San Francisco

Nov. 23
Thanksgiving holiday

Nov. 30
E. Theoretical Models of Criminal Sanctions
Medicaid provider fraud. Criminology, 30(4), 547-574.
Student Presentations/Short Reports

Dec 7
PART V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
Student presentations of term papers
Akers, ch. 11: Integrating criminological theories

Term papers are due