Dr. Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards,  
AJ 201 W 17.30-20.15, MH 510, Sp, 2001  
Office: MH 509, Phone: 408-924-2945; FAX 408-924-2953; isagatun@email.sjsu.edu  
Office hrs.: T 1.00-5.00; W 2.30-5.30; TH 10-12

SEMINAR IN THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
AJ 201, Spring 2001

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 intended as 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, and three must be from the 1990’s or more recent. 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, with references in APA, 4th edition format). 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 April 11, 2001. (Eight of these references must be from 1990 or more recent). The paper is due on May 9, 2001 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**

Jan. 24  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**

Jan. 31  Field trip to library. Orientation to reference materials and computer resources for criminal justice research.  
Friedman: **A. Criminal justice in the colonial period**

Feb. 7  Friedman: **B. Revolution to end of the nineteenth century**  
**C. Criminal justice in the twentieth century**

**III. THEORIES OF CAUSES OF CRIME**

Feb. 14  **A. Biological and Psychological Theories**  
Akers: ch. 3: Biological and psychological theories  
Ch. 4: Social learning theories  
*Student Presentations/ Short reports*

Feb. 21  **B. Social-Psychological Theories**  
Ch. 5: Social bonding and control theories  
Ch. 6: Labeling theory  

**Student Presentations/Short reports**

**Febr. 28**

**C. 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

**Student Presentations/Short Reports**

**March 7**

**D. 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

**Student Presentations/Short Reports**

PART IV. THEORIES AND MODELS OF CRIME CONTROL

**March 14**

**A. Revenge and Retribution Theories**


**Student presentations/Short Reports**

**March 21**

**B. Deterrence and Incapacitation Theories**

Akers: ch. 2: Deterrence and rational choice theories

Get term paper topic approval from instructor
Student Presentations/Short Reports

March 28   Spring Vacation

April 4    Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference.
Library Project on Term Papers.

April 11   C. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Victims’ Rights Theories
Cincinatti, Ohio: Anderson Publishing Comp.
Student Presentations/Short Reports

One page outline and 10 references are due on term paper

April 18.   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:
Rhodes, ch. 22: Strategies of prevention and control (recommended)
Student presentations/Short Reports

April 25   E. Rational Choice and “Hot Spots” theories.
From the causes of criminality to the context of crime. Washington D.C.:
National Institute of Justice.
Student presentations/Short Reports

May 2

F. Theoretical Models of Criminal Sanctions
Student Presentations/Short Reports

May 9

PART V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
Student presentations of term papers
Akers, ch. 11: Integrating criminological theories
Term papers are due