Fall 2005  JS 201: SEMINAR IN THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Professor: Richard Perry
Office: 525 MacQuarrie Hall
Phone: (408) 924-1337; fax (408) 924-2953;
email: rperry@email.sjsu.edu (email is the preferred mode of contact)
Office Hours: Tues. 10:00 – 10:30 and 1:30 – 2:30; Thurs. 10:00 – 10:30 and 2:00 – 5:00

Catalog Course Description: Analysis of theories of crime and theories of crime control and prevention. Evaluations of various control and prevention strategies in juvenile and criminal justice, and a discussion of current issues. Prereq: JS 118 or equivalent.

Catalog Course objectives:
1. To enable students to understand the history of crime/crime control.
2. To enable students to draw connections between different theories of crime causation and crime control.
3. To enable students to discuss and evaluate major approaches to criminal justice, including retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation, prevention, and societal reform.
4. To consider current issues in crime control and the criminal justice system.
5. To evaluate future needs for research and policy in criminal justice.

(Note: This syllabus was developed by Professor Sagatun-Edwards and is being adapted for the Fall 2005 course offering with her generous permission and assistance.)

Required Course Readings:
3. AJ 201 Course Reader, available at Maple Press during the second week. A first reading will be available on the MLK Library e-reserves site as of August 26th. Other short readings may and/or handouts may be distributed during the course.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and participate in an active and engaged manner appropriate for a graduate seminar course – in-class participation will count for a significant part of each student’s final grade. The assigned materials should be read prior to each class meeting and each student’s class participation should be grounded in a working understanding of the assigned readings. Students are especially encouraged to keep themselves informed about current issues in criminal justice.

2. Oral Presentation and Short Written Report: Each student will make an oral presentation, lead the class discussion, and submit a short written report on an chosen sub-topic related to that
week’s main focus of the readings on the course syllabus. This is intended as an opportunity for the student to display command of the concepts and the literature on this chosen sub-topic, and to augment the understanding of the rest of the class by reference to a few supplementary materials – at least five items. Some of these may be from newspapers or the on-line news sources, but at least three of the items discussed should be from the scholarly literature. The brief written report should be four to five typed, double-spaced pages in twelve-point font, with references in the APA style, and should be submitted on the day of the oral presentation. In addition, toward the end of the semester, each student should make a brief oral presentation of her term-paper topic. The first oral presentation/written report and the final term paper can be on related topics, but they should not be identical.

3. Term Paper: Each student must prepare a term paper on a topic selected by the student and approved by the professor. The paper should include a review of the relevant literature; it should summarize the state of scholarship in the area, and it should suggest scholarly initiatives and directions for future research, as well as policy implications. Papers will be graded on their command of the topic, as well as on their clarity, coherence and creativity. The paper must be between twelve and twenty pages, typed, double-spaced, twelve-point font, with at least ten scholarly references. An outline of the paper and a bibliography should be submitted at the twelfth week class meeting. The paper must use the American Psychological Association citation style and format which can be found at <http://library.sjsu.edu/leap/cite.htm>.

**Grading:**
Overall class participation: 33%
Oral presentation and short writings: 33%
Term paper: 33%
Presentation dates will be assigned by the instructor. Depending on how many students are in the class, there may be more than one presenter for each class period.

The student(s) making class presentations) will also be responsible for leading a class discussion of that week’s readings, and relating the outside source presentation to the assigned readings.

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 ("I"). A "U" will be given for unauthorized withdrawal; this will count as an "F" in the GP A. A "U" is given when a student stops attending the class, without filing the necessary drop papers. An automatic "F" is given for plagiarism or cheating.

Note: In order to satisfy the writing requirements for the M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration, JS 201 must be passed with a minimum grade of B.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
PART I. UNDERSTANDING CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL

August 25: Introduction to the history of criminological and criminal justice theory beginning
with a discussion of the work of Emile Durkheim.

Sept 1: Emile Durkheim and the foundations of criminological theory. Short take-home writing
assignment.

Sept. 8: A. Introduction to Theories of Criminal Justice; Akers, ch. 1: Introduction to
Politics; Course Reader. Bernard, T., & Engel, R.S. (2001). Conceptualizing criminal justice
theory. Justice Quarterly, 4(1), 1-30; Course Reader

Sept. 15th; B. Historical Perspective and Current Problems
Criminology 2003 Presidential Address. Criminology. 42(1), 1-26; Course Reader.

II. THEORIES OF CAUSES OF CRIME

Sept. 22nd, A. Biological Theories; Akers: ch. 3: Biological theories; Brennan, Mednick &
Volavka (1995). Ch. 4: Biomedical factors in crime In Wilson, J. & Petersilia, J. (Eds.) Crime,
evolutionary theories in Criminology. Criminology. 35(2), 229-275; Course Reader
Rowe, D. (2002). Does the body tell? Biological characteristics of Criminal disposition. Ch. 5
Reader

Sept. 29th B. Psychololical and Social-Psychololical Theories
Akers: Ch. 4: Psychological theories, ch. 5: Social learning theories; ch. ( Social bonding and
Farrington, D. (2003). Developmental and life-course criminology: Key theoretical and
empirical issues- The 2002 Sutherland Award Address. Criminology. 41, 221-255; Course
Reader; Student Presentations/Short reports/Discussion

Oct. 6th: Social Context Theories of Crime
Akers: ch. 7: Social disorganization, anomie, and strain theories,
Sampson, R., & Wilson, W. J. (1995). Toward a theory of race, crime and urban urbanity;
of differential association and anomie theory: Criminology. 35, 517-524; Sampson, R.
Student Presentations/Short Reports/Discussion

Oct. 13th: D. Structural and Conflict Theories of Crime
Akers: Ch. 7, Labeling theory; ch. 9: Conflict theory; ch. 10: Marxist and critical theories

PART III. THEORIES AND MODELS OF CRIME CONTROL

Oct. 20th: A. Theoretical Models of Criminal Sanctions
Student presentations/Short Topics/Discussion

Oct. 27th: B. Revenge and Retribution Theories
Student presentations/Short Reports/Discussion

Nov. 3rd: C. Deterrence and Incapacitation Theories

Nov. 10th: D. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Victims' Rights Theories
Braithwaite, J. (2002). Restorative justice and responsive Regulation. Ch. 1: The fall and rise of restorative justice; Ch. 4: Theories that might explain why restorative justice works.

Nov. 17th: E. Crime Prevention Theories
One page outline and 10 references (APA, 5th ed) for term paper is due

Nov. 24th: F. Rational Choice and "Hot Spots" Prevention theories.

PART IV: CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION: APPLICATION TO SOCIAL POLICY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Dec. 1st: NO CLASS

Dec. 8th: Akers, ch. 12: Integrating criminological theories
Student Presentations of Term Paper Research

Dec. 15th Final Paper Due Date