

FALL 2000
AJ 118 SECTION 2
TTH 12:00-1:15
MacQuarrie Hall Rm 520

Dr. Cynthia Baroody Hart
Office: MacQuarrie Hall 511
Phone: 924 - 2944
Office Hours:
Tue : 8:00-9:00, 1:30-2:30
Wed : 4:30-5:30
Thur: 8:00-9:00
OR BY APPOINTMENT

AJ 118
THE NATURE OF CRIME

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Nature of Crime deals with the analysis of the nature and extent of crime, including causation and prevention. Descriptions of offenses, criminal typologies, and victim surveys. Evaluation of various prevention and control strategies are discussed.

This course is designed to explore the nature of crime and criminality. In order to do so, we must first understand how crime is "officially" defined and the workings of the criminal justice system relative to that definition.

We must also understand the extent of crime (which is not an easy thing to do!) To that end, we will discuss various ways of measuring crime and how that may color our definition of crime. Our discussion of the extent of crime, will be guided by a discussion of various types of crime.

The majority of the class lectures and discussions will focus on various THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS of crime and criminality. We will discuss psychological, biological, socio-economic, and socio-cultural perspectives in criminology.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine legal definitions of various acts as criminal.
2. To review the workings of the criminal justice system.
3. To understand the extent of crime.
4. To identify the ways of measuring crime.
5. To analyze various theoretical explanations of crime and criminality.

REQUIRED READING:

John E. Conklin (1998) Criminology 6th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Jeffrey Reiman (1998) The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison 5th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Both books are available at the Spartan bookstore as well Robert's bookstore. Other readings may be assigned to supplement the text. These will be placed on reserve in the library or made available to the student in class. Students are

also expected to keep up with recent developments in the criminal justice area by reading a daily newspaper such as The San Jose Mercury News, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Los Angeles Times, or The New York Times. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS DISCUSSION REGARDING CURRENT EVENTS AND ISSUES.

GRADING:

The basic requirements for the course consist of adequate performance (in line with the university requirements) on three examinations. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, fill-ins, and essays. The examinations will reflect (1) required readings (2) lectures (3) class discussion and (4) films used in class. Each examination is worth 100 points and represents 33% of the final grade.

EXAM #1	=	33%
EXAM #2	=	33%
EXAM #3	=	33%
		100%

An extra credit paper is available to the student. Extra credit papers must be arranged, IN WRITING, PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 26, 2000. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. The topic is open, however it must be relevant to the subject matter of the class! Extra credit reports should be 8 - 10 double-spaced pages in length.

PLEASE PROVIDE 2 COPIES OF YOUR WORK. IF YOU DO NOT ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES, YOU FORFEIT YOUR OPTION FOR AN EXTRA CREDIT PAPER.

DUE SEPTEMBER 26 - One typed page explanation of paper topic and a list of possible sources. THIS REQUIRES THAT YOU DO LIBRARY RESEARCH BEFORE 9/26 ! You must provide at least 3 sources from the periodical literature. These must be scholarly articles. Journals such as:

Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Criminal Justice are appropriate. Familiarize yourself with the 3rd floor of Clark library!

Each student is also required to conference with the instructor, at least once during the course of the semester. This is a minimum requirement. I would like to see students on a regular basis - my door is always open to you, don't hesitate to come by. PLEASE COME FOR AN INITIAL CONFERENCE EARLY IN THE SEMESTER. If your schedule does not fit well with my office hours, please call for an appointment. I am frequently around at times other than scheduled office hours. You are welcome to come by any time.

Class participation is also encouraged. While there is no clear formula, in cases where a final grade is between two grades, attendance and class participation may help to enhance your grade. I will be keeping close track of class participation, tallying class participation and lack of participation. I reserve the right to increase a student's final grade based on class participation.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is important. However, attendance is not required but is suggested, strongly.

Make-up Policy:

The departmental policy will be followed regarding make-up examinations. The make-up exam will be given after the last scheduled examination. Make-ups are given in extreme cases and only when appropriate documentation is provided.

Tentative class schedule 118AM

Students are EXPECTED TO HAVE THE MATERIAL READ FOR CLASS!!!!!!

1st week		Intro - Norms, Deviance & Crime	Chapter 1
2nd week	9/5	The Study of Crime Measuring Crime	Chapter 2
3rd week	9/12	The Costs of Crime	Chapter 3
4th week	9/19	Classical Theories	Handout
5th week	9/26	Biological Theories	Chapter 5
6th week	10/3	Psychological Theories	Chapter 5
EXAM 1	10/5		
7th week	10/10	Socio-economic Sources of Crime	Chapter 6
8th week	10/17	Social Control Theory	Chapter 7
9th week	10/24	Learning Theory	Chapter 8
10th week	10/31	<u>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison</u>	
EXAM 2	11/2		
11th week	11/7	Opportunity Theory	Chapter 9
12th week	11/14	Criminal careers	Chapter 10
13th week	11/21	Organization	Chapter 11
THANKSGIVING			
14th week	11/28	Response to Crime	Chapter 12
15th week	12/5	EXTRA CREDIT PAPER DUE	
FINAL EXAM	12/14	9:45-12:00	

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!!