

AJ 118: The Nature of Crime  
Dr. David Simon Fall, 2000

Fall 2000--Syllabus

Phone (O): 924-1337  
Office MH 522

Hours: M W 2:45-5

Required Texts

Lanier, Mark & Stuart Henry (1998) Essential Criminology ( Westview); hereafter EC

Simon, David R. (1995) Social Problems & The Sociological Imagination (McGraw-Hill); hereafter SPSI

Goals

This course is an introduction to criminological theory. All goals in this course are based on the concept of theory. Consequently, the goals in the course will include the development of:

1. Scientific requirements for testing a theory.
2. The state of scientific knowledge regarding various criminological theories.
3. The relationship between crime theories and crime policies.
4. The distinction between macro, immediate milieu, and individualistic crime theories.
5. The development and use of the sociological imagination paradigm as it concerns crime causation.

Logistics

1. The class format style will be that of a survey of criminological theory. This course will trace the historical development of criminological theory from its biological origins to the present day.
2. Students will also do a scholarly paper on a theoretical issue or controversy covered in the course. The directions for the paper are

contained in the SPSI book and will be gone over in detail in class.

3. Midterm and final examinations: these will be objective exams and will require Scantron sheets that can be purchased at the Bookstore. Review sessions will be held before each exam.

4. GRADING CRITERIA:

1.	Midterm exam:	<u>one-third</u>
2.	Term project:	<u>one-third</u>
3.	Final examination	<u>one-third</u>

Total: 100%

STUDENT CONDUCT:

NOTE: YOUR INSTRUCTOR IS BLESSED\CURSED WITH EXCEPTIONALLY ACUTE HEARING, AND HAS EXTREMELY LOW TOLERANCE OF EXTRANEOUS NOISE. NO WHISPERING, NOTE PASSING, OR OTHER DISTRACTIVE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED DURING CLASS LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS. STUDENT CLASS PARTICIPATION IS VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED, AND STUDENT COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. RUDENESS IN THE FORM OF DISRUPTION IS UNFAIR TO BOTH THE INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS DESIRING TO LEARN. IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AND THOSE STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO REFRAIN FROM DISRUPTIVE NOISE DURING CLASS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

## Reading Assignments

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
<u>Part I: Introduction to the Sociological Imagination Paradigm</u>		
<u>1</u>	<u>Introduction</u>	<u>SPSI, Ch. 1; EC, Ch. 1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Social Problem Analysis</u>	<u>SPSI, Ch. 4</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Power, Crime, &amp; Alienation</u>	<u>SPSI, Chs. 2 &amp; 3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Defining Crime</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 2</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Measuring Crime</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 3</u>
<u>Part II: Early Schools of Criminological Thought</u>		
<u>6</u>	<u>The Classical School</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 4</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>The Biological School</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 5</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>The Psychological School</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 6</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</u>	
<u>Part III Contemporary Criminological Theories</u>		
<u>10</u>	<u>The Process School</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 7</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Failed Socialization</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 8</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>Social Ecology</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 9</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>Anomie Theory</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 10</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>Radical Criminology</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 11; SPSI, Ch. 5</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>Alternative Criminological Theories</u>	<u>EC, Ch. 12; SPSI, Ch. 6</u>

ALL PROJECTS DUE MONDAY OF THE LAST DAY OF CLASS  
BEFORE FINAL WEEK

16 FINAL EXAMINATION