

SPRING 2001
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 - 9, 1:30 - 2:30
Wed : 4:30 - 5:30
Thur: 8 - 9
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.

The financial and human costs of crime are staggering. Crime and criminality rank at the top of the list of American concerns.

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, 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 (2001) Criminology(7th ed.) Boston: Allyn & Bacon

Jeffrey Reiman (1999) The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison
5th ed. New York: Macmillan,

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%
		<u>100%</u>

An extra credit paper is available to the student. Extra credit papers must be arranged, IN WRITING, PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 13, 2001. 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.

In an attempt to aid the student interested in the extra-credit paper, I would like to keep a close watch on the initial stages of the paper. There is nothing worse than putting a great deal of effort into a paper and then having to change your approach in mid-stream. The following schedule for the paper should be helpful. PLEASE PROVIDE 2 COPIES OF YOUR WORK FOR EACH STAGE. IF YOU DO NOT ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES, YOU FORFEIT YOUR OPTION FOR AN EXTRA CREDIT PAPER.

TIME FRAME FOR EXTRA CREDIT PAPER	
DUE FEB. 13	- One typed page explanation of paper topic/ and list of possible sources. <u>THIS REQUIRES THAT YOU DO LIBRARY RESEARCH BEFORE 2/13/01!!</u> You must provide at least 3 sources from the periodical literature. These must be scholarly articles. Journals such as: <u>Criminology</u> , <u>Justice Quarterly</u> , <u>Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency</u> , <u>Journal of Criminal Justice</u> are appropriate. Familiarize yourself with the 3rd floor of Clark library!
FEB. 13 - 20	- IF NECESSARY, Conference with me re: paper topic and sources. I will initiate this meeting.
DUE MARCH 1	- Outline of paper & list of sources. Two typed, double-spaced pages; one page outline and one page of references.
PAPER DUE MAY 15	- NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

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

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

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

1st week	1/25	Intro: Norms, Deviance & Crime	
2nd week	1/30	The study of crime Measuring Crime	Chapter 1 & 2
3rd week	2/6	Costs of Crime	Chapter 3
4th week	2/13	Classical Theories	Handout
5th week	2/20	Bio and Psych Theories	Chapter 5
EXAM 1	3/1		
7th week	3/6	Socio-econ Sources of Crime	Chapter 6
8th week	3/13	Social Control Theory	Chapter 7
9th week	3/20	Learning Theory	Chapter 8

SPRING BREAK 3/26-30!!!!!!!!!!

11th week	4/3	<u>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison</u>	
EXAM 2	4/12		
13th week	4/17	Opportunity Theory	Chapter 9
14th week	4/24	Criminal Careers	Chapter 10
15th week	5/1	Organization	Chapter 11
16th week	5/8	Response to Crime	Chapter 12

*****EXTRA CREDIT PAPER DUE 5/15*****

LAST DAY OF CLASS 5/15

FINAL EXAM MODAY 5/21 9:45 - 12:00

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!