

AJ118-THE NATURE OF CRIME
SYLLABUS

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Required Text:

Beirne, P. & J. Messerschmidt, (1995) CRIMINOLOGY 2ND ED. (Harcourt
Brace); hereafter CM

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to introduce students to:

1. Various definitions & measurements of crime.
2. Media images of the crime problem
3. The various types of crime, from “street” crime to elite crime
4. The interrelationships between the various types of crime
5. The various classical and contemporary theories of crime causation

Logistics:

Grades in this class will be determined by the following criteria, each of
which will count one-third of the final course grade:

1. A midterm examination—which will cover the definitions, measurements,
and theories of crime causation.
2. An ideological content analysis involving crime causation and policy,
the directions for which will be handed out and gone over in class.
3. A final examination—which will cover the various types of crime

Finally, please note the reading assignments below. I consider the information in the text
a useful guide for students. I assume everyone has read it. This means that I will not
merely follow along with the text, but will summarize what you need to know and
explore what I believe is significant about the issues we study. I ALSO URGE
STUDENTS TO REGULARLY ATTEND CLASS,. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT TAKE
ATTENDANCE, AND PLEASE DO NOT CALL ME TO TELL ME YOU ARE NOT
GOING TO BE IN CLASS. IF YOU MISS CLASS, GET THE NOTES FROM
ANOTHER STUDENT, OR COME SEE ME IN AN OFFICE HOUR.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

NOTE: YOUR INSTRUCTOR IS BLESSED\CURSED WITH EXCEPTIONALLY ACUTE HEARING, AND HAS EXTREMELY LOW TOLERANCE OF EXTRANEIOUS 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.

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<u>PART 1: INTRODUCTION</u>		
1	Crime Definitions	CM, CH. 1
2	MEASURING CRIME	CM, CH. 2
3	CLASSICAL CRIME THEORY	CM, CH. 10
<u>PART II: CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES</u>		
4	EARLY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY	CM, CH. 11
5	CONSERVATIVE CRIME THEORIES	CM, CH. 12
<u>SUGGESTED: CH. 13</u>		
6	LIBERAL CRIME THEORIES	CM, CH. 14
7	RADICAL CRIME THEORIES	CM, CH. 15
<u>PART III: TYPES OF CRIME & VICTIMS</u>		
8	CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION	CM, CH. 3
9	INTERPERSONAL VIOLENT CRIME	CM, CH. 4
10	PROPERTY CRIMES	CM, CH. 5
11	PUBLIC-ORDER OFFENSES	CM, CH. 6
12	WHITE-COLLAR CRIME	CM, CH. 7
13	CRIMES BY & AGAINST THE STATE	CM, PP. 285-303
14	INTERNATIONAL STATE CRIME	CM, PP. 303-326
15	COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY	CM, CH. 16
<u>ALL CONTENT ANALYSIS PROJECTS DUE MONDAY OF WEEK # 15</u>		
16	FINAL EXAMINATION	