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AJ 201 W 17.30-20.15, MH 510, Sp, 2001
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Office hrs.: T 1.00-5.00; W 2.30- 5.30; TH 10-12

SEMINAR IN THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AJ 201, Spring 2001

Course Description

Analysis of theories of causes of crime and theories of crime control and crime prevention. Evaluations of various control and prevention strategies in juvenile and criminal justice, and a discussion of current issues.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

1. Understand the history of crime control.
2. Enable the students to draw the connection between different theories of crime causation and crime control.
3. Enable the students to discuss and evaluate the major approaches to criminal justice, such as retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation, prevention and societal reform.
4. Discuss major current issues in crime control and the criminal justice system.
5. Evaluate future needs for research and policy in criminal justice.

Required Readings:

- Akers, R.L. (2000). Criminological theories: Introduction and evaluation. 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Comp.
- Friedman, L. (1993). Crime and punishment in American history. New York: Basic Books.
- Zimring, F., and Hawkins, G. (1997). Crime is not the problem: Lethal violence in America. New York: Oxford University Press

Recommended Readings:

- Crutchfield, R. D., Bridges, G., Weis, J., Kubrin, C. (eds). (2000). Crime Readings, 2nd. Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Van Ness, D. and Strong, K.H. (1997). Restoring justice. Cincinnati, OH.: Anderson Publishing Comp.

Articles and Chapters from other Books:

Additional articles and chapters are required and listed under each subject heading,

Course Requirements

1) Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively and constructively in class discussions. Assigned materials should be read prior to each class meeting. Discussion should indicate knowledge of the subject matter, familiarity with the readings and ability to ask and answer probing questions. Students are encouraged to keep informed about current issues, and bring such issues to the class discussion. Grading on class participation will depend on how well the student participates in class discussions. Obviously, attendance is necessary for participation. Attendance

and participation will be recorded for each class meeting. Students should call in with an explanation if they are unable to attend a class meeting.

2) Outside Readings Presentation and Short Written Report

Each student must make an oral presentation, lead a class discussion, and turn in a written report on one of the assigned class topics. Students may select a sub-area within an assigned topic and must base the report primarily on five outside sources. The report is intended as an interesting augmentation of outside materials. Some of these could be from news-articles, but three of the five sources must be from the professional literature, and three must be from the 1990's or more recent. The brief written report must be typed, double-spaced, and turned in on the day of the presentation (3 pages average; min. 2, max 4, with references in APA, 4th edition format). In addition, each student must make a brief oral presentation of the term paper project towards the end of the semester. The term paper and the oral presentation can both be within the same general topic area, but the report and the term paper should not be identical.

3) Term Paper

Each student must prepare a term paper on a self-selected, but approved topic within the subject areas of the course. The paper must include a review of the relevant literature, summarize and analyze the state of knowledge in the area, and suggest problems, dilemmas, future trends, research and policy needs. Papers will be graded on their clarity, coherence and creativity. A simple literature review is not adequate. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with an average of 15 pages, maximum 20 pages, minimum 10 pages.

The paper must be written specifically for this class, and based on materials/issues discussed in AJ 201. All paper topics must be approved by the instructor, and students must provide a typed outline and 10 references in APA format by April 11, 2001. (Eight of these references must be from 1990 or more recent). The paper is due on May 9, 2001 and will be downgraded ½ grade for each late date. Papers must conform to the APA standards, 4th edition.

The following standards apply to the term paper:

- Typewritten and double-spaced, 12 font
- Correct punctuation, spelling and mechanics
- Properly footnoted or end-noted (where appropriate)
- Appendices where appropriate
- American Psychological Association (APA) reference format, 4th ed., in text and reference list.

Grade Evaluation

The course grade will be assigned according to the following weight distribution:

Class Participation:	1/3
Class Presentations and Short Report:	1/3
Term Paper:	1/3

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

Schur, E. (2000). Labeling criminals. In Crutchfield et al (eds)., *ibid*
p. 281-283.

Student Presentations/Short reports

Febr. 28 **C. Social Context Theories of Crime**

Akers: ch. 7: Social disorganization, anomie, and strain theories,
Ch. 10: Feminist theories

Zimring and Hawkins; ch. 4, American lethal violence,

Ch. 5: New Perspectives

Simpson, S. (2000). Feminist theory, crime and justice. In
Crutchfield et al (eds). Crime readings. Thousand Oaks, CA:
Pine Forge Press, p. 389-398.

Sampson, R., & Wilson, W. J. (2000). Toward a theory of race,
Crime and urban urbanity. In Crutchfield et al. *ibid.*, p. 126-137.

Merton, R. (2000). Social structure and anomie. In Crutchfield et al (ed.)
ibid , p. 201-206.

Merton, R. (1997). On the evolving synthesis of differential association and
anomie theory: Criminology, 35(3), 517-524

Student Presentations/Short Reports

March 7 **D. Structural Theories of Crime**

Akers: ch. 8: Conflict theory; ch. 9: Marxist and critical theories

Zimring and Hawkins: ch. 7: Firearms; ch. 8: Mass media effects;

Ch. 9: Illicit drugs and the death rate from violence

Freeman, R. (1995). Ch. 8: The Labor Market in Wilson, J., and Petersilia
(Eds)., p 171-192.

Turk, A. (2000). Conflict and criminality. In Crutchfield et al. Crime
readings. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Pres, p. 314- 320.

Student Presentations/Short Reports

PART IV. THEORIES AND MODELS OF CRIME CONTROL

March 14 **A. Revenge and Retribution Theories**

Ellis, K. and Ellis, C. (1989). Ch. 3: The beauty of “punishment” revisited.
In Theories of criminal justice. Wakefield, New Hampshire: Longwood
Academic.

Lyons, D. (1995). Punishment as retribution; Morris, H. Punishment
And fairness; Ten, C. L. Is punishment fair? In M/ Gorr & Harwood, S.
(eds.). Crime and punishment. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Pubs.

Student presentations/Short Reports

March 21 **B. Deterrence and Incapacitation Theories**

Akers: ch. 2: Deterrence and rational choice theories

Visher, C. (1987). Incapacitation and crime control: Does a “lock-em up”
Strategy reduce crime: Justice Quarterly, 4(4), 513-545.

Auerhahn, K. (1999). Selective incapacitation and the problem of prediction. Criminology, 37(4), 703-735.

Van den Haag, E. (1986). The ultimate punishment: A defense, and Greenberg, J. (1996). Against the American system of capital punishment.

In The death penalty: Pro and con, Harvard Law Review Association. www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/angel/procon/greenbergarticle.html

Peterson, R. & Bailey, W. (1991). Felony murder and capital Punishment: An examination of the deterrence question. Criminology, 29(3), 367-395.

Get term paper topic approval from instructor

Student Presentations/Short Reports

March 28 Spring Vacation

April 4 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference.
Library Project on Term Papers.

April 11 **C. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Victims' Rights Theories**

Gendreau, P. et al (1996). A meta-analysis of the predictors of adult offender recidivism: What works. Criminology, 34(4), 575-607.

Van Ness and Strong: Part I. The vision of restorative justice.

Cincinnati, Ohio: Anderson Publishing Comp.

Karmen (1997). Ch. 4. Victims and the criminal justice system. In Crime victims. 3d ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Comp.

Student Presentations/Short Reports

One page outline and 10 references are due on term paper

April 18. **D. Crime Prevention as Crime Control Theories**

Crime Bill of 1994

Zimring and Hawkins: ch. 10: Lethal violence and the criminal law

Ch. 11: Strategies of prevention

Rosenbaum, D.P. Lurigio, and Davis: ch. 1: A thirty year war on crime:

Finding a place for crime prevention; Ch. 11. Some concluding thoughts on Crime prevention. In Rosenbaum, D.P. (1996). Crime Prevention.

Rhodes, ch. 22: Strategies of prevention and control (recommended)

Welford, C. (1997). Controlling crime and achieving justice. Criminology, 35(1), 1-11.

Student presentations/Short Reports

April 25 **E. Rational Choice and "Hot Spots" theories.**

Ahers (2000). Ch. 2, Rational choice theories.

Cohen, L. & Felson, M. (2000). Social change and crime rate trends:

A routine activity approach. In Crutchfield et al (eds). Crime readings.

Thousand Oaks, CA.: Pine Forge Press.

Weisburd, J. (1997). Reorienting crime prevention research and policy.

From the causes of criminality to the context of crime. Washington D.C.:

National Institute of Justice.
Student presentations/Short Reports

May 2

F. Theoretical Models of Criminal Sanctions

Packer, H. (196). Two models of the criminal sanction. In Packer, H. The limits of the criminal sanction. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Freely, M. and Simon. (1992). The new penology: Notes on the emerging Strategy of corrections and its implications. Criminology, 30(4), 449-475.

Tillman, R. and Pontell, H. (1992). Is justice “collar-blind”? Punishing Medicaid provider fraud. Criminology, 30(4), 547-574.

Student Presentations/Short Reports

May 9

PART V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Student presentations of term papers

Akers, ch. 11: Integrating criminological theories

Term papers are due