

VICTIMLESS CRIME
Course Syllabus

Professor: Ann Lucas, J.D., Ph.D.
MacQuarrie Hall 513
Office: (408) 924-2914
Dept. Fax: (408) 924-2953
E-mail: alucas@casa.sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:45-10:30 am
Monday 2:00-5:30 pm

Class Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday 10:30 - 11:45 am
MacQuarrie Hall 526

AJ Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/depts/casa/aj (this syllabus will be posted there)

This course examines the concept of “victimless crimes” or “crimes without victims,” commonly also called “vice crimes.” We will examine three such crimes/behaviors in depth: drug use and abuse, prostitution, and gambling. This category of crimes is particularly useful for a consideration of the role of law in society, because controversy over their continued status as crimes suggests there might be useful non-criminal or non-legal approaches to the same behaviors. The course asks you to consider the following questions throughout the semester: are there any crimes that are truly victimless? If so, why are these behaviors criminalized? If not, who are the victims: the individual who commits the crime, his/her family, loved ones and neighbors, or society at large? What other approaches might we take to social problems like drug abuse, prostitution and gambling? Can the government legislate morality in the absence of popular consensus? What are the unintended consequences and costs of criminalizing these behaviors, and do they outweigh the benefits? What approaches do other societies take to handle these problems, and how successful are they?

Required Texts:

1. James A. Inciardi & Karen McElrath, eds., *The American Drug Scene: An Anthology*, Third Edition (Los Angeles: Roxbury, 2001) - abbreviated “ADS” below. Be sure you get the most recent (third) edition.
2. Ronald Weitzer, ed., *Sex for Sale: Prostitution, Pornography, and the Sex Industry* (New York: Routledge 2000) - abbreviated “SFS” below.
3. Course reader - will be available at Maple Press, 481 E. San Carlos near 10th (by the Subway sandwich shop at the edge of campus). You are advised to check with the professor or call Maple Press to find out if the reader is available before you go there.

Note: you will also need 3 scantron sheets during the semester, available at any textbook store.

Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it in class. (Class participation helps your learning and your grade.)

During class, please make sure your cell phones and pagers are silent.

Exams will cover both lectures and reading assignments, and may include questions relating to videos shown in class. Some material discussed in class will not be in the readings; similarly, not everything discussed in the readings will be covered in class. Thus it is very important that you both keep up with the reading and attend class regularly. Students will be excused from class for legitimate medical reasons and for university-related engagements (e.g., athletics). Whenever possible, if you must miss class please inform the instructor ahead of time.

Your grade will be based on 3 exams (2 midterms and a final), 3 quizzes or in-class writing assignments, and class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 100 points each, total of	300 points
Quizzes/in-class writing: 50 points each, total of	150 points
Class Participation:	<u>50 points</u>
	500 points possible

Your scores for each item will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class).

Note on class participation and extra credit: Points for class participation are given for your contribution to class discussions (questions, comments, criticisms, etc.), and *not* simply for attendance.

Exams: Exams are closed-book, closed-note. Midterm exams include short-answer and multiple choice questions. Review sheets will be given before each exam. The final exam *may* include a cumulative essay question. Exams will be handed out only for the first 10 minutes of the class period in which the exam is being given. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam. This policy also applies to the final. The final begins at 9:45 AM, not at our regular class time.

You must take the final exam to pass the course. Students who do not take the final will receive an "F" or an "I" for the course, at the instructor's discretion, regardless of their class average prior to the final. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will also receive an "F" grade for the course.

Makeup policy: only one exam, quiz, or writing exercise can be made up, and only if you have a good reason for missing it (e.g., serious illness with physician's note). If you miss more than one of these, you will be advised to make up the one worth the most points. Make-up exams are *longer and involve more writing* than the regular exams. The make-up exam/quiz/writing day is the *last day of class*, and it is your responsibility to notify the professor that you intend to take a make-up. If you have completed all of the exams, quizzes and writing exercises, you will be allowed (if you choose) to retake **one** of these on the makeup day if you are dissatisfied with your original score. You may not retake an exam, quiz, or writing exercise if you missed any of these during the semester. There will be no exceptions to the makeup policy.

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. The Use and Abuse of Licit and Illicit Drugs

- Week 1. Monday February 2, Wednesday February 4: Introduction to course; Selected History of Drug Use and Drug Policies
Read for class: ADS reading 17; Course reader - Historical information
- Week 2. Monday February 9, Wednesday February 11: Drug Use and Addiction
Read for class: ADS readings 1-3, 6, 12-13
- Week 3. Monday February 16, Wednesday February 18: Users and Categories of Illegal Drugs
Read for class: ADS readings 14, 19, 21, 24
Quiz 1 Wednesday
- Week 4. Monday February 23, Wednesday February 25: Drugs and Crime
Read for class: ADS readings 18, 23, 26-29
- Week 5. Monday March 1, Wednesday March 3: Reconsidering the War on Drugs
Video: War on Marijuana
Read for class: ADS readings 8, 10, 16, 32
- Week 6. Monday March 8, Wednesday March 10: Reconsidering the War on Drugs, continued;
Review for Exam 1
Video: Harm Reduction
Read for class: ADS readings 33-36
Course reader - harm reduction
- Week 7. **Monday March 15: EXAM 1.** Closed book. Covers readings and discussions for weeks 1-6. Bring a scantron, #2 pencil, and pen.

II. Prostitution

(Week 7 continued) Wednesday March 17: Prostitution - Introduction
Read for class: SFS reading 1

Week 8. Monday March 22, Wednesday March 24: Prostitutes and their Clients; Prostitutes' Views of their Work
Video: Two Views of Prostitution
Read for class: SFS readings 5, 6, 11

March 29 - April 2, 2004: Spring Break. No classes, no reading assignment.

Week 9. Monday April 5, Wednesday April 7: Street prostitution, drugs, violence & HIV/AIDS
Read for class: SFS readings 7-9
In-class writing exercise Wednesday

Week 10. Monday April 12, Wednesday April 14: Policy Responses to Prostitution; **Review** for Exam 2
Video: Forced Prostitution & Trafficking
Read for class: SFS readings 10, 13, 14

Week 11. **Monday April 19: EXAM 2.** Closed Book. Covers readings and discussions for weeks 7-10. Bring a scantron, #2 pencil and pen.

III. Gambling

(Week 11 continued) Wednesday April 21: Gambling - Introduction & History
Read for class: Course reader - history of American gambling

Week 12. Monday April 26, Wednesday April 28: Gambling Demographics & Motivations: Who Gambles & Why
Read for class: Course reader - gambling demographics
Quiz or writing exercise 2 (details to be announced) Wednesday

Week 13. Monday May 3, Wednesday May 5: Social Problems relating to Gambling
Read for class: Course reader - gambling-related social problems

Week 14. Monday May 10, Wednesday May 12: Managerial & Policy Responses to Gambling Problems; **Review** for final exam
Read for class: Course reader - gambling policy

Week 15. Monday May 17: Make-up exam/quiz/writing day
Make-ups given; no lecture. Bring scantron and #2 pencil (if taking an exam), pen.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday, May 20th, 9:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Bring scantron, #2 pencil, pen, bluebook.

Note: If you want to know your final grade before grades are sent out, please bring a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope to the final and I will mail your course grade when I finish grading the finals. To protect student privacy, grades cannot be given out by telephone or email.

