

FALL 2005
AJ 118, Section 3
Wed 5:30 - 8:15
MacQuarrie Hall Rm 520

Dr. Cynthia Baroody Hart
Office: MacQuarrie Hall 511
Phone: 924 - 2944
Office Hours:
TuTh: 7:30 - 8:30, 10:30-11:30
Wed : 4:00 - 5:00
OR BY APPOINTMENT

AJ 118
THEORIES OF CRIME & DELINQUENCY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Theories of Crime & Delinquency 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 as one of the top issues in the list of American concerns.

This course is designed to explore the nature of crime, criminality and delinquency. 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!) We will discuss various ways of measuring crime and how that may color our definitions. Our study of the nature and extent of crime, will be guided by discussions 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 (2004) Criminology (8th ed.) Boston: Allyn & Bacon

Lou Dobbs (2004) Exporting America: Why Corporate Greed is Shipping American Jobs Overseas. New York: Little Brown & Co.

Harry G. Frankfurt (2005) On Bullshit Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

The books are available at the Spartan bookstore as well Robert's bookstore.

Other readings may be assigned to supplement the text. These readings are found at sjsu.edu/faculty/hart. Students are also expected to keep up with recent developments in the criminal justice area by reading a daily newspaper such as, The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, The New York Times or The San Jose Mercury News. As well as watching national/international news such as PBS (The Newshour with Jim Lehrer) or the BBC for a more in-depth analysis of issues. 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 & essay. 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%
		100%

EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO SCHEDULE AN INITIAL CONFERENCE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR EARLY IN THE SEMESTER. I would like to see students on a regular basis - my door is always open to you, don't hesitate to come by. 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:

Make-ups are given in EXTREME CASES and only when APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION is provided. A make-up exam will be given on the following exam date along with the subsequent exam in the time allotted.

AJ 118 5:30-8:15PM (3)

Tentative class schedule

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

1 st week	8/24	Intro	
2 nd week	8/31	Norms, Deviance & Crime	Chapter 1
3 rd week	9/7	The study of crime Measuring Crime	Chapter 2
4 th week	9/14	Costs of Crime & Classical Theories	Chapter 3/Handout
5 th week	9/21	Bio & Psych Theories	Chapter 5
6 th week		EXAM 1 SEPT. 26th	
7 th week	10/5	Socio-econ Sources of Crime	Chapter 6
8 th week	10/12	Social Control Theory	Chapter 7
		START READING TRADE BOOK	
9 th week	10/19	Learning Theory	Chapter 8
10 th week		EXAM 2 OCT. 26th	
11 th week	11/2	Opportunity Theory	Chapter 9
12 th week	11/9	Criminal Careers	Chapter 10
13 th week	11/16	Organization	Chapter 11
14 th week	11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday/ No Class	
15 th week	11/30	Response to Crime	Chapter 12

LAST DAY OF CLASS AND EXAM REVIEW December 7th

FINAL EXAM WEDNESDAY DEC. 14TH 5:15 - 7:30 PM

HAVE A GREAT VACATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!