

Fall 2005 JS 201: SEMINAR IN THEORIES OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Professor: Richard Perry

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Office Hours: Tues. 10:00 – 10:30 and 1:30 – 2:30; Thurs. 10:00 – 10:30 and 2:00 – 5:00

Catalog Course Description: Analysis of theories of crime and theories of crime control and prevention. Evaluations of various control and prevention strategies in juvenile and criminal justice, and a discussion of current issues. Prereq: JS 118 or equivalent.

Catalog Course objectives:

1. To enable students to understand the history of crime/crime control.
2. To enable students to draw connections between different theories of crime causation and crime control.
3. To enable students to discuss and evaluate major approaches to criminal justice, including retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation, prevention, and societal reform.
4. To consider current issues in crime control and the criminal justice system.
5. To evaluate future needs for research and policy in criminal justice.

(Note: This syllabus was developed by Professor Sagatun-Edwards and is being adapted for the Fall 2005 course offering with her generous permission and assistance.)

Required Course Readings:

1. Ronald L. Akers and Christine S. Sellers (2003), *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*, 4th edition. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing.
2. Franklin Zimring and Gordon Hawkins (1997) *Crime is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America*. New York: Oxford University Press.
3. AJ 201 Course Reader, available at Maple Press during the second week. A first reading will be available on the MLK Library e-reserves site as of August 26th. Other short readings may and/or handouts may be distributed during the course.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and participate in an active and engaged manner appropriate for a graduate seminar course – in-class participation will count for a significant part of each student’s final grade. The assigned materials should be read prior to each class meeting and each student’s class participation should be grounded in a working understanding of the assigned readings. Students are especially encouraged to keep themselves informed about current issues in criminal justice.

2. Oral Presentation and Short Written Report: Each student will make an oral presentation, lead the class discussion, and submit a short written report on an chosen sub-topic related to that

week's main focus of the readings on the course syllabus. This is intended as an opportunity for the student to display command of the concepts and the literature on this chosen sub-topic, and to augment the understanding of the rest of the class by reference to a few supplementary materials -- at least five items. Some of these may be from newspapers or the on-line news sources, but at least three of the items discussed should be from the scholarly literature. The brief written report should be four to five typed, double-spaced pages in twelve-point font, with references in the APA style, and should be submitted on the day of the oral presentation. In addition, toward the end of the semester, each student should make a brief oral presentation of her term-paper topic. The first oral presentation/written report and the final term paper can be on related topics, but they should not be identical.

3. Term Paper: Each student must prepare a term paper on a topic selected by the student and approved by the professor. The paper should include a review of the relevant literature; it should summarize the state of scholarship in the area, and it should suggest scholarly initiatives and directions for future research, as well as policy implications. Papers will be graded on their command of the topic, as well as on their clarity, coherence and creativity. The paper must be between twelve and twenty pages, typed, double-spaced, twelve-point font, with at least ten scholarly references. An outline of the paper and a bibliography should be submitted at the twelfth week class meeting. The paper must use the American Psychological Association citation style and format which can be found at <http://library.sjsu.edu/leap/cite.htm>.

Grading:

Overall class participation: 33%

Oral presentation and short writings: 33%

Term paper: 33%.

Presentation dates will be assigned by the instructor. Depending on how many students are in the class, there may be more than one presenter for each class period.

The student(s) making class presentations) will also be responsible for leading a class discussion of that week's readings, and relating the outside source presentation to the assigned readings.

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 Incomplete ("I"). A "U" will be given for unauthorized withdrawal; this will count as an "F" in the GP A. A "U" is given when a student stops attending the class, without filing the necessary drop papers. An automatic "F" is given for plagiarism or cheating.

Note: In order to satisfy the writing requirements for the M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration, JS 201 must be passed with a minimum grade of B.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I. UNDERSTANDING CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL

August 25: Introduction to the history of criminological and criminal justice theory beginning with a discussion of the work of Emile Durkheim.

Sept 1: Emile Durkheim and the foundations of criminological theory. Short take-home writing assignment.

Sept. 8: A. Introduction to Theories of Criminal Justice; Akers, ch. 1: Introduction to criminological theories; Huff, C.R. (1978). Historical explanations of crime: From demons to Politics; *Course Reader*. Bernard, T., & Engel, R.S. (2001). Conceptualizing criminal justice theory. *Justice Quarterly*, 18(1), 1-30; *Course Reader*

Sept. 15th; B. Historical Perspective and Current Problems
Friedman, L. (1997). Dead Hands: Past and present in criminal justice policy. *Cumberland Law Review*, 27(3), 903-926. *Course Reader*. Zimring & Hawkins: ch. 1. What Americans fear
Laub, J. (2004). The life course of criminology in the United States: The American Society of Criminology 2003 Presidential Address. *Criminology* 42(1) 42, 1-26; *Course Reader*.

II. THEORIES OF CAUSES OF CRIME

Sept. 22nd; A. Biological Theories; Akers: ch. 3: Biological theories; Brennan, Mednick & Volavka (1995). Ch. 4: Biomedical factors in crime In Wilson, J. & Petersilia, J. (Eds.) *Crime*. San Francisco: ICS Press, p. 6: 91; *Course Reader* Ellis, L. & Walsh, A. (1997). Gene-based evolutionary theories in Criminology. *Criminology*, 35(2), 229-275; *Course Reader*
Rowe, D. (2002). Does the body tell? Biological characteristics of Criminal disposition. Ch. 5 in Rowe.D. (2002). Biology and crime. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Comp; *Course Reader*

Sept. 29th B. Psychological and Social-Psychological Theories
Akers: Ch. 4: Psychological theories, ch. 5: Social learning theories; ch. (Social bonding and control theories; Matsueda, R. (1988). The current state of differential association theory. Hirschi, T. (1977). Causes and prevention of juvenile delinquency; *Course Reader*
Farrington, D. (2003). Developmental and life-course criminology: Key theoretical and empirical issues- The 2002 Sutherland Award Address. *Criminology* (2) 41, 221-255; *Course Reader*; Student Presentations/Short reports/Discussion

Oct. 6th : Social Context Theories of Crime
Akers: ch. 7: Social disorganization, anomie, and strain theories,
Ch. 11 : Feminist theories: Simpson, S. (1989). Feminist theory, crime and justice;
Sampson, R., & Wilson, W. J. (1995). Toward a theory of race, crime and urban urbanity;
Merton, R. (1938). Social structure and anomie; Merton, R. (1997). On the evolving synthesis of differential association and anomie theory: *Criminology*, (3) 35,517-524; Sampson; R. (2002). Transcending tradition: New directions in community research, Chicago Style.

Criminology, (2) 41, 213-227. Warner, B. (2003). The role of attenuated culture in social disorganization Theory. Criminology (1) 41, pp 73-97; all in Course Reader.
Student Presentations/Short Reports/Discussion

Oct. 13th: D. Structural and Conflict Theories of Crime

Akers: Ch,7, Labeling theory; ch. 9: Conflict theory; ch. 10: Marxist and critical theories
Braithwaite, J. (1989). The family model of reintegrative shaming. Chambliss, W. (1975). Crime and structural contradictions; Chambliss, W (2004). On the symbiosis between criminal law and criminal behavior. Criminology (42)2,241-251; Quinney, R. (1980). Class, state and crime. (excerpt). New York: Longman; All in *Course Reader*. *Student Presentations/Short Report/Discussion*

PART III. THEORIES AND MODELS OF CRIME CONTROL

Oct. 20th : A. Theoretical Models of Criminal Sanctions

Packer, H. (1966). Two models of the criminal sanction. In Packer, H. The limits of the criminal sanction. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press. Feely, M. & Simon, J. (1992). The new penology: Notes on the emerging strategy of corrections and its implications. Criminology. 30(4), 449-475. Simon, J. & Feeley, M. (1995). True Crime: The new penology and public discourse on crime. In Blomberg, T. & Cohen, S. (eds). Punishment and social control. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. Grupp, S. (ed). (1971). Theories of punishment. Introduction. Bloomington: Indiana University Press; all in *Course Reader*.
Student presentations/Short Topics/Discussion

Oct. 27th: B. 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. Punishment as retribution; Morris, H. Punishment and fairness; Ten, C. 1. Is punishment fair? In M. Gorr & Harwood, S. (eds.). (1995). Crime and punishment. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publs.; Hawkins, D.B.J. (1944). Punishment and moral responsibility. The Modern Law Review, 1, 205-208;
Braithwaite, J. & Pettit, P. (1990). Retributivism: An inferior theory, ch. 8; Retributivism: An inferior practice, Oxford: Clarendon Press; Van den Haag, E. (1986). The ultimate punishment: A defense; and Greenberg, J. (1996). Against the American system of capital punishment.. Both in The death penalty: Pro and con. Harvard Law Review Association; All in *Course Reader*.
Student presentations/Short Reports/Discussion

Nov. 3rd: C. Deterrence and Incapacitation Theories

Akers: ch. 2: Deterrence and rational choice theories, p. 17-32; Wilson, J. Q. (1983). Thinking about crime. (excerpts on deterrence); New York: Basic Books, 117-123; 142-4. Zimring, F. & Hawkins, G. (1973). Deterrence... ch. 3: Definition; Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Zimring, F. & Hawkins, G. (1995). Incapacitation. Ch. 3: Elements of theory; ch. 4: The jurisprudence of incapacitation. New York: Oxford University Press. Zimring, F., Hawkins, G., & Kamin, S. Punishment and democracy: Three strikes and you're out in California. Ch: 1: Three strikes come to California; ch. 2: The largest penal experiment in American history;.

Kovandzic, T., Sloan, III, J., & Vieraitis, L. (2004). "Striking out" as Crime reduction policy: The impact of "Three Strikes" laws on crime Rates in U.S. Cities, Justice Quarterly, 21 (2), 207-241. Radelet, M. & Akers, R. (1996). Deterrence and the death penalty: The view of the experts. The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 87(1) 1-15; All in *Course Reader*.
Student Presentations/Short Reports/Discussion

Nov. 10th: D. Rehabilitation: Restoration and Victims' Rights Theories

Cullen, F. & Gilbert, K. (1982). Reaffirming rehabilitation. The value of rehabilitation. Cincinnati: OH.: Anderson, 247-63; Gebelein, R. (2000). The rebirth of rehabilitation: Promise and perils of drug courts. *Sentencing and Corrections*, 6, U.S. Department of Justice, 1-8. Braithwaite, J. (2002). *Restorative justice and responsive Regulation*. Ch. 1: The fall and rise of restorative justice; Ch. 4: Theories that might explain why restorative justice works. New York: Oxford University Press. Karmen (1997). Ch. 4. Victims and the criminal justice system. In Crime victims. 3d ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Comp; all in *Course Reader*. *Student Presentations/Short Reports/Discussion*.

Nov. 17th E. Crime Prevention Theories

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. Sherman, L. (2003). Reason for emotion: Reinventing justice with theories, innovations and research- the American Society of Criminology 2002 Presidential address, Criminology(1) 41, 1-37; all in *Course Reader Student presentations/Short Reports/Discussion*

One page outline and 10 references (APA, 5th ed) for term paper is due

Nov. 24th F. Rational Choice and "Hot Spots" Prevention theories.

Akers (2000). Ch. 2, Rational choice theories, 33-41. 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; Clarke, R. (1980). "Situational" crime prevention: Theory and practice. British Journal of Criminology, 20(2), 136-147; All in *Course Reader*. *Recommended*: Felson, M. (1998). Crime and everyday life. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. *Student presentations/Short Reports/Discussion; Term Paper Assignments*

PART IV: CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION: APPLICATION TO SOCIAL POLICY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Dec. 1st: NO CLASS

Dec. 8th : Akers, ch. 12: Integrating criminological theories

Zimring, F., Hawkins, G., & Kamin, S. (2002). Punishment and democracy. Ch. 10: Democracy and the governance of criminal punishment. New York: Oxford University Press
Student Presentations of Term Paper Research

Dec. 15th **Final Paper Due Date**

