

## JS118: Theories of Crime and Deviance

Danielle A Harris

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:30pm – 2:45pm  
Spring 2005, San Jose State University

### Contact Details:

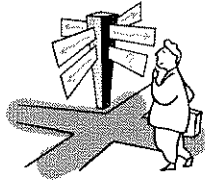
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30am - 12:30pm or by appointment

Office Location: MH 529

Phone (which I will only be able to answer twice a week): (408) 924 2949

Email (which I very much prefer): [danielleharris@gmail.com](mailto:danielleharris@gmail.com)

Website: TBA



### Class Description:

Criminology, the study of crime, attempts to describe the nature and extent of crime, to explain its causes and to examine the reasons for and effectiveness of societal responses. This course introduces students to the study of criminal behavior and the measurement of crime and victimization. Major theories of crime causation are examined in order to provide possible explanations for crime rates and patterns. Typological categories of crime and the characteristics of those who commit certain types of crimes are also reviewed.



### Required Reading:

- Seigel, Larry J. (2004) *Criminology, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed*, Wadsworth, Thomson Learning
- Additional articles as provided in class.

### Recommended Reading:

- Cullen, F. and Agnew, R. (2003) *Criminological Theory: Past to Present, Essential Readings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed*, Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company

### Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether they are in class or not. You are advised to make a friend in class who would be willing to share class notes with you and you with them since I will not provide notes to students who miss class.

### Absences/Missed Exams:

Only university recognized excuses will be accepted. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illness with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular

requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences) and participation in official university activities (e.g., athletics). Students will be required to provide written documentation for their absence.

#### Statement on Classroom Disruptions:

Students are expected to be courteous to others in the class including the instructor. Any student engaged in a disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the class. Examples of disruptive behavior include arriving late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, persisting in speaking without being recognized, the use of cell phones and beepers, use of personal stereo systems, reading outside material, doing crossword puzzles, sleeping and side conversations.

#### Assessment Deadlines and Make-up Exams

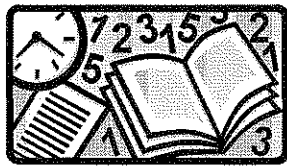
Submission Deadlines for written work and dates and times for examinations are firm. If you do not intend or will be unable to meet said deadline or attend an exam, you must let the instructor know via email **prior to** the deadline or exam. You will have 48 (actual, real time) hours in which to reschedule and the make-up exam must be taken within seven (7) days of the original exam at a time agreed upon by me. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

As the phone in our office is shared between a number of lecturers, I would prefer all communication to occur via email or in person. Please only use the telephone if it is absolutely necessary.

#### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes copying from sources without citing and claiming someone else's original works or ideas as your own. Copying from another a student is also considered plagiarism.

Please note that violators of the academic integrity policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University.



Assessment: (all written papers should be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12" sized font, default margins etc.)

**Examinations (1st=60 points, 2nd=100 points):** each exam will be 40 questions (true/false and multiple choice, scantron graded) with some short answer/essay questions at the end.

**Homework Question (20 points):** read the material provided, and answer the questions in one to two pages (double spaced). Use the article to justify your answer.

**Theory Paper (1 x 100 points):** Write a six page paper. We have discussed in class how criminology is most often defined as ‘the making of laws, the breaking of laws and society’s reaction to the breaking of laws’. Choose a theoretical perspective that you think best describes the motivations for crime. You can keep a general focus, choose a specific crime (murder, rape, arson), or a specific criminal (Ted Bundy, Scott Petersen, Andrea Yates). Students will be required to hand in a brief outline a few weeks before the paper is due, to ensure that everyone is on the right track, and tackling their topic appropriately. In your paper, be sure to critically analyze the theory as well as simply describing its predominant arguments – why did you choose it? Why is it better than the other theories we have discussed? What are some of the problems with it? Do any other approaches help your explanation?

**Participation (20 points):** Participation in class discussions, video question sheets and pop quizzes will be assessed throughout the semester

**PLEASE NOTE: IN THIS COURSE THERE IS  
NO EXTRA CREDIT**

Grade Breakdown:

(Fill in your grades so you can keep track of your progress)

<u>Assessment:</u>	<u>your points</u>	<u>total</u>
Exam I (T/F, multi choice/short answer)	/	60
Homework Question	/	20
Theory Paper	/	100
Exam II (T/F, multi choice/short answer)	/	100
Participation/Video Questionnaires/Quizzes	/	20
	/	<b>300</b>

**grade cutoffs:**

**A – 90%+**

**B – 80% - 89%**

**C – 70% - 79%**

**D – 60% - 69%, F – less than 60%**

Wk	Date	Section	Content	Reading (chapter)	Assessment
1	R Jan 27	Introduction	Syllabus, assessment	1	
2	T Feb 1		Crime and Criminology	1	
	R Feb 3		"	1	
3	T Feb 8	Typologies	Violent Crime Typologies	11	
	R Feb 10		"	11	
4	T Feb 15		"	11	
	R Feb 17		Property Crime Typologies	12	
5	T Feb 22		"	12	
	R Feb 24	How we know what we know (nature & extent)	Nature and Extent of Crime	3	
6	T Mar 1			3	
	R Mar 3			3	
7	T Mar 8	Review/Questions			
	R Mar 10	EXAM I		Chapter 1, 3, 11, 12	
8	T Mar 15	Classical Theories	Classical School	5	
	R Mar 17		Rational Choice Theory	5	
9	T Mar 22		Theories of Victimization	5	
	R Mar 24	Trait Theories	Trait Theories, Positivism	6	HW due
10	<b>SPRING BREAK    SPRING BREAK    SPRING BREAK</b>				
11	T April 5		Modern Biological Theories	6	
	R Apr 7		Psychological Approaches	6	
12	T Apr 12	Social Structure	Social Disorganization	7	
	R Apr 14		Strain Theories	7	
13	T Apr 19		Cultural Deviance Theories	7	Paper due
	R Apr 21	Social Process	Social Learning Theories	8	
14	T Apr 26		Social Control Theories	8	
	R Apr 28		Social Reaction/labeling	8	
15	T May 3	Developmental	General Theory of Crime	10	
	R May 5		Age Graded/Dual Taxonomy	10	
16	T May 10	Conflict/ Conclusions	Reintegrative Shaming	9	
	R May 12		Peacemaking/Far Right/Left Realism/American Dream	9	
17	T May 17	Review/Questions			
	TBA	EXAM II		Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	