

SPRING 2005
AJ 118, Section 2
TTh 12:00 - 1:15
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 : 4:30 - 5:30

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

Dean, John (2004) Worse than Watergate: the Secret Presidency of George W. Bush. New York:

The books are available at the Spartan bookstore as well Robert's bookstore. Other readings may be assigned to supplement the text. These will be placed on reserve in the library or made available to the student in class. 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) AND/OR The BBC. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS DISCUSSION REGARDING CURRENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE 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.

