

JS118: Theories of Crime and Deviance

Danielle A Harris

Lecture: Wednesdays 5:30pm – 8:15pm

Fall 2006, San Jose State University

Contact Details:

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00am - 1:00pm

Office Location: MH 529

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

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

Please note: Since I will only be on campus one day a week I would much prefer that you contact me via email.

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 to crime. 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:

- Cullen, F. and Agnew, R. (2003) *Criminological Theory: Past to Present, Essential Readings, 3rd Ed*, Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company (1st and 2nd ed are okay).
- Additional readings distributed during class

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: illness with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (field trips, conferences etc.) and participation in official university activities (e.g., athletics). Students will be required to provide written documentation for any absence.

Statement on Classroom Disruptions:

Students are expected to be courteous during class. Any student engaged in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. Examples of disruptive behavior include arriving late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, 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.

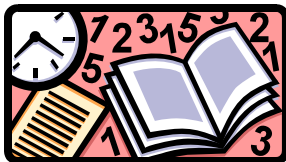
As the office telephone is shared between numerous lecturers and I am only on campus once a week, I would prefer all communication to occur via email.

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 work or ideas as your own. Copying from another student is also considered plagiarism.

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct .

To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see me and/or visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>



Assessment:

Participation/Pop Quizzes/Video Questions (20 points):

Participation in class discussions, video question sheets and pop quizzes will be assessed throughout the semester.

Homework Question (30 points): read the material provided in class and answer the question. Your answer should be typewritten, double spaced two pages.

Theory Paper (100 points): Write a five-page paper. 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?

Final Examination (100 points): The final examination will comprise multiple-choice scantron graded questions and short answer/essay questions. It will be completed during the final class meeting.

NB: IN THIS COURSE THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT

Course Add/Drop Statement

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You, the student,* are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

American with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Grade Breakdown:

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

<u>Assessment:</u>	<u>your points</u>	<u>total</u>
Participation etc	/	20
Homework Questions	/	30
Theory Paper	/	100
Final Exam	/	100
	/	250

Week	Date	Reading Assignment (ch)	Program	Assessment
1	8-23	1,2	Introduction Modern criminology Read Beccaria and Lombroso in class	Introduction In class debate
2	8-30	Handout	Nature and Extent of Crime Statistics	Leave early
3	9-6	5,6,7	Biological/Trait Theories Psychological Approaches	Mrs Hagemann will cover today's class
4	9-13	8	Social Disorganization Theory	
5	9-20	11, 12,13,14,15	Learning Theory	
6	9-27		NO CLASS – written take home assignment in lieu	
7	10-4	16,19,20	Strain Theory	
8	10-11	22,23,24	Control Theory	
9	10-18	26,27	Rational Choice and Routine Activities Theory	
10	10-25	28,30	Labeling and Reaction Theory	THEORY PAPER DUE IN CLASS TODAY
11	11-1	32,33,37	Critical Theory	
12	11-8	38,39,41	Feminist Theory	
13	11-15	42,43	Developmental Theory	
14	11-22		NO CLASS	Thanksgiving tomorrow
15	11-29	44,45	Integrated Theory	
16	12-6	Everything so far	Review Discuss previous essay Qs	