

VICTIMLESS CRIME

Course Syllabus

Professor: Ann Lucas, J.D., Ph.D.

MacQuarrie Hall 513

Office: (408) 924-2914

Dept. Fax: (408) 924-2953

E-mail: alucas@casa.sjsu.edu

Note: e-mail is the best way to reach me outside of class

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:15-10:30 AM
and 2:45-4:00 PM

Class Meeting Time & Location: Monday- Wednesday, 1:30-2:45 PM, MH 523

JS Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies

Course Description: This course examines the concept of “victimless crimes,” commonly also called “vice crimes.” We will examine three such crimes/behaviors in depth: drug use and abuse, prostitution, and gambling. This category of crimes is particularly useful for a consideration of the role of law in society, because controversy over their continued status as crimes suggests there might be useful non-criminal or non-legal approaches to the same behaviors. The course asks you to consider the following questions throughout the semester: are there any crimes that are truly victimless? If so, why are these behaviors criminalized? If not, who are the victims: the individual who commits the crime, his/her family, loved ones and neighbors, or society at large? What other approaches might we take to social problems like drug abuse, prostitution and gambling? Can the government legislate morality in the absence of popular consensus? What are the unintended consequences and costs of criminalizing these behaviors, and do they outweigh the benefits? What approaches do other societies take to handle these problems, and how successful are they? **Prerequisite:** Upper-division standing (junior or senior).

Note: Students who do not attend the first two class meetings will be dropped by the instructor to allow other students to enroll.

Required Texts:

1. James A. Inciardi & Karen McElrath, eds., *The American Drug Scene: An Anthology*, Fourth Edition (Los Angeles: Roxbury, 2004) - abbreviated “ADS” below. Be sure you get the most recent (fourth) edition.
2. Ronald Weitzer, ed., *Sex for Sale: Prostitution, Pornography, and the Sex Industry* (New York: Routledge 2000) - abbreviated “SFS” below.
3. Course reader - available at Maple Press, 481 E. San Carlos near 10th (by the Subway sandwich shop at the edge of campus). **Check with instructor** before going to Maple Press to make sure reader is ready.

Note: you will also need 3 scantron sheets during the semester, available at any textbook store.

Student Learning Objectives: Successful completion of this course will enable students to understand, describe and critically analyze the similarities and differences between the three activities under study; the history of their development and/or demonization in the U.S.; their specific benefits and costs to

participants and society; moral and social objections to legalization or decriminalization; the advantages, disadvantages and unintended consequences of criminalization; alternative social responses available to deal with the negative consequences of these activities, including the use of alternative approaches in other countries, and their successes or failures compared to the American approach.

Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

During class, make sure your cell phones and pagers are silent.

Participation: You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it in class. Class participation helps your learning and your grade. At the end of the semester, up to 15 points will be awarded to students who have participated in class. Points for class participation are given for your contribution to class discussions (questions, comments, criticisms, etc.), and *not* simply for attendance.

Exams: Exams will cover both lectures and reading assignments, and may include questions relating to videos shown in class. Some material discussed in class will not be in the readings; similarly, not everything discussed in the readings will be covered in class. Thus it is very important that you both keep up with the reading and attend class regularly.

Exams are closed-book, closed-note. Exams include multiple choice and short-answer questions. Review sheets will be given before each exam. The final exam is not cumulative. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen to each exam.

Exams will be handed out only for the first 10 minutes of the class period in which the exam is being given. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam. This policy also applies to the final.

You must take the final exam to pass the course. Students who do not take the final will receive an “F” or an “I” for the course, at the instructor’s discretion, regardless of their class average prior to the final.

Quizzes: Each quiz will be given on the day indicated in the syllabus. Quizzes will consist of one question on the material being covered that week, which you will answer in no more than one page. You will have twenty-five (25) minutes at the *end* of the class period to answer the quiz question. You do not need bluebooks for quizzes, and there will be no review sheets.

Grades: Your grade will be based on 3 exams (2 midterms and a final), 3 quizzes, and class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 100 points each, total of	300 points
Quizzes: 30 points each, total of	90 points
Class Participation:	<u>15 points</u>
Total:	405 points possible

Your scores for each item will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class). Specifically, the person with the most points (excluding extra credit) will set the standard for the highest “A” grade. From there, grades will be calculated as follows:

Grades as % of highest total score:	93-100% A	83-86% B	70-74% C	0-54% F
	90-92% A-	80-82% B-	65-69% C-	
	87-89% B+	75-79% C+	55-64% D	

Extra credit: several extra credit assignments, worth 3 to 5 points each, will be distributed in class during the semester. They will not be announced ahead of time and cannot be made up.

Missed exams and quizzes: **only one** exam or quiz can be made up, and only if you have a good reason for missing it (e.g., serious illness with physician's note). If you miss more than one of these, you will be advised to make up the one worth the most points. Make-up exams and quizzes are *longer and involve more writing* than the regular exams and quizzes. The make-up exam/quiz day is the *last day of class*, and it is your responsibility to notify the professor that you intend to take a make-up. **There will be no exceptions to the makeup policy.**

Instructor assistance: If you find you are having problems understanding the material or performing well on exams and assignments, please see me during my office hours. If my office hours are inconvenient for you, please see me after class and we can make an appointment to meet or agree to discuss your concerns by phone or email. As noted above, the best way to reach me outside of class is by email; on weekdays you should receive a response within 24 hours. Because I am not on campus every day, there is often a longer delay in responding to phone messages.

Students with disabilities: 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 see me as soon as possible. University policy (Presidential Directive 97-03) requires that students with disabilities must register with SJSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish a record of their disability. The DRC will work with you to determine the disability, document it, and determine the services and accommodations necessary for your success. The DRC may also contact me to determine the types of consideration necessary. Students must register with the Center during the first three weeks of the semester. The DRC Web site: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

Cheating and plagiarism: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will both *fail the entire course and be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer*. If you are considering a career in the criminal justice field, be aware that reports of cheating will go on your academic record and thus will be discovered by employers' background investigations of job candidates.

For more information on what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, take the SJSU Library tutorial at <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>, and see the university's policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.sjsu.edu/leap/plagiar.htm>

Classroom Behavior: In addition to regular attendance, students are expected to behave appropriately in the classroom, to maintain an environment conducive to learning. This includes arriving on time, keeping cell phones off or silent, avoiding disruptive behavior such as chatting during lectures, and avoiding cheating and plagiarism. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express their own opinions during class, but are expected to show respect for one another even when they disagree.

Course Schedule: attached.

**JS 102 Course Schedule
Spring 2006**

Week	Dates	Topic	Event	Reading
1	January 25, 2006	Course Introduction		
2	January 30-February 1	Drugs: History of drug use and drug policies		ADS Chs. 7, 20; Course reader for week 2
3	February 6-February 8	Drugs: Drug use and addiction		ADS Chs. 1-4, 6, 8, 15, 17
4	February 13-February 15	Drugs: Users and categories of illegal drugs	Quiz #1 (Mon.)	ADS Chs. 14, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28
5	February 20-February 22	Drugs: Drugs and crime		ADS Chs. 21, 22, 26, 30-32
6	February 27-March 1	Drugs: The war on drugs, treatment, harm	Video (Wed): The War on Marijuana	ADS Chs. 12, 19, 29, 36
7	March 6-March 8	Drugs: Reconsidering the war on drugs	Video (Mon): Harm reduction Exam Review (Wed.)	ADS readings 38-41; course reader for week 8
8	March 13-March 15	Exam; Begin Prostitution	Midterm Exam #1 (Mon.) Video: Two Views of Prostitution (Wed.)	SFS Ch. 1
9	March 20-March 22	Prostitution: Prostitutes and their clients; prostitutes' views of their work		SFS Chs. 5, 6, 11
Spring Break March 27-March 31				
10	April 3-April 5	Prostitution: Street prostitution, drugs, violence and	Quiz #2 (Wed.)	SFS Chs. 7-9
11	April 10-April 12	Prostitution: Policy alternatives	Video: Forced Prostitution and Trafficking (Wed.) Exam Review (Wed.)	SFS Chs. 10, 13, 14
12	April 17-April 19	Exam; Begin Gambling - introduction and history	Midterm Exam #2 (Mon.)	Course reader for week 12 (for Wed.)
13	April 24-April 26	Gambling: Demographics and motivations - who		Course reader for week 13
14	May 1-May 3	Gambling: Social problems related to gambling	Quiz #3 (Wed.)	Course reader for week 14

**JS 102 Course Schedule
Spring 2006**

15	May 8-May 10	Gambling: Managerial and policy responses to gambling and gambling problems	Review for final exam (Wed.)	Course reader for week 15
16	May 15, 2006	Makeups; no regular class meeting	Make Up Exams*, Quizzes	
Thurs., May 18, 2006, 12:15-2:30 PM: FINAL EXAM* **				

* bring a scantron, pencil and pen to each exam

** if you want to know your course grade before it is posted, bring a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope to the final. To protect student privacy, grades will not be given out by email or telephone.