

# JS 118: Crime and Delinquency Theory

Course Syllabus  
T, TH: 10:30-11:45

Professor: Mark E. Correia, Ph.D.  
Office: MacQuarrie Hall 513  
Hours: T,TH: 9:00-10:00; 1:30-2:30  
Telephone: (408) 924-1350  
Email: mcorreia@casa.sjsu.edu

## Course Description

Few subjects capture the imagination or receive as much attention as crime in the modern world. You cannot pick up a newspaper, pass a bookstore or turn on a television without being bombarded with accounts of crime. A subject so often discussed and debated is bound to create a wide range of conflicting views.

This course is designed to explore the nature and extent of crime in the United States, as well as the various theories that criminologists have constructed to explain crime. This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the current crime trends within our country.

## Required Materials

Cullen, F. and R. Agnew (2003). *Criminological Theory: Past to Present*. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company.

Students will be required to access WebCT for this course. If you do not currently have a WebCT account, please go to <http://sjsu.webct.com/webct/public/home.pl> and follow the instructions to create an account. The WebCT login for this course is <http://sjsu.webct.com/public/js118sp06mc>. The contents and schedule of this course are subject to change—any changes will be posted on WebCT.

The additional readings for this course can be found on WebCT and are indicated by an \* in the syllabus.

## Suggested Materials

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (1994). 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Or any other manual on APA writing style). These are available in the reference section of the bookstore or can be found [online](http://www.apastyle.org) at [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org).

## Course Requirements

**Participation:** While attendance is not required (you can't participate if you are not here), it is assumed that students are prepared and willing to answer course-related questions when called upon and, when appropriate, to take part in class discussions. This class is intended to be interactive, so speak up and share your views.

**Readings and Quizzes:** Students should complete the readings prior to the date by which they appear on the syllabus. In order to provide incentive to complete the readings, there will be numerous unannounced quizzes throughout the course. Each quiz will be given during the first 15-minutes of class, and will only cover those readings scheduled for that class. Each student may use any notes that he or she has personally taken on that day's readings. Since everyone has a "bad day", I will drop each student's lowest quiz grade—given that the student has taken all quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes.

**Exams:** There will be two (2) exams (1 during the semester and the final exam) administered throughout this semester on the dates listed below. These exams may include multiple choice and/or essay questions. The first exam will be a take home exam. Students will need to bring blue books for the final exam. Lastly, those students who have an "A" in the course do not have to take the final exam. Please note, there will be no make-up exams.

**Term Paper:** Students will be required to write a term paper that is due at the end of the quarter. This paper will cover some aspect of theories of crime and/or crime patterns. More information will be distributed throughout the quarter. The paper will follow APA style, no other style will be accepted, and will be between 5-7 (double spaced) pages in length. Paper topics are due at the specified date on the syllabus and are required. All materials turned in during the course regarding the paper, must be turned in with the final paper. No late term papers will be accepted.

All written work turned in for grading (i.e., term paper and take home exam), will be graded according to the following criteria: content of the paper, logic and organization of paper, critical thinking, grammar and adherence to APA style. Writing is an art that takes time to flourish—nurture it over time and resist the temptation to procrastinate.

**Email:** I will accept assignments via email according to the following protocol. Deviations from this protocol will not be accepted and will be bounced back:

1. **Subject Line:** This line will contain the student's name, course and the assignment number. For example, Mark Correia, JS 118, Paper #1.
2. **Format:** All papers sent electronically must be saved in .doc or .rtf. I will not accept papers saved in .wps, .wpd or pasted into an email. If you use Wordperfect or Microsoft Works, you will need to save your document in .doc or .rtf.
3. **Email Address:** All assignments will be emailed to mcorreia@casa.sjsu.edu.
4. **Confirmation:** I will send out a confirmation receipt for those emails with assignments that I have received within 24hrs. If you do not receive a confirmation, your assignment was not received.
5. **Responsibility:** It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the assignment is properly attached to the email. If the assignment is not attached and received by the due date, the assignment will be considered late.

## **Grades**

Quizzes	( 50 pts)
Exams	(200 pts)
Term Paper	<u>(100 pts)</u>
	350 pts

## **Course Outline**

This course consists primarily of lectures held on Tuesday and Thursday. Due to the number of students and different views that he/she brings, it is the instructor's belief that all of our views are enriched by way of discussion. Please be considerate of others and their opinions as everyone will have an opportunity to express their opinion.

I have listed my email address and office hours for your convenience. At all times, I will be available via email. If you cannot make my office hours, nor have access to email, please set up an appointment. While I may be in my office at other times, I may not be available to meet.

### **Week #1**

Jan. 26: Course introduction and syllabus overview

### **PART 1: Laying the Groundwork**

### **Week #2**

Jan. 31: Movie: *Bowling for Columbine*  
Feb. 2: Movie: *Bowling for Columbine*

#### ***Class Discussion***

### **Week #3**

### **PART II: Crime in America**

Feb. 7: Crime in America: Introduction

Feb. 9: What is Crime?  
***Required Reading: Reiman (chapt. 2)\****

**Week #4**

Feb. 14: Patterns of Crime in America: Introduction  
*Required Reading: Lafree (chapt. 1)\*; Blumstein (chapt. 1)\**

Feb. 16: Patterns of Violent Crime in America  
*Required Reading: Lafree (chapt. 2)\*; Blumstein (chapt. 2)*

**Week #5**

Feb. 21: Guns and Patterns of Crime: Developing an Understanding  
*Required Reading: Blumstein (chapt. 3)\**

*Class Discussion*

Feb. 23: EXAM #1 DISTRIBUTED

**Week #6**

Feb. 28: ACJS Conference: No Class

March 2: ACJS Conference: No Class

**Week #7**

March 7: Demographics and Patterns of Crime  
*Required Reading: Lafree (chapt. 3)\*; Blumstein (chapt. 9)\**

EXAM #1 DUE

**PART III: The Nature of Crime in America**

March 9: Criminological Theories: Laying the Groundwork  
*Required Reading: Lafree (chapt. 4)\**  
*Cullen and Agnew (chapters 1 and 2)*

Exploring the Classical and Positivist Schools of Thought  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (Intro.)*

Topic and References for Term Paper Due

## Week #8

March 14: Theories of Crime: Voices from the Class

### *Class Discussion*

March 16: Biological Theories: "Born to be wild..."

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 4 and 5)*

Psychological Theories: Voices from Within

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapter 6 and 7)*

## Week #9

March 21: Context of Crime in America: Bowling in American communities

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 8 and 9)*

March 23: Community Structure and Crime: Does context matter?

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapter 10)*

### *Class Discussion*

## Week #10

March 28-30: **Spring Break**

## Week #11

April 4: SES: Does it make a difference?

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 16 and 17)*

April 6: Race, Ethnicity and Crime: Is there a link?

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 19 and 20)*

*Recommended Readings: Sampson and Laub (1992)\**

**Rough draft of paper due (optional)**

## Week #12

April 11: Control Theory

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 23 and 24)*

April 13: Routine Activities Theory

*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters 25 and 27)*

**Week #13**

April 18: **Movie: Crash**

April 20: **Movie: Crash**

*Class Discussion*

**Week #14**

April 25: Learning to be Criminal  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 11 and 13)*

April 27: The Labeling of Behavior  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 29-31)*

**Week #15**

May 2: Correlates of Crime: A closer look at gender.  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 38 and 40)*

May 4: Critical Criminology  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 33, 35, 37)*

**Week #16**

May 9: Crime and the Life Course  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 42 and 43)*

May 11: Integrating Theoretical Perspectives  
*Required Reading: Cullen and Agnew (chapters. 44 and 46)*

**Term Paper Due**

**Week #17**

May 16: **Crime and Delinquency Theory: Final Thoughts**

May 18: **Scheduled Final Exam 9:45-12:00**

---

**Syllabus Addendum**

**Grading:** In order to receive a grade for this course, all the course requirements must be completed. Failure to complete them will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Academic Dishonesty:** The “I got caught cheating” policy for this class is swift, severe, and certain: that is, if you cheat, chances are very good that you will be caught, then publicly shamed, and punished with a failing grade for the course. In addition, plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please contact the professor—while many students are ignorant of this offense, ignorance is not an excuse. I have several speeding tickets that prove this point!

**Academic Integrity:** “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs.” The policy on academic integrity can be found at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) .

**ADA:** “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 that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”

**Grades:** Paper and course grades may be disputed at the instructor’s convenience (or during office hours). It is important to note, however, that upon review, the instructor reserves the right to increase as well as decrease the grade in question. Late papers will not be accepted nor any extra credit provided.

**Electronic Devices:** Please turn off all cell phones, pages, PDA’s or any other electronic device that “makes noise”. While I commend those of you who have mastered text messaging, the use of these devices during class is disruptive and will not be tolerated. . If you need to text message, please leave the room—if I see you text messaging, I will ask you to leave the room.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Class motto: “Treat others as you think they would like to be treated”. Yes, this is a spin on the ever popular, but not so empathetic phrase. This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Further, please be respectful of others and show them common courtesy. I firmly believe that the learning process is enriched by discussion, but damaged by arguments. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class.

**Written Work:** I understand that many of our students have very busy life’s, filled with work and family obligations. I understand that “school work” is difficult to fit in to an already full schedule. With this said, I do expect quality work from everyone. Write every paper as though it is your best paper ever and be proud of your paper and work that you complete for this course.

As a side note: I am well aware of the websites that offer papers to students and have software that allows me to compare papers I receive to the thousands of databases of papers that exist. Trust me, it is not worth your effort, chances are, I will find out.

**+/- Grading:** This course will be using the +/- system on final grades based on the following percentages:

95-100:           A                           67-69:           D+

90-94:	A-	64-66:	D
87-89:	B+	60-63:	D-
84-86:	B	0-60:	F
80-83:	B-		
77-79:	C+		
74-76:	C		
70-73:	C-		