

San Jose State University; Fall Semester 2007
Justice Studies Department
JS 118, Section 3 – Theories of Crime and Delinquency
Tuesdays; 5:30 pm to 8:15 pm/MH 520

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**Pamela Serrano, Lecturer**

**Office Hrs: Tuesdays 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm (drop in)**

**Tuesdays 8:15 pm to 8:45 pm (by appt only)**

**Additional days/times by appointment only**

**Email: [pamnserrano@yahoo.com](mailto:pamnserrano@yahoo.com)**

**Phone: 408-299-7019 wk voicemail/408-723-7984 hm**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:**

This course will familiarize students with the basic assumptions and explanations of various micro and macro level theories of crime and delinquency. Students will learn ways to assess the merits, strengths, and weaknesses of each. Typological categories of crime will be also introduced to further assist in explaining why individuals and/or groups engage in criminal and delinquent behavior. Additionally, students will learn how crime and delinquency are officially defined, the major crime reporting sources/databases, and various issues regarding victimology.

Class instruction will be presented through lectures, guest speakers, textbook readings, group/individual activities, and supplemental resource materials. The key to success in this class is ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

A. Students are expected to attend all classes. Make-up assignments will be considered only for students who: 1) miss class because of an emergency or illness; and 2) provide written documentation for any absence. Written make-up assignments must be pre-approved and will be due the beginning of the next scheduled class. Make-up exams also must be pre-arranged and taken prior to the next scheduled class. Students satisfying these requirements are allowed one make-up assignment (written or by exam) without grade penalty; however, any additional missed assignments will be penalized. **NOTE: This does not apply to the theory paper, which will not be accepted after the scheduled due date.**

B. Students are expected to regularly participate in class discussions and will be graded accordingly. Students will earn points for contributions made at each class meeting.

C. Textbook reading assignments will be announced at the end of each class session, and students will be responsible for a brief oral presentation of these readings at least once during the semester (depending on class size). A student sign-up sheet will be used to schedule these assignments. All students, however, must be prepared to discuss these readings at the next scheduled class, and preparation to do so will be reflected in the weekly grading for class participation.

D. Students are required to take two mid-term exams and one final exam. Both exams will consist of short essay, true or false, and multiple-choice questions. Additionally, pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

E. Students are required to submit a five-page, typed, double-spaced theory paper, which applies and compares various theories of crime and delinquency discussed during this course. The paper will be based on either: 1) a student's selection of one or more books from a suggested readings list to be provided during the semester; or 2) a student's choice of material(s) meeting instructor approval. A rough draft and reference list is also required. For the purpose of soliciting instructor's comments and suggestions, students may submit a rough draft paper prior to the final theory paper due date (which is tentatively scheduled for 12/4/07, but will be due no later than two weeks before the date of the final exam). Students will also be expected to give a brief oral presentation of the theory paper. Additional instructions necessary to complete this assignment will be provided during the semester.

**COURSE GRADE ASSESSMENT:**

Grade points can be earned as follows:

|                                           |                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Presentation of reading assignments       | 5 points          |
| Class Discussion/Participation/Activities | 20 points         |
| Pop Quizzes                               | 10 points         |
| First Mid-Term Exam                       | 15 points         |
| Second Mid-Term Exam                      | 15 points         |
| Final Exam                                | 15 points         |
| Theory Paper                              | 15 points         |
| Outline and Reference List                | <u>5 points</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>100 points</b> |

**OPTIONAL EXTRA-CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students will be given an opportunity to earn a maximum of ten (10) extra-credit points by completing no more than two of the extra-credit assignment options. Choices, criteria, format, point credit, and due dates for these assignments will be discussed during the first

few weeks of class. Additional extra credit points are available only at the instructor's discretion and will be considered on an individual basis.

### **CLASS RULES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, unless arrangements are otherwise made with the instructor prior to class. Students are required to turn off all pagers and cell phones BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, and classroom disruptions in any form will not be tolerated. Lecture notes will not be provided by the instructor. In the event of an absence, students must rely on other classmates to obtain information provided in a missed class. Plagiarism and cheating will immediately be reported to the Department Chair. Students are referred to [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) and <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm> for further information in this regard.

### **COURSE ADD/DROP REQUIREMENTS:**

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. Students are referred to [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct) for procedures and policies regarding add and/or withdraw classes, academic renewal, and other student responsibilities. Students are reminded these are not instructor's responsibilities.

### **AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

Students are asked to report any and all necessary accommodations and adaptations to the instructor as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:**

- Week #1 (8/28/07)*** Lecture: Course introduction; Definitions of pertinent terms; Theory Classifications; Crime Data Sources and Collection Methods; Classical, Neo-Classical, and Positivistic View
- Week #2 (9/4/07)*** Lecture: Early and Modern Biological; Psychological, Psychoanalytical, Personality, Trait, and IQ Theories; DSM-IV Categories
- Week #3 (9/11/07)*** Lecture: Sociological Theories - Control, Rational Choice, Social Disorganization, Chicago School, Anomie and Strain, Conflict, and Radical
- Week #4 (9/18/07)*** Lecture: Sociological Theories Continued - Economic, Marxist, and Critical, Social Learning, Labeling, and Social Bonding

- Week #5 (9/25/07)** Lecture: Sociological Theories Continued - Opportunity, Routine Activities; Midterm Review
- Week #6 (10/2/07)** **MIDTERM**
- Week #7 (10/9/07)** Lecture: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency and Deviant Behavior; Status Offenses; Reoffenders
- Week #8 (10/16/07)** Lecture: Juvenile Delinquency Theories Continued
- Week #9 (10/23/07)** Lecture: Feminist, Integrated Theories, Miscellaneous Theories and Views of Crime and Delinquency
- Week #10 (10/30/07)** Lecture: Left Realism and Peace Making Theories; Midterm Review
- Week #11 (11/6/07)** **MIDTERM**
- Week #12 (11/13/07)** Lecture: Post Modern Theories; Computer and Intellectual Crime; *Extra-Credit Assignment Presentations*
- Week #13 (11/20/07)** Lecture: Typologies of Crime; Theories of Violence, and Victimology. *Remaining Extra-Credit Assignment Presentations; Theory Paper Oral Presentations*
- Week #14 (11/27/07)** Return Optional Rough Drafts of Theory Papers; *Theory Paper Oral Presentations*
- Week #15 (12/4/07)** *Final Theory Papers, Outlines, and Reference Lists Due*; Review for Final Exam
- Week #16 (12/11/07)** **NO CLASSES – STUDY WEEK**
- Week #17 (12/18/07)** **FINAL EXAM**  
*Return Final Theory Papers, Outlines, and Reference Lists to Students*