

**San José State University, Fall 2010**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS118 Theories of Crime and Delinquency**

**Instructor:** Danielle A Harris PhD  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00 – 4:00 pm  
**Class Days/Time:** Tuesdays 9:00 am – 11:45 am  
**Classroom:** MacQuarrie Hall TBA

**Course Description**

Criminology is the field of study that addresses the making of laws, the breaking of laws, and society's reaction to breaking the law. 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 Texts/Readings**

**Textbooks**

APA (6<sup>th</sup> edition) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*

Cullen and Agnew (2006 - 3<sup>rd</sup> ed (4<sup>th</sup> if it's out in time) *Criminological Theory: past to present* Roxbury.

Lippens (2990) *A very short, fairly interesting and reasonably cheap book about studying criminology*, SAGE.

**Other Readings**

PDFs of journal articles will be distributed electronically as required.

**Classroom Protocol**

**Instructor's Note on Communication**

As you know, university is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. The best way to keep in touch is in-person, during office hours, or at another time by appointment. If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be responded to during business hours (9am-5pm) only. Please include a phone number and availability in all email communication if you wish for me to call you. Students are expected to be courteous during class. Any student engaging 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, and sleeping.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's [catalog policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. [Late drop policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Instructors may drop students who do not attend the first day of class

### **Assignments and Grading Policy**

In order to receive a grade for this course, **all** course requirements must be met. Failure to complete any one of them may result in a failing grade for the course.

Deadlines are firm. Papers will not be accepted via email and late papers will not be accepted (without extenuating personal circumstances due to own or family health; or other university recognized excuse). If you do not intend or will be unable to meet said deadline, you must let the instructor know **prior to** the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Should a late paper be accepted, it will incur a penalty of a 5% deduction for calendar day that it is late.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on **any** piece of assessment, under any circumstances. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism will be referred to the University's Honor Council. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to misquoting (such as omitting page numbers or quotation marks) and handing in work that is not your own and that is not correctly cited.

Theory Evaluations (15%): Students will be required to critique six (6) individual criminological theories throughout the semester. Each evaluation should not exceed two (2) typewritten, double-spaced pages and should follow the format discussed in class during week 1. Evaluations will be written according to strict APA style (writing and referencing), with any mistakes incurring substantial penalties.

In class participation (5%): Critical reading, thinking, and writing involve a number of practical skills. These skills must be practiced to be developed and maintained. Students are expected to keep up with class reading, and to attend all class meetings well prepared to contribute to the classroom exchange of ideas and information. Therefore, attendance and participation is essential in order to pass JS118. This is especially true given that the class meets only once a week.

Research Paper (30%): Students are required to write a paper that answers one of a series of questions to be advised in class. This assignment observes that writing is a process. Thus, it will be achieved in four parts. (1) An outline of your paper, along with a reference list of at least three empirical, peer reviewed journal articles that you intend to use in your paper, will be submitted in week 5. (2) An in-class peer review will be conducted on a rough draft of your paper in week 10. (3) You will meet with the instructor individually in week 11 to discuss your draft and the feedback from the peer review. (4) The final paper will be due in class in week 14.

Midterm Exam (20%) and Final Exam (30%): Students' grasp of the material will also be assessed by two examinations. Both tests will comprise multiple choice, short answer, and essay-style questions. Students are required to bring a scantron and exam booklet to each exam.

Extra Credit (5%) "Teach the class": This option is only available if you complete each of the other assignments (i.e., it cannot be used in lieu of another piece of assessment). Contact the instructor in person for further information about the extra credit option.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/faculty\\_and\\_staff/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make 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 requesting accommodations must

register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The [LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

# JS118 Theories of Crime and Delinquency

## Fall, 2010 Course Schedule

The Class Schedule below is tentative. The dynamics and abilities of the individual class often dictate the amount of time spent on classroom discussions and so on. This usually means that it is necessary to adjust some activities or materials as the semester progresses. This makes it particularly important to come to class on time (to receive those announcements) and to check in with the instructor after any absences.

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topic	Assessment Due	Reading
1	08/24/10	No class		
2	08/31/10	Introductions, class contract, what is a theory? Why do we need theory? What is crime? Why does crime occur? Why do people commit crime? Identifying crime in film (in class exercise)		<i>PDF: 1A</i> <i>Lippens: all</i>
3	09/07/10	Classic perspectives (Classical School and Early Positivism)		<i>C&amp;A: ch. 1, 2</i> <i>PDF: 1B, 1C, 1D</i>
4	09/14/10	Nature and Extent of crime; mismeasurement of crime and criminality; How do we know what we know?	Classical theory evaluation	<i>PDF: 2A</i>
5	09/21/10	Biological and evolutionary theories, psychological approaches, and trait theory Crime Gene Hypothetical (in class exercise)	Paper outline and reference list	<i>PDF: 2B</i> <i>C&amp;A: 3, 4, 5, 6</i>
6	09/28/10	Social structure theories, social disorganization theory, strain and the American Dream	Biological theory evaluation	<i>C&amp;A: 7, 15, 18, 19</i>
7	10/05/10	MIDTERM EXAM		<i>Everything so far</i>
8	10/12/10	Social process theories, Learning theories, Differential association, Differential reinforcement, Subculture of violence, Techniques of neutralization	Social structure theory evaluation	<i>C&amp;A: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</i>
9	10/19/10	Control theories, social bonds, general theory of crime, Routine Activities theory	Social process theory evaluation	<i>C&amp;A: 20, 21, 23, 39, 40</i>
10	10/26/10	Modern classical approaches, rational choice, deterrence theory	Rough draft due (for class peer review)	<i>C&amp;A: 37, 38</i>

11	11/02/10	Individual meetings with instructor re: paper in lieu of class		
12	11/09/10	Critical perspectives, labeling and reaction theories, Feminist criminology, Special populations and new approaches (female offenders, MRDD offenders, juvenile offenders)	Extra credit presentations	<i>C&amp;A: 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32,33,35, 36</i>
13	11/16/10	Life course criminology , Dual taxonomy theory, Age graded theory of informal social control, Criminal career paradigm (escalation, specialization/versatility desistance)	Control theory evaluation	<i>C&amp;A: 23, 43, 44, 45</i>
14	11/23/10	Modern perspectives: Broken windows, Situational crime prevention, Restorative justice, Good lives model and human rights	Final paper due	<i>C&amp;A: 25, 41</i>
15	11/30/10	A new way forward: Integrating theories, Thornberry and Elliott,	Life course theory evaluation	<i>C&amp;A: 46, 47, 50</i>
16	12/07/10	Analysis of all theories so far, pros and cons, Best and worst? Theory “awards”, final exam review		<i>Everything so far</i>