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FALL 2010

JS118
THEORIES OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to criminology, the science and discipline that studies crime and criminal behavior. Analysis of demographics and measurement of crime, theories of causation and victimology. Study of the transition from deviant to antisocial and finally criminal behavior. Included will be violent crime, sex offences, theft offenses, political and public order crimes. Crime victims and their role in the Criminal Justice System will also be studied. Attention will be given to the criminalization and decriminalization process, theory construction and International issues such as genocide, child mercenaries, sex trafficking and slavery.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the time of the final students should be able to:

1. Articulate the concerns of criminologists, including the historical timeline From Classical criminology to Conflict criminology.
2. Critically analyze strong and weak methodology in the collection of data for theory construction.
3. Have an understanding of general crime demographics and limited international demographics.
4. Understanding of social, historical, and political background as related to the emergence, popularity, and rejection of theories.
5. Master theories of criminality including Classical, Positivist (biological and Psychological, Sociological, and Critical Criminology).
6. Develop typologies of child abuse, violent crime (homicide, rape, serial/mass murder), white collar crime and public order crimes.

7. Apply theories of behavior to various criminal & deviant scenarios including homicide, domestic violence, gang violence, delinquency, child abuse, and White collar crime.

8. Understand the role of interest groups and the legislature in criminalizing and decriminalizing behavior.

9. Understand in what ways theories are being employed within the criminal justice system. This will require examining implications of various theories for policy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hagan, Frank (2011), 7th edition, Criminology, Theories, Methods, and criminal behavior, Sage. ISBN 9781411297919, paperback.

The book should come bundled with materials for weblinks, videos links and study questions.

Students will also choose another book from a list supplied by the instructor to use as a tool to apply theory to behavior. These can generally be found on Amazon at used prices or from the instructors' collection.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Three exams will be required: two midterms and a final exam. Additionally, a research paper based on your book choice, 8 pages in length is required. The exams will cover lectures, videos, guest speakers and text readings. The exams will have objective and fill-in components. A review for each exam will be posted one week before the exam. The best way to study is to annotate the review sheet and study in groups. I will facilitate the groups in class. **MISSED EXAMS MAY ONLY BE MADE UP ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASS. THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!** Students are encouraged to read online news articles (NYTIMES.com) is an excellent source and print out and bring the article in to share with the class. This will improve your participation and may lead to a higher overall grade in the class. If you

miss a class, find a buddy to share notes with 😊. An incomplete will only be given if the student has completed two thirds of the work and presents a valid, documented explanation for the request. Oversleeping the final or any other exam does not constitute a valid excuse. **Class assignments, announcements, lectures, grades and supplementary**

readings will be located on either PageOut or Desire to learn. I will **email students the syllabus a few weeks before class.** Please print out the lecture before class so you may follow the lecture more closely. Attendance the first day is mandatory; those on the role who do not attend may be dropped.

EVALUATION

Each exam will be assigned a point value based on a class generated curve.

Midterm # 1	100 PTS.
Midterm# 2	100 PTS.
Final exam	100 PTS.
Paper & outline	100PTS.
Participation-up to 25 points	
TOTAL 400pts + PARTICIPATION POINTS	

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation will be a significant part of the course. I encourage all to get involved in the material; discussion enhances learning which will enhance your analytical & critical thinking skills. I also will give those students who did well on their paper the opportunity to share their findings with the class. from time to time we will have small group discussions on supplemental readings. I will observe the groups and assign points. *Finally, each week there will be an assignment listed after the text reading in italics. This is not mandatory, but students may earn participation points by contributing to class discussions with their 'findings'.*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who need accommodation must register with the Disability Resource Center, document their registration, and determine the services and accommodation needed for student success. The DRC will contact the instructor with the types of consideration needed. Students must register with the Center during the first three weeks of the semester. Their website is: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

In accordance with University policy, students caught **cheating or plagiarizing will both fail the entire class and be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer**. If you are considering a career in the Justice System, be aware that reports of cheating will go on your permanent academic record and thus may be discovered by employer's background investigations. For more information, take the SJSU Library Tutorial at

<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagerism/index.htm>.

TUTORING & WRITING 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 inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information (<http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>). Students are also encouraged to make use of the Writing Center located on the first floor of Clark Hall. Once you are tutored, contact will made with me, and we can work together to produce your best writing.

SPECIAL NOTE TO STUDENTS:

THIS CLASS WILL COVER MATERIAL WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING TO SOME STUDENTS, INCLUDING RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, MURDER AND CHILD ABUSE. FOR THAT REASON, PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO CLASS AND PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU FEEL THE CONTENT MAY MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE AND WE CAN WORK OUT AN ACCOMMODATION.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CRIME, LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

WEEK 1

Aug. 23

INTRODUCTION

Concepts of crime, law and criminology; penology, Victimology, theory construction. Deviance-antisocial-Criminality transition. Historical crimes vs current Concerns.

Text Cp. 1; Assignment: Familiarize yourself with the websites

On page 18, particularly Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Share an interesting or unique finding with the Class.

WEEK 2

Aug.30

Nature/extent of crime, measurement of offenses, Data collection. Objectivity and ethics in research

In class self-report exercise; further look at the Criminalization and decriminalization process.

Text Cp. 2; Assignment: Search the FBI Freedom of Information Act Files (FOIA) and locate a group or Individual who was the subject of an investigation.

WEEK 3

Sept.6

No class labor

Day 9/6

VICTIMS/VICTIMOLOGY THEORY

Lecture Only; Race, gender, social ecology patterns;

Policy Connection

Routine activities theory, PTSD, antisocial response, Mendelsohn's Perspective, Von Hentig's typologies, Schafer Functional Responsibility, lifestyle, deviant Place and opportunity theory, influence on childhood Development, toll of political violence, CJS response.

Check on Pageout for supplementary reading.

Assignment: Check online for California Victim's Compensation Program. Who is covered, who isn't?

Approval of books for research paper

WEEK 4
Sept. 13

General Characterists of Crime and Criminals

Demographics, trends, gender/race differences.

Text Cp. 3

Assignment: Re international crime, what Emerging crimes are impacting the US?

APPROVAL OF BOOK CHOICES

THEORIES OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

WEEK 5
SEPT.20

EARLY AND CLASSICAL THEORIES

Spirits, demonological, and the emergence of humanism. Deterrence(general/specific); **Policy Connection**

WEEK 6
SEPT.27

BIOLOGICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES

Lombroso, Eugenics, Somotypes & recent/emerging Science on heredity, genetics, neurobiology.

Psychology of Human aggression and Violence;

Katz's Seductions of Crime, Freud, Behaviorism,

Cognitive morality scales, intelligence & Crime. **Policy**

Connection

Text: Cp.5

Assignment: Peruse the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Website <http://www.apa.org/science/lib.html>.

WEEK 7
OCT.4

Continue Week 6 Material;

MIDTERM OCTOBER 6

WEEK 8
OCT.11

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY,

Social Structure, anomie, strain, cultural deviance,

Social Process, Sutherland, Millers Focal Concerns,

Matza's neutralization and drift. Social Control,

Bonding, Power-Control. Sampson/Laub's life course.

Policy Connection

Text: Cp. 6

Assignment: What Motion Pictures best depict these Theories?

**WEEK 9
OCT.18**

THEORIES OF CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY;

labeling, stigma, conflict, Marxist, Feminist theory
Restorative Justice, Forgiveness, shaming experiments

Policy Connection

Text: Cp. 7

*Assignment: Define Peacemaking, conflict resolution
Social justice in the context of Critical Criminology.*

TYOLOGIES

**WEEK 9
Oct. 25**

VIOLENT CRIME

Homicide, domestic violence, mass/serial murder,
Rape (Video), suicide, child abuse.

Policy Connection

Text: Cp. 8

*Assignment: download an application for sexual/violent
Offenders.*

**WEEK 10
NOV.1**

VIOLENT CRIME CONT.

Paper Outlines due

**WEEK 11
NOV. 8**

SECOND MIDTERM Nov 10th

**WEEK 12
Nov.15**

PROPERTY CRIME/WHITE COLLAR CRIME

Shoplifting, vandalism, arson, professional crime,
Online scams.

Text: Cp.10-11

Policy Connection

*Assignment: find an News editorial with a solution to
The BP Disaster.*

**Week 13
Nov. 22**

POLITICAL CRIME/ORGANIZED CRIME

Nuremberg Trial aftermath, The Hague, Declaration of
Human Rights, genocide, crimes by the Government.

The difficulty with definitions of Organized Crime.

Drug Trafficking, Human trafficking.

Policy Connection; PAPERS DUE!

Text Cp.11-12

*Assignment: which group of organized criminals
The greatest threat to American Society?*

**Week 14
Nov 29**

Continue week 13, begin Public Order Crime

Victimless crimes, prostitution, drugs, pornography
(Video), social reaction, stigma, criminalization,
Decriminalization.

Policy Connection

Text: Cp. 13

*Assignment: do victimless crimes present a threat to our
Morality such that societies acceptance become a
'gateway' offense?*

**WEEK 15
Dec. 6**

wrap up and review for final exam; makeup exams

LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION DEC. 9TH

FINAL EXAM TUESDAY DECEMBER 14 1215-1430

Paper Assignment 8 pages Application of theory to behavior

The purpose of this assignment is to read a nonfiction book, although some fiction may be approved and apply theories, concepts, demographics, profiles and typologies to the criminal scenario. Think of yourself as a criminal behavioral profiler, supplying theoretical explanations for deviant, and criminal behavior. A list of suitable books will be available as well as a binder which has book reviews, but it is the students' responsibility to choose and find the book. Most are available online, used, at very reasonable prices. This is not a book report; you will be critically evaluating the behavior in the book using our class materials. There are many excellent accounts, and I encourage you to choose books from the instructor's list. The writing is better and usually provides more clues which will aid in your explanation. **IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER FORMAT YOU WILL BE DEDUCTED POINTS, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

1. YOU MUST SUBMIT AN OUTLINE OR YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE PAPER!
2. STUDENTS WILL USE TURNITIN.COM.
3. AT LEAST THREE OUTSIDE SOURCES (JOURNAL ARTICLES) MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TEXT AND CITED, WITH THE ABSTRACT ATTACHED TO YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY.
4. THE PAPER MUST FOLLOW APA STYLE
5. THEORIES AND CONCEPTS MUST BE BOLDED.
6. THE TITLE PAGE MUST CONSIST OF A COLOR REPRODUCTION OF THE BOOK'S COVER.

FORMAT:

1.INTRODUCTION: IN ONE PAGE OUTLINE THE PLOT OF YOUR BOOK. MORE THAN ONE PAGE WILL RECEIVE A 5 POINT DEDUCTION.DO NOT NARRATE, SYNTHESIZE.

2.BODY OF YOUR PAPER:
WHAT THEORIES CAN EXPLAIN THE BEHAVIOR OF

THE PERPETRATORS? AT LEAST 12 THEORIES MUST BE EXPLORED.
DSM CATEGORIES MUST ALSO BE EXPLORED.
(DIAGNOSTIC & STATISTICAL MANUAL OF PSYCHIATRIC
ILLNESS)STUDENTS MAY GENERATE THEIR OWN THEORY
USING THE THEORY CONSTRUCTION HANDOUT WHICH WILL
BE POSTED ONLINE. YOU MUST INCLUDE VICTIMOLOGY THEORY!

3.CONCLUSION—WHAT KIND OF TREATMENT DID THE
PERPETRATOR AND VICTIM RECEIVE BY THE CRJS? WAS THERE
EQUITY IN SENTENCING? RESTORATIVE JUSTICE? WHAT WAS
ULTIMATE OUTCOME?

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

EXAMPLE OF APPLICATION OF THEORY TO BEHAVIOR:

Truman Capote's In Cold Blood provides an account of Perry Edward Smith, who, along with Richard Hickcock, murdered and robbed a family in Holcomb, Kansas in 1959. (It was also the topic of the 2005 film Capote). Capote's book was the first true-life literary account of a horrendous crime.

Capote's book suggest that Smith committed these crimes primarily as a result of what Miller identifies as **lower class focal concerns**. Smith was a single, white, thirty-one year old lower class male when he and Hickcock murdered the Clutter Family. The main predisposing factor affecting Smith was an unhappy childhood. His alcoholic mother left his father and took Smith and his siblings with her when she went to California to lead a wild life. Smith was six years old at the time, his siblings were teenagers. His mother would have sex with anyone who would buy her a drink. The **emotional abuse** was compounded by the children's responsibility for cleaning up her Vomit, finding decent clothes and sufficient food. Smith's sister Fern, and his brother Jimmy would later commit suicide as adults. (**Suicide typologies** may be discussed later in the paper).

Committed to an orphanage at the age of seven, Smith was later returned to his Mother at age seven. After several confinements in institutions and

children's **detention homes**, he was sent to live with his father. His formal education, and any **chance of a structured childhood** ended in third grade, further disposing him to crime. (discuss juvenile chronic offenders, DSM categories, pre-antisocial behavior). He and his father drifted around the country in a house trailer until Smith was 16 when he joined the merchant Marines. After discharge in 1952 he went to live with his father in Alaska. However, they fought bitterly, and he was **abandoned** by the family when he was thrown out of the house.

Psychodynamic theory stresses the importance of early childhood experience; bonding with parents, smooth transitions through developmental stages and the impact of traumatic events on the psyche of children experiencing **abuse/neglect**. Smith was a victim of his parent's alcoholism, neglect, and failed attempts to instill positive values and a sense of morality. The impact is underscored by the suicide of the siblings and his later sociopathic violence. Rageful children who are never given a forum in which to express feelings (therapy) often become rageful adults who visit their violence on the community.

A central attractive factor for Smith was his early experience in crime and prison life. After separating from his father, he had no money and no where to go. As a result, he committed a burglary and landed in prison with a 5-10 year sentence. While in prison (**social learning theory** should be explained here), Smith's acts demonstrated the lower class concern for toughness and smartness. During his confinement he bragged of having killed a man in Las Vegas. He claimed to have done it for the hell of it and maintained he had gotten away with it. (**Institutionalization** should be explained here) He made up the story to impress other inmates. Etc. etc.

PARTICULARLY RELEVANT THEORIES:

VICTIM PRECIPITATION

LIFESTYLE

DEVIANT PLACE

ROUTINE ACTIVITIES

CHOICE-RATIONALITY OF CRIME-DETERRENCE

TRAIT-DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES, FAMILIAL, PSYCHOLOGY

DSM CATEGORIES

ABUSE, FAMILY DYSFUNCTION, REACTION THEORY
CONFLICT THEORY-TERRORIST CRIME/ORGANIZED CRIME
SOCIAL STRUCTURE THEORY
INTELLIGENCE/CRIMINALITY
NEUTRALIZATION AND DRIFT

10. Suggested books:

Columbine, David Cullen

The Monster of Florence- Douglas Preston, serial killer in Italy

The Darkest Night, Ron Franscell

Devil in the White City, Eric Larson

Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh

Devil Highway, Luis Urrea

A Time to Kill, John Grisham

Journal of the Dead, Kersten---best friends go camping and one ends up dead—murder, euthanasia? Excellent

Every Breath You Take, Ann Rule—or anything by this author, the primary writer in this genre

Black Dahlia, Hodel, cop investigates his father's past crime—excellent

Halfway Heaven, Thernstrom, murder-suicide at Harvard University—excellent

Lucky, Sebald—memoir of college sexual assault, excellent

Out of Bounds, Benedict—NBA culture of rape, violence—excellent

Black and Blue, Quindlen, domestic violence-excellent

Judgement Ridge, Lehr, highschool boys murder local professor

In Cold Blood, Capote, groundbreaking study of random murder-excellent

Night Stalker, Carlo, serial murder etc.

When a Child Kills, Mones, parricide—case studies of abused kids.

The Stranger Beside Me, Rule, Ted Bundy's horrific story, excellent.

Fire Lover, Wambaugh, serial arsonist, excellent; we will view the Video in class

She Wanted it All, Kathryn Casey-black widow story

Tacoma Confidential, Paul La Rosa, domestic violence tragedy

Such Good Boys, Carlton Smith, child abuse & murder

Helter Skelter, Bugliosi, historical, Manson killings

Darkest Night, Franscell, random murder

Death of a Dream, Paul La Rosa, 48 hours mystery

I will add more to the list as the semester progresses.