

**San José State University**  
**CASA/Justice Studies**  
**JS151, Criminological Theory, 01, Fall, 2014**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time/Location:</b>	Tues & Thurs 12:00-1:15pm / MQH 523
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper division standing and completion of, or co-requisite of 100W

### **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.

Many of you will leave this course and assume roles in society that involve the enforcement, creation, or interpretation of crime policies that are driven by various criminological theories. In this effort, it is essential that you not be mere automatons in the performance of duty. Class lectures will be conducted according to a lecture-discussion format. Lectures and presentation materials will help clarify points made by the authors of the assigned readings. Discussions will help students think critically about criminological theory and what it means to society as a whole and the criminal and justice studies field in particular. It is crucial that students come to class prepared having read the required material for class and having completed any other tasks or assignments that are required. Films, other video presentations, and guest speakers will be utilized to try and critically evaluate criminological theory and its importance in society. Criminology and the criminal justice system do not exist apart from the people who make, enforce, and suffer from it.

## **Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

## **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1 Distinguish between different theoretical approaches to the study of crime and delinquency.

LO2 Analyze and critique theory, research, and methods used to study crime.

LO3 Integrate and apply different theoretical perspectives to explain criminality, and compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of theories.

LO4: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level that appropriately reflects the cumulating experience of their justice studies major.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

Tibbets, Stephen & Hemmens Craig (2010). *Criminological Theory: A Text/Reader*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Butterfield, Fox. *All God's Children: The Bosket Family and the American Tradition of Violence*

### **Other Readings**

Additional readings listed in the Class Schedule will be posted on Canvas.

## **Canvas**

Syllabus and course content can be found on Canvas: URL: <https://sjsu.instructure.com>. (For student info: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/Canvas-Student%20Login%20Information.pdf> and [http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudentTutorial\\_New.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudentTutorial_New.pdf)). Course material will be made available as needed and as determined by our collaborative determination of the needs of the class. Students are responsible for checking Canvas between classes for announcements and course content postings. Please be advised that course materials provided online are intended to support your learning and are not considered sufficient for successful completion of this course without attending class.

## Library Liaison

Below is the link to the Justice Studies library resource web page: <http://library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases/subject/justice-studies>. This resource page has links to core databases that will be useful as you work on your policy paper. Silke Higgins is the SJSU Justice Studies Subject Specialist Librarian. She is more than happy to answer questions and meet with students one on one. She can be reached by email at [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu).

## Instructor's note on communication

As you know, a university degree 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 within 24-48 hours. **Please contact me via Canvas email.** Please note: all communication regarding assignment and grades must be conducted in person and *not* via email.

## Classroom Protocol

I expect everyone to attend class regularly, be on time, and be prepared for class lectures and discussions. In order to create a constructive and supportive learning environment, it is expected that class members will participate in class discussions, listen well to others, respect varying opinions, avoid degrading or disrespectful language, and understand the multicultural atmosphere of this learning environment. Class discussions should take place within a context of academic inquiry and in the spirit of understanding diverse perspectives and experiences. This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials, and announcements due to absence (i.e. do not email the instructor asking about what you missed).

**Electronic Devices:** If students choose to use laptops, they must be used responsibly. Students using laptops to purposes not consistent with the learning requirements of that day will be asked to shut down the computer. *Use of cell phones and other electronics is prohibited during class.* Reduce your temptation by turning off your phone. Texting or surfing the web in class will not be tolerated – that includes catching up on Facebook and other social networking sites. It may be that you feel that you are able to multi-task and perusing the internet, taking notes, and paying attention in class is not a problem and does not interfere with your learning. While that may be true for you, it is interfering with the learning of those around you. Your behavior is distracting. Other people are here to learn and it is my job to make the environment as conducive to learning as I see fit. Please be respectful. Lastly, the use of ear buds to listen to music or checking/using your cell phones during exams is also prohibited. These behaviors may be misinterpreted as cheating.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

In order to receive a grade for this course, *all* course requirements must be met and *every* assignment must be completed. Plagiarism will not be tolerated on **any** piece of assessment, under any circumstances. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism will receive an F for that assignment and may 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.

### **Reflections (25% of final grade) (SLO3, SLO4)**

As you read *All God's Children*. You will be provided guided questions to think and write about as you read the book as well as the other assigned readings. The purpose of the entries is not to summarize what you read, but rather a critical exploration and analysis of the underlying themes relating to the theories covered each week. This will also give you the opportunity to reflect on your personal responses to the book. Points are based on the student's ability to integrate the theories covered in the course as well as the thought put into your personal responses. Students will be required to submit each journal entry to Canvas by noon on the day it is due. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

### **Exams (65% of final grade) (SLO1, SLO2)**

The exams are scheduled to take place on Sept 25th, Nov 4th, and Dec 18th. Students should assume that all material covered in the lectures, readings, videos, and hand-outs will be covered on the exams unless otherwise indicated. Exams will encompass multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams must be completed on the dates for which they are listed in the syllabus. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of documented medical emergencies or deaths in the family. Be prepared to show written documentation of a legitimate excuse. Make-up exams will be different from the ones taken by the rest of the class and will likely be in essay format. If in the unfortunate event you need to miss an exam, contact the professor immediately. The make-up exam must be taken within one week of the original exam date, with the exception of the final exam which must be taken on the date scheduled. If it is not taken during this time period, you will not be given another opportunity to retake the exam.

### **Class Participation (10% of final grade) (SLO2)**

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 come to class prepared to discuss and critique the assigned readings. In order to participate, one must be in attendance. Attendance per se, however, is not considered to be participation, and cannot factor into one's grade. Participation includes but is not limited to in-class comments indicating knowledge of the subject matter, asking probing questions, and involvement in class activities including in-class assignments, pop-quizzes, impromptu debates and presentations of reading material. This means that assigned readings must be read and "digested" prior to each class meeting.

**Participation in online discussions:** The Canvas site includes a Discussion Forum. Throughout the semester I will post a number of discussion topics to which you are encouraged to respond to. Students will be required to contribute to the Current Event Discussion Forum at least once and respond to a classmate's post at least once over the course of the semester. Current events can include response to local or national news items, summary and response to a documentary, movie, music video etc. you watched, overview of a website or organization you've come across that relates back to the course....

When posting, describe/ summarize the issue, explain why/how it caught your interest and how it links back to the course. Be sure to provide any relevant links. The purpose of this forum is to create ongoing active and critical discussions about current events relevant to the issues that we are covering over the course of this semester.

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

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59

PLEASE NOTE: Justice Studies Students have only two opportunities to pass JS 151 with a C or better. Any student with a final grade that is C- or lower on the first attempt will be placed on administrative probation with a registration hold. Any repeating student with a final grade that is C- or lower will be disqualified from the Justice Studies degree program.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know the University's Student Conduct Code, available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/Student%20Conduct%20Code%202013.pdf>. 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, found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct>.

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. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

### **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 AEC (Accessible Education Center) to establish a record of their disability. Information about registering for AEC services or about their resources can be found on their website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

### **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 is located at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/>

### **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 is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

### **CASA Student Success Center**

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools.

All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study, and you can check out laptops.

Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910). Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>.

## Course Schedule

### JS151, Criminological Theory, Fall 2014

Tentative reading assignments are listed below. However due to the length of discussions and other factors beyond my control, this schedule and readings are subject to change. You are expected to complete all readings on time and be prepared to discuss them in class. There is a lot of reading for this course, none of which is optional. All readings are posted in Canvas under the Module Tab 'Weekly Readings'. It is imperative that you complete these readings PRIOR TO the class session in which they will be discussed.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Tues 8/26  Thurs 8/28	<p><b>Introduction &amp; Course Overview</b></p> <p><b>What is theory and why do we need it?</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Introduction (pgs 1-12 stop at Measures of Crime)  <b>Canvas:</b> Fuller Ch 1</p>
2	Tues 9/2  Thurs 9/4	<p><b>Nature and Extent of Crime</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Introduction (pgs 12-31)  <b>All God's Children:</b> Prologue &amp; Ch 1</p> <p><b>Classical &amp; Neo Classical Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> : Section I (pgs 47-72), &amp; Reading 2  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 2-3</p> <p><i>Reflection #1 Due</i></p>
3	Tues 9/9  Thurs 9/11	<p><b>Deterrence &amp; Rational Choice Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section II (pgs 95-103, stop at Routine Activities) &amp; Reading 4  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 4</p> <p><b>Routine Activities Theory</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section II (103-110) &amp; Reading 6  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 5 &amp; 6</p> <p><i>Reflection #2 Due</i></p>



Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Thurs 10/16	<p><b>Cultural &amp; Subcultural Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section VI (pgs 391-396) &amp; Reading 22  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 14</p> <p><i>Reflection #6 Due</i></p>
9	Tues 10/21  Thurs 10/23	<p><b>Social Learning</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section V (pgs 437-450, stop at Control Theories) &amp; Readings 23  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 15</p> <p><b>Social Control Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section V (pgs 450-452, skip section on Early Control Theories; 459-471)  <b>Text:</b> Section IX (pgs 601-602)  <b>Canvas:</b> Gottfredson &amp; Hirschi. Ch19. A general theory of crime.  <b>All God's Children:</b> Ch 16 &amp; Epilogue</p> <p><i>Reflection #7 Due</i></p>
10	Tues 10/28  Thurs 10/30	<p><b>In Class Documentary: "Barefoot Bandit"</b></p> <p><b>Summary of Theories and Review</b></p>
11	Tues 11/4  Thurs 11/6	<p><b>Exam 2</b></p> <p><b>Labeling Theory</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section VIII (pgs 529-532, stop at Marxists Theories) &amp; Reading 28  <b>Text:</b> Section X (pgs 670-674, read section on Braithwaite's theory)</p>
12	Tues 11/11  Thurs 11/13	<p><b>Veteran's Day – Campus Closed</b></p> <p><b>Critical Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section VIII (pgs 532-536, stop at Feminist Theories), &amp; Reading 29  <b>Canvas:</b> To be announced</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Tues 11/18 Thurs 11/20	<p><b>Feminist Theory</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section VIII (pgs 536-542) , Readings 30 &amp; 31  <b>Canvas:</b> Daly &amp; Chesney-Lind (2004) Ch 1 Feminism and Criminology. In <u>Gendered (In)Justice. Theory and Practice of Feminist Criminology.</u> (Pgs 9-37).</p> <p><i>Reflection #8 Due</i></p>
14	Tues 11/25  Thurs 11/27	<p><b>Developmental &amp; Life Course Theories</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Section IX (pgs 599-607)  <b>Canvas:</b> Moffit, T. Ch 38. Pathways in the life course to crime.  <b>Canvas:</b> Sampson, RJ &amp; Laub, J. Ch. 20. Crime and the life course.</p> <p><b>Thanksgiving</b></p>
15	Tues 12/2  Thurs 12/4	<p><b>Developmental &amp; Life Course Theories cont.</b></p> <p><i>Readings:</i>  <b>Text:</b> Loeber R. &amp; Farrington DP. (2000). Young children who commit crime: Epidemiology, developmental origins, risk factors, early interventions, and policy implications. <u>Development &amp; Psychopathology, 12, 737-762.</u></p> <p><b>In Class Documentary: Lionel Tate</b></p>
16	Tues 12/9	<p><b>Course Wrap &amp; Review for Final</b></p>
17	Thurs 12/18	<p><b>Final Exam 9:45am-12pm</b></p>