

San José State University
Winter 2015
Justice Studies 151
Criminological Theory
Dr. Chris Hebert
Canvas On-Line

**Required to attend one of two chat sessions held from 10:00 – 11:00 and
6:00 – 7:00 MTWThF. See schedule for details.**

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On Burglary:

The owners! Shoot, this is country folk. These people don't believe in calling the cops. You in their yard stealing something; they coming out with shot-guns. You don't know who's land you're on. You don't know who or what they are capable of doing. People shoot you around here and bury you in their backyard and no one will ever miss you ... Think about it, if you in their yard stealing you ain't telling no one you was going to steal this.

(A young thief in response to whether he feared the police or property owners more.) From "Managing Fear to Commit Theft," Hochstetler and Copes in "In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime." Paul Cromwell (ed.).

On Crime and Law Enforcement

Crime is eternal—as eternal as society. So far as we know, human fallibility has manifested itself in all types and forms of human organization. Everywhere some human beings have fallen outside the pattern of permitted conduct. It is best to face the fact that crime cannot be abolished except in a nonexistent utopia.
Frank Tannenbaum (1949).

Office Hours

General Statement on Office Hours: My practice of meeting with students is best described as an "open door or knock or spotted walking around" policy. Outside of office hours, I'm happy to talk with you 19 out of 20 times. All I ask is that if I tell you that I can't talk right then, please respect my wishes.

On-Line Only

Pre/Co-requisite: JS 100W

Catalog Description: A socio/historical examination of the emergence, evolution, persistence, activities and social structure of gangs and mobs, the effects of social factors, e.g., politics, law, technology and the economy, and consequences for communities and social institutions.

Note: Justice Studies 151 is a required course for the Justice Studies major. As with all JS courses, to be accepted for credit towards a degree a grade of "C" or better is required. In addition, because

JS 151 is a required course failure to obtain a grade of “C” or better after two attempts will result in disqualification from the degree program.

If you are taking JS 151 for the second time, plan on meeting with me early and often to track your progress in the course.

Section Specific Description and Student Learning Objectives: There are four major themes to the course: 1) Why are some harmful behaviors defined as criminal and others are not? 2) How are the common measures of crime constructed and how does this influence public perceptions of the “crime problem?” 3) The social and physical organization of crime and victimization. 4) Theoretical explanations of criminal behavior.

Required Readings:

1) Conklin, John, “*Criminology*, 11th Edition,” Allyn and Bacon. Available at Spartan Bookstore and other locations scattered around the world brought to you by the internet. This edition is a major rewrite of the textbook and earlier editions will be inadequate for the course.

A Mandatory Statement on Academic Integrity: In the long run academic dishonesty hurts only you. Academic dishonesty can also cause pain in the short run, see Academic Senate Policy S07-2: <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>. Other publications concerning student rights and responsibilities can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

The Mandatory Statement on Accessibility: “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 the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability (from Academic Senate Policy F06-2).”

The Mandatory Statement on, ummh, Common-Sense: “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Course Requirements: Course grades are based on quizzes, exams, written assignments, the Crime Portfolio and class participation. All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis.

Quizzes and Exams: The “chapters” in reference to quizzes and exams are the textbook chapters and any material presented in class or assigned during the class period to which the textbook chapter was assigned. Quizzes are on-line.

Final Exam: Final exam held on campus on Friday, January 16, 2015. Bring a pencil and Scantron ES-822.

Course Weighting of Material:

- 1) Quizzes (4* 10% = 40%): There are eleven quizzes, each covering 2 chapters. I may throw in a short answer or a multiple-choice question or two based on a previous material. Ten of these

quizzes will be used to calculate the course grade and are chosen as follows: The lowest score of the first six and the lowest score of the last six quizzes will be excluded from the course grade calculation. A quiz not taken is assigned a score of zero and thus becomes the low score for the purpose of exclusion. Between 15 and 30 minutes will be allocated for quizzes.

- 2) Final Exam (20%): Predominately material covered since the mid-term, though course material from any part of the course may be included.
- 3) Assignments (1 * 15% = 15%): Instructions to be distributed in class.
- 4) Participation (25%): Based on participation in mandatory daily chat sessions.

Grading Policy and Correspondence:

I usually apply a curve to exams and the posted scores reflect any curving that I have done (I only curve up, never down). If a curve is applied, approximately 20 to 25 percent of the class will receive an A- or better on that exam. All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis, and correspond to the following letter grades.

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence											
A+	96%	A	93%	A-	90%	B+	86%	B	83%	B-	80%
C+	76%	C	73%	C-	70%	D+	66%	D	63%	D-	60%
F	Less Than 60%										

Late Test and Assignment Policy: No to full credit depending on circumstance. The possible combinations of circumstance are damn near infinite and thus an attempt to assign specific penalty weights a truly Herculean task. Instead, the following are the factors I consider, along with examples of good, OK, and bad excuses.

Dimension	Good	OK	Bad
Notification:	Notification delivered in class at least one class meeting prior to absence	Note in mailbox / e-mail day of exam.	Five weeks after assignment due date.
Reason:	Work-related travel. Getting married, personal illness, serious illness of a close relative, death of a close relative.	Too much coursework/job stress. Relationship troubles, ceremonial participation.	Hung over, forgot, getting married more than once, weekly participation in ceremonies of death or other.
What Missed:		Quizzes and Mid-Term Exam.	Assignment, Crime Portfolio, Final Exam.
Documentation:	Newspaper, Dr./Clinic appointment, receipt for automotive repair, court summons	Note from Mom.	Insultingly bad forgery.
Made up by:	Next Class Meeting or Prior to Due Date.	Two Class Meetings	Final Exam Week.
Attendance:	I can match name to face.	Pretty sure that you are, or were, in one of my classes.	Couldn't pick you out of a lineup for \$100,000.

It is your responsibility to notify me of your need to take a make-up exam or quiz and to arrange a time that accommodates my schedule. Except under extraordinary circumstances, if an exam has not

been taken within two weeks or a quiz within one week, of its administration to the class, you will forfeit that quiz/exam and receive a zero.

Communication / Interaction: Questions ideally asked after the daily chat questions, though e-mail is an option.

Recording and Distribution of Course Material: The following is reproduced from SJSU Policy S12-7.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

So, talk to me if you need to make a recording in class. Just as a reminder "Audio recording without consent in private settings is prohibited by California Penal code 630-635 (SJSU Policy S12-7).

Date	Readings (From Criminology unless otherwise noted.)	Exam / Material Due
April 17		Quiz Chapter 9
April 22	Chapter 10: Criminal Careers and Career Criminals	
April 24		Quiz Chapter 10
April 29		
May 1	Chapter 11: Organization of Criminal Behavior	<i>Crime Portfolio Due.</i>
May 6		Quiz Chapter 11
May 8	Chapter 15: Reducing Crime	
May 13		Quiz Chapter 15
May 19 (Monday)	Final Exam 12:15 – 2:30	Final Exam 12:15 – 2:30
May 22 (Thursday)	Final Exam Overload Day*	

* Students having more than two final exams scheduled during a 24-hour period may request that a final be rescheduled. Requests must be made at least three weeks prior to the final exam date. (Academic Senate Policy S06-4).