

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 151, Criminology Theory, 03, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Dr. Claudio G. Vera Sanchez)
Office Location:	(MH 509)
Telephone:	(408 924-2950)
Email:	(claudio.verasanchez@sjsu.edu)
Office Hours:	(All day, every day, I am your humble servant. No seriously, my office hours are on Monday and Wednesday from 2:00pm-4:00pm , or by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	(MW, 10:30AM-11:45AM)
Classroom:	(Boccardo Business Center 126)
Prerequisites:	(JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11. Pre/Co-requisite: JS 100W Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements)
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	(Delete this row if not applicable)

Course Format: In Person

Course Description:

Analysis of the nature and extent of crime, including causation and prevention. Description of offenses, criminal typologies and victim surveys. Evaluation of various control and prevention strategies.
Prerequisite: JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11 Pre/Co-requisite: JS 100W Note: Must achieve a grade "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Goals:

The objective of this course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding, based on various theoretical frameworks, as to why individuals participate in criminal activities. This course will also cover legal aspects, including major legal cases, within the field of criminology.

The Goals of the Course are as follows:

- You will learn various theoretical frameworks that explain criminality.
- You will learn the limitations of criminological theories.
- You will learn critical (unorthodox) approaches to understand crime and delinquency.
- You will learn some of the legal considerations surrounding criminal behavior.

Required Texts/Readings (Required):

Textbook

Schram, Pamela J., & Tibbets, Stephen G. (2017). Introduction to criminology. Why do they do it? Sage Publications. ISBN: ISBN: 978-1506378435

Other Readings

Required: Martinez, R. (2014). *Latino homicide: Immigration, violence, and community*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415536530

You may use the previous editions of both aforementioned books—just make sure that you are reading the correct chapter for each week.

Final Examination or Evaluation:

Your final presentation (Powerpoint) of your research paper will be utilized as your culminating experience.

Grading Information:

The course requirements consist of three exams, two book critiques, a research paper, and a final poster/presentation of your paper. The grades will be calculated as follows:

My grading scale is:

91 – 100 A	90 A-	
88 – 89 B+	81 – 87 B	80 B-
78 – 79 C+	71 – 77 C	70 C-
68 – 69 D+	61 – 67 D	60 D-
59 and below F		

Your grade is composed of:

2 Book critiques (7.5 pt. each)	15 points
Exam 1	20 points
Exam 2	20 points
Exam 3	15 points
Research paper	20 points
Final paper presentation	10 points
Total Points	100

The book critiques should be, 1 to 2 pages, single-spaced. These assignments are not designed to summarize the books, but instead should offer your interpretation, insight, and critical perspective of these works. **The critiques are due on the designated days and will not be accepted by email or late. Their grade will be zero.** You will submit the following two critiques during the semester:

Latino Homicide critique 1 (Chapter 1-5)

Latino Homicide critique 2 (Chapter 6-8)

The research paper will offer the opportunity to explore any area of criminology of interest to you. The research paper length requirement is at least ten pages. You must cite at least 15 peer-reviewed articles. **IMPORTANT: FOR EVERY MISSING PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE, A GRADE DEDUCTION WILL BE APPLIED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ONLY INCORPORATE 10 OF THE 15 REQUIRED ARTICLES, A 33% GRADE DEDUCTION WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY APPLIED TO YOUR RESEARCH PAPER. PLEASE INCORPORATE ALL 15 REQUIRED PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (ANY OTHER SOURCES DO NOT COUNT).** The paper is due at the beginning of class by the due date and will not be accepted by email or late. Its grade will be zero.

All research papers and book critiques must be submitted by the due date in-class AND to turnitin.com.

You must go to the turnitin.com website, create an account, and insert the information below. The class ID and password are as follows:

Class ID: 15986247

Password: criminology

The in-class presentation consists of presenting your research paper to the class, as you would at a conference, for 10 to 15 minutes. The format template for the presentation is PowerPoint.

Extra Credit:

Extra Credit Option 1. The extra credit book critique will ONLY be accepted with proof that the assignment was reviewed by writing center specialists (i.e., stamped or an email by the writing center) and also submitted to turnitin.com.

Select any of the optional books listed below:

Optional: Sikes, Gini (1997). *8 Ball chicks: A year in the violent world of girl gangsters*. 1st Anchor Books.

Optional: Rodriguez, Luis J. (2005). *Always running: La vida loca: Gang days in L.A.* Touchstone, New York, NY.

Optional: Contreras, Randol (2012). *Stickupkids: Race, Drugs, Violence and the American Dream*. University of California Press.

Extra Credit Option 2. You can take any of your book critiques or research papers to the Writing Center, have them reviewed **ONLY FOR GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX**, submit the rough draft along with your final paper, and you will receive extra credit. You must go into the writing center. Sending the paper via email to the Writing Center and receiving comments will not be accepted.

Classroom Protocol

You are responsible for university policies regarding, but not limited to, drop deadlines, plagiarism, and academic integrity.

Missed classes: If you miss a class the PowerPoint presentations will **not** be available on Canvas. I recommend that you get to know at least one or two of your classmates so that you may get notes on what you missed. This should not be difficult, as you will be working in groups during class. However, your attendance is critical for the success of the class. Excessive absences will adversely affect your grade.

Classroom etiquette: Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices while in class. Please do not do other things during class that you would not want others to do in your classroom. This includes but is not limited to doing homework for other classes, having side conversations, text messaging, etc. In addition, please be sure to arrive to class in a timely manner. It is distracting to the professor and to fellow students when you are late. In addition, if you need to leave early please notify me before class starts. **Continuously arriving to class late, “forgetting” to turn off cell phones, and/or text messaging in class will result in deductions from your grade. Lastly, please note that tablets, laptops, or electronic devices of any type are not permitted during class.**

E-mail etiquette: One of the best ways to contact me (besides coming to office hours) is by e-mail. However, I have general expectations about contacting me by e-mail:

1. Always place your name and the class you are taking with me in the e-mail.
2. Be sure to always include a subject heading.
3. E-mails should be professional.
4. If a question or concern cannot be answered by two email exchanges, then it will be addressed over the phone (or in person) during office hours.

Papers: All hardcopy papers should be:

- Stapled
- Typed and double-spaced
- 12 point font (Times New Roman) with one-inch margins
- Black ink
- Proofread and edited

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is unacceptable under any circumstance. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, please visit me during office hours.

University Policies:

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

JS 151 / Criminology Theory, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule of topics and required readings that will be discussed in class. You will be responsible for all readings listed in the syllabus. The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. If this occurs, you will be notified either on Canvas or in class. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any announced changes in class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21	No class
1	8/23	Introductions, Expectations of Excellence, and Syllabus
2	8/28	Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminology
2	8/30	Chapter 3: Classic School of Criminology Thought
3	9/4	Labor Day
3	9/6	Chapter 3: Classic School of Criminology Thought, Martinez Critique 1 Due
4	9/11	Chapter 4: Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research
4	9/13	Chapter 4: Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research, Martinez Critique 2 Due
5	9/18	Chapter 5: Early Positivism
5	9/20	Chapter 6: Modern Biosocial Perspectives on Criminal Behavior
6	9/25	Exam 1 (Chapters 1 and 3-6)
6	9/27	Chapter 7: Psychological/Trait Theories of Crime
7	10/2	Chapter 7: Psychological/Trait Theories of Crime

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	10/4	Chapter 8: Social Structure Theories of Crime I: Early Development and Strain Models of Crime
8	10/9	Chapter 8: Social Structure Theories of Crime I: Early Development and Strain Models of Crime
8	10/11	Chapter 9: Social Structure Theories of Crime II: Social Disorganization and Subcultures
9	10/16	Chapter 9: Social Structure Theories of Crime II: Social Disorganization and Subcultures
9	10/18	Chapter 10: Social Process and Control Theories of Crime
10	10/23	Chapter 10: Social Process and Control Theories of Crime
10	10/25	Exam 2 (Chapters 7-10)
11	10/30	Chapter 11: Labeling Theory and Conflict/Marxist/Radical Theories of Crime
11	11/1	Chapter 11: Labeling Theory and Conflict/Marxist/Radical Theories of Crime, Research Paper Due
12	11/6	Chapter 12: Feminist Theories of Crime
12	11/8	Chapter 12: Feminist Theories of Crime
13	11/13	Chapter 14: White Collar Crime, Organized Crime, and Cybercrime
13	11/15	Chapter 15: Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
14	11/20	Chapter 16: Drugs and Crime
14	11/22	Thanksgiving Week No class
15	11/27	Chapter 16: Drugs and Crime
15	11/29	Exam 3 (Chapters 11, 12, 14, and 16)
16	12/4	Final Presentations
16	12/6	Final Presentations
17	12/11	Final Presentations
Final Exam		Final Presentations: (TBA)