

San José State University

College of Applied Sciences and Arts / Department of Justice Studies JS 151-01, Criminological Theory, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125
Telephone:	(408) 924-2753 x42753 – email is the best way to reach me!
Email:	natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Thursday 1:20-2:20PM – email me for an appointment please! If you wish to schedule an online office hour, please email me.
Class Days/Time:	T/R 10:30AM -11:45AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 526
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Analysis of the nature and extent of crime, including causation and prevention. Descriptions 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 of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Confidently discuss criminological theories, including history, limitations, and applications of theories.
2. Apply criminological theories to real life situations.
3. Write a research paper evaluating and applying criminological theories.
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about readings on criminological theories.
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts

Tibbets, S.G. & Hemmens, C. (2019). *Criminological Theory: A Text/Reader, 3rd Edition*. SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.
4. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.

Participation

This class should be engaging for everyone, and therefore relies on student participation. All students will be expected to have read all assigned readings and completed any assignments before class, to be able to successfully participate in class discussions. Come to class ready to engage, debate, and discuss! Your participation grade will not be based on simply being present in the classroom but on meaningful participation.

Reading Responses

Students will write weekly reading responses to the required readings due on Tuesdays. You will choose one of the discussion questions listed at the end of one of the chapters assigned for that week to reflect on the reading. Reading responses are due on Tuesdays as listed on the Course Schedule (below) at 10:45AM on Canvas. Late work will not be accepted. Reading responses should be no less than one (1) page and no more than two (2) pages long, and must be written in formal English, in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, and double-spaced. If in-text citations and references are used, they must be in APA-style formatting.

Please make sure to write the question you chose at the top of the page (this reciting of the question does not count as part of your page requirement) and do not put your name or the class information on the paper.

Midterm

The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover all materials assigned from week 1 to week 8. The midterm will take place on 10/18/2018.

Presentation

In randomly assigned groups of 3 you will be assigned do an in-class presentation by completing a series of tasks, including: (1) summarizing the theories discussed in that week's readings (2) connecting the theories to the journal article assigned that week (3) providing real-world examples applying the theories, and

(4) generating discussion questions. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful, engaging, and analytical and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades.

Each member of the group will present one task, but your presentation must be cohesive. As a group, you will create a power point to guide your presentation. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Each student will write a research paper on a topic of their choice pertaining to a criminological theory, using at least six (6) peer-reviewed journal articles that were not used in class. To find peer-reviewed journal articles, visit the King Library's journal database at <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php>. The best source for full-length, peer-reviewed articles is Academic Search Complete. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines.

Students must choose their topics by the end of week 9 and clear them with me. A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided on Canvas.

The research paper is due on Canvas through turnitin at the scheduled time for the final exam.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A+	84.0 to 87.99	B	71.0 to 72.99	C-
94.0 to 97.99	A	81.0 to 83.99	B-	68.0 to 70.99	D+
91.0 to 93.99	A-	78.0 to 80.99	C+	64.0 to 67.99	D
88.0 to 90.99	B+	74.0 to 77.99	C	61.0 to 63.99	D-

Determination of Grades

In-class assignments	10%
Midterm	20%
Participation	10%
Presentation	15%
Reading Responses	20%
Research Paper	25%

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus

3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
5. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) can be posted use the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

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/>.

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 inform me immediately by emailing me or by making an appointment with me as soon as possible. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

Department of 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 (i.e., reading and writing) 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.

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The following schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be posted as early as possible on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	T – 8/21	Introduction and review of Syllabus
	R – 8/ 23	Textbook Chapter 1
	T – 8/28	Reading Response 1 due Textbook Chapter 2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	R – 8/30	Textbook: Britto, S. & Noga-Styron, K.E. (2014). Media consumption and support for capital punishment.
3	T – 9/4	Reading Response 2 due Textbook Chapter 3
	R – 9/6	Canvas: Rape and Routine Activities Theory
4	T – 9/11	Reading Response 3 due Textbook Chapter 4
	R – 9/13	Textbook: Yun, I. & Lee, J. (2013). IQ and delinquency: The differential detection hypothesis revisited. <i>Thirteenth</i>
5	T – 9/18	Reading Response 4 due Textbook Chapter 5
	R – 9/20	Textbook: Wilson, L.C. & Scarpa, A. (2012). Criminal behavior: The need for an integrative approach that incorporates biological influences.
6	T – 9/25	Reading Response 5 due Textbook Chapter 6
	R – 9/27	Canvas: Strain Theory and homicide rates
7	T – 10/2	Reading Response 6 due Textbook Chapter 7
	R – 10/4	Canvas: Social disorganization, drug market activity and neighborhood violent crime
8	T – 10/9	Reading Response 7 due Textbook Chapter 8
	R – 10/11	Canvas: Differential association and Cholas
9	T – 10/16	Midterm Review
	R – 10/18	Midterm
10	T – 10/23	Reading Response 8 due (Chapter 9) Textbook Chapter 9
	R – 10/25	Canvas: How can you live without your kids? Distancing from and embracing the stigma of incarcerated mother
11	T – 10/30	<i>Me Facing Life: The Cintoya Brown Story</i>
	R – 11/1	<i>Me Facing Life: The Cintoya Brown Story</i>
12	T – 11/6	Reading Response 9 due Textbook Chapter 10
	R – 11/8	Canvas: Violence against girls provokes girls' violence
13	T – 11/13	Reading Response 10 due Textbook: Chapter 11
	R – 11/15	Canvas: Little Criminals
14	T – 11/20	<i>Frontline: Prison State</i>
	R – 11/22	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	T – 11/27	Textbook Chapter 12
	R – 11/29	Canvas: Garbage in, garbage out? Convict Criminology
16	T – 12/4	Application of theory: In-class exercise
	R – 12/6	Work on your papers today! I will be in class to help you if you have questions
17	T – 12/11	Dead Day
Final Exam	W—12/12 @ 9:45	Research Paper due on Canvas/turnitin