

San José State University
College of Applied Sciences and Arts
Department of Justice Studies
JS 151, Criminological Theory, Section 80, Summer, 2018
June 4 to July 6

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Adams
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Office Hours:	Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday 9:00 am to 10:00 am via email Please email me at ericka.adams@sjsu.edu to schedule phone meetings.
Class Days/Time:	Online
Prerequisite:	JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11
Co-requisite:	JS 100W

Course Format

Online instruction is utilized for this class; all instruction takes place online, with no physical in-person or campus meetings or activities required. Internet connectivity, a computer, and access to software apps (including Microsoft Office, Adobe Player, Canvas, etc.) are required for this class.

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, instructions for assignments, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Canvas will be used to facilitate this class including discussion boards and submitting assignments. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> and Canvas 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

Course Goals

1. Examine the historical evolution of criminological theory
2. Recognize the basic concepts associated with criminological theory
3. Recognize and examine the advantages and disadvantages of the major sources of data on crime trends and patterns

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- CLO 1. Evaluate the applicability of major criminological theories to explaining the occurrence of crime and deviance
- CLO 2. Compile research to support or refute the applicability of one or more criminological theories..

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Schram, P., and Tibbetts, S. G. (2017). *Introduction to Criminology: Why do They do it*, (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Other Readings

Articles required for this class are listed in the course schedule and can be obtained through Canvas.

Videos

Links to videos required for this class are listed in the course schedule and can be obtained through Canvas.

Resources

Please access additional resources for this class on the “home” page of Canvas.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Note: Please note that a core competency of this course is **critical thinking**. Critical thinking requires students to think through situations, facts, and issues in an open-minded and objective way in an effort to analyze and evaluate information in an informed manner. Qualities of a critical thinker (and of arguments that embody critical thinking) include:

- Certainty is not always necessary for a critical thinker; possibility and probability should always be a consideration—in other words, just because the book tells you it is true, doesn't mean that there may not be another solution or possibility to consider. The way that facts relate to one another—and not just fact alone—should be used to determine truth.
- Critical thinkers are fair-minded in that they are willing to consider all points of view, and they are careful to take every aspect of an argument into consideration—your way of thinking may not necessarily be the only way or the right way of thinking. Consider other perspectives.
- Consider evidence (facts), source (from what source did your evidence come from), and motivations (what might be the underlying motivation behind these facts)—in other words, gather information from credible sources and evaluate these sources in the context of what you have been asked to discuss/evaluate.

When preparing discussions/comments/assignments/papers/presentations, use the following to help you

critically think through the task.

- Determine the problem/issue you are trying to address or solve. Make sure you remain open-minded and objective and be aware of your own biases on the subject and put them aside;
- Develop a hypothesis and/or possible solution to the problem/issue. Brainstorm other possible solutions. Think about the pros and cons of the problem/issue. Gather information on the problem/issue that may support or contradict your position;
- Analyze your facts. Don't assume anything. Evaluate the facts objectively;
- Determine a reasonable conclusion based on all of the facts; and
- Make sure your facts (and the reporting of the facts) are accurate. You may assume a causal relationship but there might be other possible conclusions to be drawn based on other factors. Be sure to evaluate what those might be.

Introductory Post

In order to better create/build an online community, the introductory post requires each student to introduce themselves and provide the following information: (1) your name, (2) future career aspirations, (3) something enjoyable you did within the last month, and (4) something you would like to accomplish in 2018.

Theory Application Discussion Board Posts and Responses (discussion board)

Four theory application discussion board posts and responses will be completed during the session (6.25 points each). Each theory application discussion board post is connected to specific chapters from the assigned text. **You must demonstrate a thorough understanding of the material in the text.** It is abundantly clear when a student has not adequately read and studied the material. Each theory application discussion board post has an individual prompt. In addition to addressing all aspects of the individual prompts, please ensure that your initial post be at least one page in length, single-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with one inch margins.

Each student must respond to at least two of their classmates' posts in order to receive full credit for theory application discussion board posts and responses/discussion board. Responses to classmates' theory application discussion board posts should be discussion based. Students may respond to aspects of the post that intrigued them, highlight aspects they would like more clarification on, continue the development of a thought/argument, etc. Comments may be based on opinion and do not need to, but may contain, empirical support.

Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 1

(1) Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH-4f_eYsd4 (2) Do a basic internet search for information about the murder of Zainab Ansari. (3) Review the material presented in chapters 3 and 4. (4) Select a theory that best explains the occurrence of Zainab's (and the other little girls') murder. **OR** Select a theory on punishment that you think would be best suited to preventing similar crimes. (5) Detail the components of the theory selected. That is, describe this theory's rationale for criminal behavior **or** punishment. (6) Clearly explain what specific aspects of the case are explained by specific components of the selected theory. (7) Describe what aspects of the case are not explained by the theory. (8) Respond to at least **two** of your classmates posts.

Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 2

(1) Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-gQ3aAdhIo> (2) Do a basic internet search for information about Elliot Rodger and his family. (3) Review the theories presented in chapters 6 and 7. (4) Choose one theory from chapter 6 or 7 that best explains Elliot Rodger's behavior. (5) Detail the components of the theory

selected. That is, describe how this theory explains criminal behavior. (6) Clearly explain what specific aspects of the character's behavior are explained by specific components of the selected theory. (7) Describe what aspects of the character's behaviors are not explained by the theory. (8) Respond to at least **two** of your classmates posts.

Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 3

(1) Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0M62mHQ1EA> (9:25 to 14:03 minutes) **and** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utkk7dyFIRI> (0:00 to 10:59 minutes). (2) Review the theories presented in chapter 10. (3) Choose one theory from chapter 10 that best explains the behavior of the character(s) from the video clip. (4) Detail the components of the theory selected. That is, describe how this theory explains criminal behavior. (5) Clearly explain what specific aspects of the character's behavior are explained by specific components of the selected theory. (6) Describe what aspects of the character's behaviors are not explained by the theory. (7) Respond to at least **two** of your classmates posts.

Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 4

This theory application discussion board post and response focuses on addressing juvenile delinquency. Considering the experiences of the youth in the below video, come up with 1 detailed policy recommendation aimed at preventing young people in similar situations from engaging in crime/deviance **or** helping juveniles desist from crime/deviance. (1) Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NifPxtGi-Ns> (2) Target a specific problem for intervention. Discuss what the problem is and why is intervention needed. (3) Come up with a detailed recommendation that answers the following questions: a) What is your recommendation? b) Who is it targeting? c) How will it be implemented? d) How long will it last? e) Who will implement it? f) How will it be funded? g) How will you measure success? (4) Respond to at least **two** of your classmates posts.

Quizzes

Five quizzes, based on readings from the text, are required for this course. Quizzes will be available on Canvas, timed, and due by the date listed on the course schedule. Each quiz will be worth 9 points.

Theory Paper Requirements

Assignment: Students will be required to write a paper on one of the criminological theories we covered during the course. Students should select the theory they believe is the most valid explanation of criminal behavior. Students may select more than one theory if they believe a combination of theories best explains the criminal behavior. Each student must incorporate **at least 10** peer-reviewed journal articles into his or her paper. Papers should be at least 8 pages in length, double-spaced, paginated, and in Times New Roman font. Cover pages and references do not contribute to the required pages. **Quotations are not allowed.** Students may paraphrase authors' words; when this is done, remember to cite your sources in text. All references must be cited in a bibliography using APA format.

Please address the following prompts in your paper. You should use the bold faced items below as subheadings in your paper.

Introduction

In this section students should name the theory they selected and briefly state the crime or criminal incident to which they will apply the selected theory. A clear objective or thesis should be incorporated into this section. For instance, at the end of the introduction you might state, "The objective of this paper is to explain

and provide support for Merton's strain theory. More specifically, this paper will explain the utility of strain theory, provide empirical support for the theory, and discuss policy implications for the theory."

Body

Description of Incident

Detail a criminal incident that occurred in the United States (e.g. the DC Sniper; Boston marathon bombing, etc.). Students are not allowed to use criminal incidents incorporated into the theory application discussion board posts. Be sure to provide background on the criminal incident including but not limited to: 1) details about the offender (e.g., age, sex, race/ethnicity, family history, previous crimes), 2) details about the victim(s) (e.g., age, sex, race/ethnicity, number of victims, etc.), 3) other pertinent information about the criminal incident (e.g., location, how the offender was caught, collateral consequences of the crime, etc.).

Justification

Detail the selected theory. Explain why this theory does the best job of explaining the occurrence of the selected criminal incident. For instance, what does this theory take into consideration that other theories do not. Be sure to discuss the various components of the selected theory. For example, if Merton's strain theory was selected, the student should speak about people's goals in society, legitimate means for achieving the goals, and the 5 adaptations that people implement in relation to these goals and means. Students may incorporate a combination of theories in the justification section. When this is done, be sure to discuss the components of each selected theory.

Empirical Support

Has the theory been empirically supported? In other words, cite 3 studies that have tested the theory and be sure to report the findings of these studies. Students should incorporate three peer reviewed journal articles that tested the selected theory?

Theory Application

In this section students should detail how the selected theory best explains its occurrence of the criminal incident presented in the "description of incident." Be sure to make direct connections between components of the theory and the criminal incident. Deep analysis is more important than loosely connecting the criminal incident to all components of the theory. That is, discussing how specific components of the theory explain the criminal incident, and where the theory fails to explain the criminal incident is ideal.

Policy Implications/Conclusion

What policies could be implemented to reduce the occurrence of similar criminal incidents if the selected theory were adopted by the criminal justice system?

Grading: Grading will be based on the following criteria:

1. Completing ALL areas of the assignment.
2. Mechanics. Please PROOFREAD your work. Incorrect sentence structure, misspellings, grammatical errors, incorrect citation style, and other writing mistakes will adversely affect your grade.
3. Critical thinking. Concluding/summary paragraphs must show evidence of sophisticated, novel, and insightful interpretations of past research.
4. Incorporate at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. You may use books, music, poems, or any other information to supplement your thesis—these resources, however, DO NOT count as part of the 10 journal articles required.
5. Following the aforementioned structure and guidelines.
6. APA format is required throughout the paper and bibliography.

This assignment is due to the respective dropbox on Canvas by the date listed on the syllabus. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

Detailed Outline of Theory Paper

In this assignment students are expected to thoroughly detail the sections of their theory paper. This outline should provide the reader with a blueprint of your final theory paper; it should present the sections into which your paper will be divided and the content that will be included in each section. **Statements in this outline must be written in full sentences. One to two sentences are required for each prompt.** The outline should be structured, with headings and subheadings, as follows:

Introduction

- I. Name the theory selected
- II. Thesis statement

Body

Description of Incident

- I. Describe the incident

Justification

- II. Describe the theory

Empirical Support

- I. Provide one sentence to present the first study that tested the theory
- II. Provide one sentence to present the second study that tested the theory
- III. Provide one sentence to present the third study that tested the theory

Theory Application

- I. Describe the crime or criminal incident you will be presenting in this section
- II. Explain how the theory selected explains this crime/criminal incident

Policy Implications/Conclusion

- I. What policies could be implemented if the theory were to be adopted by the criminal justice system?

Outlines should be 1 to 2 pages in length, typed, single-spaced, paginated, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and have one-inch margins.

This assignment is due to the respective dropbox on Canvas by the date listed on the syllabus. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. **The grade for the detailed outline is incorporated into the grade for the theory paper.

Crime Prevention Presentation

Project description: This project provides the opportunity to be creative and to develop an alternative for crime prevention. You are required to present this concept/program/proposal/policy to the class, in a PowerPoint presentation. PowerPoint presentations should be recorded, last between 8 to 10 minutes, and be posted on

Canvas. The alternative you choose to develop to prevent crime could involve the arts (e.g., music, dance, theatre), educational programs, cooking, mentoring, farming, etc. The goal of the alternative you select is to prevent people from engaging in crime. Presentations could be focused on a specific group (e.g., females, youth, etc.) or a specific offense (e.g., burglary, assault, drug sales/distribution). Students should present a detailed rationale for the alternative developed.

Your alternative, while creative, should abide by the following criteria:

1. Attention getting device. Any successful public speaker must demonstrate the ability to capture the attention of the audience. A quotation, statement of the problem (e.g., a statistic), photograph, question, story, etc., should accomplish this goal.
2. Identify the specific problem your alternative will address. That is, what will your alternative attempt to prevent. Will you focus on a specific offense (e.g. gang activity, theft, bullying, running away); a specific population (e.g., girls, boys, a racial/ethnic group, persons from a disadvantaged community, etc.); a combination of both.
3. Identify what you believe is the cause of delinquency. Your alternative must be grounded on one or several theories covered in class. Introduce one or two theories you believe can help us understand crime among the population selected. For example, do not suggest after school programs that provide all students laptops and more qualified teachers without first addressing the underlying mechanisms that structure those conditions in the first place. In order to give all student laptops and more qualified teachers, you would at least need to consider how to change zoning laws (and nationwide segregation) and how to provide these materials without raising taxes (in an era of neoliberalism). Your task is to provide strategies that address the underlying roots of the problem, instead of those that focus on the symptoms, simultaneously using theoretical frameworks as a guide.
4. Detail your alternative. Students must primarily focus on developing a creative alternative for crime prevention. Your approach must be convincing. Pretend that you are attempting to persuade Congress, a group of liberal or conservative politicians, to adopt your idea. Your strategy must be well developed, carefully considering groups that may have an economic stake in the current correctional system. For example, how would you convince a prison official that we should employ your strategy instead of incarcerating persons convicted of crime commission? **Be sure to address:** Specifics about what your alternative entails? How it would be implemented? Why would people be attracted to this alternative or how will they be recruited? How long would it last? How will you measure success?

Students are required to comment on at least 3 presentations. In responding to the presentations, students should comment on (1) practicality, (2) economic feasibility, (3) innovativeness and creativity of the idea.

Grading: Your grade will be based on three criteria:

- (1) Time: Not going under 8 minutes or exceeding 12 minutes
- (2) Structure/format: Following the aforementioned structure/format
- (3) Alternative Development: Ensuring the rationale for your alternative is clear and that your alternative is thoroughly detailed.

PowerPoint slides are due on Canvas by the date listed on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted.

“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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

The “crime prevention presentation” shall serve as the final evaluation in this course.

Grading Information

The grading scale implemented for this class is as follows:

98.0 – 100% = A+	78.0 – 79.9% = C+
93.0 – 97.9.9% = A	73.0 – 77.9% = C
90.0 – 92.9% = A-	70.0 – 72.9% = C-
88.0 – 89.9% = B+	68.0 – 69.9% = D+
83.0 – 87.9% = B	63.0 – 67.9% = D
80.0 – 82.9% = B-	00.0 – 62.9% = F

Determination of Grades

Your grade is composed of:

4 Discussion Board Posts and Responses	25 points
5 Quizzes	45 points
Theory Paper	20 points
Crime Prevention Presentation	10 points

Total	100 points
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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, Summer 2018, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	6/04	Introductions, Syllabus and Assignments Distributed
1	6/05	<p>Assignment Due: Introductory Post Due by 11:59 pm on Canvas</p> <p>In order to better create/build an online community, the introductory post requires each student to introduce themselves and provide the following information: (1) your name, (2) future career aspirations, (3) something enjoyable you did within the last month, and (4) something you would like to accomplish in 2018.</p>
1	6/06	Reading Due: Chapter 1
1	6/07	Reading Due: Chapter 2
1	6/08	Reading Due: Chapter 3
1	6/09	Reading Due: Chapter 4
2	6/10	<p>Assignment Due: Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 1 due on Campus by 11:59 pm</p> <p>(1) Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH-4f_eYsd4 (2) Do a basic internet search for information about the murder of Zainab Ansari. (3) Review the material presented in chapters 3 and 4. (4) Select a theory that best explains the occurrence of Zainab's (and the other little girls') murder. OR Select a theory on punishment that you think would be best suited to preventing similar crimes. (5) Detail the components of the theory selected. That is, describe this theory's rationale for criminal behavior or punishment. (6) Clearly explain what <u>specific aspects</u> of the case are explained by <u>specific components</u> of the selected theory. (7) Describe what aspects of the case are <u>not explained</u> by the theory. (8) Respond to at least two of your classmates posts.</p>
2	6/11	Assignment Due: Quiz 1 due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
2	6/12	Reading Due: Chapter 5
2	6/13	Reading Due: Chapter 6
2	6/14	Reading Due: Chapter 7
2	6/15	<p>Assignment Due: Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 2 due on Campus by 11:59 pm</p> <p>(1) Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-gQ3aAdhIo (2) Do a basic internet search for information about Elliot Rodger and his family. (3) Review the theories presented in chapters 6 and 7. (4) Choose one theory from chapter 6 or 7 that best explains Elliot Rodger's behavior. (5) Detail the components of the theory selected. That is, describe how this theory explains criminal behavior. (6) Clearly explain what <u>specific aspects</u> of the character's behavior are explained by <u>specific components</u> of the selected theory. (7) Describe what aspects of the</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		character's behaviors are <u>not explained</u> by the theory. (8) Respond to at least two of your classmates posts.
2	6/16	Assignment Due: Quiz 2 due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
3	6/17	Reading Due: Chapter 8
3	6/18	Reading Due: Chapter 9
3	6/19	Assignment Due: Detailed Outline of Theory Paper due on Canvas by 11:59 pm Reading Due: Chapter 10
3	6/20	Assignment Due: Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 3 due on Campus by 11:59 pm (1) Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0M62mHQ1EA (9:25 to 14:03 minutes) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utkk7dyFIRI (0:00 to 10:59 minutes). (2) Review the theories presented in chapter 10. (3) Choose one theory from chapter 10 that best explains the behavior of the character(s) from the video clip. (4) Detail the components of the theory selected. That is, describe how this theory explains criminal behavior. (5) Clearly explain what <u>specific aspects</u> of the character's behavior are explained by <u>specific components</u> of the selected theory. (6) Describe what aspects of the character's behaviors are <u>not explained</u> by the theory. (7) Respond to at least two of your classmates posts.
3	6/21	Assignment Due: Quiz 3 due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
3	6/22	Reading Due: Chapter 11
3	6/23	Reading Due: Chapter 12
4	6/24	Reading Due: Chapter 13
4	6/25	Assignment Due: Theory Application Discussion Board Post and Response 4 due on Campus by 11:59 pm This theory application discussion board post and response focuses on addressing juvenile delinquency. Considering the experiences of the youth in the below video, come up with 1 detailed policy recommendation aimed at preventing young people in similar situations from engaging in crime/deviance or helping juveniles desist from crime/deviance. (1) Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NifPxtGi-Ns (2) Target a specific problem for intervention. Discuss what the problem is and why is intervention needed. (3) Come up with a detailed recommendation that answers the following questions: a) What is your recommendation? b) Who is it targeting? c) How will it be implemented? d) How long will it last? e) Who will implement it? f) How will it be funded? g) How will you measure success? (4) Respond to at least two of your classmates posts.
4	6/26	Assignment Due: Quiz 4 due on Canvas by 11:59 pm

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	6/27	Reading Due: Chapter 14
4	6/28	Reading Due: Chapter 15
4	6/29	Assignment Due: Theory Paper due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
4	6/30	Reading Due: Chapter 16
5	7/01	Assignment Due: Quiz # 5 due on Canvas at 11:59 pm
5	7/03	Assignment Due: Crime Prevention Presentation due on Canvas at 11:59 pm
5	7/06	Assignment Due: 3 Responses to your classmates Crime Prevention Presentations due on Canvas by 11:59 pm