

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS 151-01, Criminology Theory, Fall 2020

Contact Information

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Office Hours:	By Zoom Appointment
Classroom:	SJSU Canvas

Course Format

This course adopts an online classroom delivery format. You will need the access to the internet, computer, and video/word processing software, in order for students to participate in the classroom activities. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

MYSJSU Messaging

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. Course materials including syllabus, notes, assignment, and journal articles can be found on the Canvas website. I will respond to your email within 48 hours from Monday to Friday. ***All email correspondence should contain your name, class title, and section.*** If you are having difficulty with the material or an assignment, please email me your questions before the Friday when it is due.

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 goals of the course are: (1) to be familiar with various perspectives of criminal behavior, underlying assumptions of these perspectives and key terms; (2) to assess and analyze research concerning current issues in crime and the criminal justice system critically; and (3) to see linkage between theories, research and practical social control policies.

Student Learning Objectives are as follows:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

SLO #1 Demonstrate an ability to integrate and apply different theoretical perspectives to explain a range of specific criminal offenses, and be able to compare and construct the strengths and weaknesses of those theories.

SLO #2 Demonstrate substantive knowledge about the measurement of crime and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of major sources of crime data.

SLO #3 Show substantive knowledge about the extent and severity of formal and informal responses to various types of crime and offenders.

SLO#4 Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the characteristics of likely offenders and victims

Required Texts:

TJ Bernard, JB Snipes & AL Gerould & GB Vold (2015) Vold's Theoretical Criminology. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199964154

Frank Schmalleger (2018) Criminology, 4th Edition. ISBN: 9780134548647

Other Readings

- Articles on Canvas

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of *forty-five hours for each unit of credit*, including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. *Late homework, discussion post, quizzes and exams will not be accepted.*

Requirements: You are required to read all books, book chapters, and articles in advance. Your grade is based on online discussion in Canvas, quizzes, a midterm essay, and a final exam. Success in this class is predicated on regular online discussion. If you do not discuss regularly, your grade will certainly suffer. You are expected to post original contributions based on each discussion question.

Online Discussion: Your participation grade is graded upon your discussion on the discussion board. You must post original contributions based on each discussion question, and reply to at least one of your classmates with meaningful comments. To be more specific, after you posted your original responses to these discussion questions, you need to reply to at least one of your classmates' discussion post with feedback to receive full credit. Please try to choose someone who has not yet received feedback so that all participants receive feedback from at least one other person. Your discussion postings should actively stimulate and sustain further discussion by building on peers' response.

Quizzes: All quizzes will be posted in Canvas Modules. Quizzes may include multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

Midterm essay: The midterm essay question will ask you to apply two criminological theories to a crime related movie. You are expected to elaborate on how the chosen criminological theories can explain the movie characters’ behaviors. Your essay should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins using a 12-point font Times New Roman. The essay should be three pages at a minimum without counting the reference page. You should put your word count at the bottom of your answer (do not count the words in the question itself). Please incorporate information from the Textbook Readings, discussion questions, and other Resources or Content covered in your discussion. More details will be provided in Canvas.

Final Examination: Final exam is scheduled on Monday, December 14, 7:15-9:30 AM. The final exam will be comprehensive, and it will be “closed book” tests that will require you to incorporate materials discussed and presented in class with the assigned readings. The format of the Final Exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and essay.

Grading Information

You will not be able to drop the class after the official DROP Day except when you have medical emergency with your doctor’s note. There will be no make-ups for your missed exams. There will be only one exception to this policy. Those students who provide written notice in advance who must miss class for university business will have special tests arranged usually before the scheduled test. A final grade of incomplete (I) will be reserved for emergency situation only with your doctor’s note. Late submission will not be graded. After you submit each task (i.e., weekly quizzes, discussion posts and exams), you should expect to receive feedback for within 48 hours.

Final Grade (total points possible: 300 points)

The point totals break down as follows:

Weekly Quizzes	150 points
On-line discussion	50 points
Midterm Essay	50 points
Final exam	50 points
Total	300 points

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-86%	B = 85-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-76%	C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-66%	D = 65-63%	D minus = 62-60%
F = 59-0% 0-179		

Justice Studies Department 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.

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/>

Tentative Class Schedule

Topic	Readings / Resources
Introduction Overview of syllabus and course material Respondus Monitor Test	Class Orientation
Theory and empiricism	Bernard et al. Chapter 1
What Is Criminology? Understanding Crime	Schmallegger Chapter 1 Bernard et al. Chapter 2
Classical and Neoclassical Criminology	Schmallegger Chapter 2 Bernard et al. Chapter 3
Biological Roots of Criminal Behavior	Schmallegger Chapter 3 Bernard et al. Chapter 4
Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior	Schmallegger Chapter 5 Bernard et al. Chapter 5
Social Structure	Schmallegger Chapter 6 Bernard et al. Chapter 6,7,&8
Social Process and Social Development	Schmallegger Chapter 7 Bernard et al. Chapter 9,10,&11
Social Conflict	Schmallegger Chapter 8 Bernard et al. Chapter 12&13
Crimes against Persons and Property	Schmallegger Chapter 9&10&11
White-Collar and Organized Crime	Schmallegger Chapter 12