Class Days/Time: Thursday from 4:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Classroom: MQH 520

**Prerequisites:** 

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# **Catalog 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 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.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO):**

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

CLO #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.

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

C

### **Requirements:**

- (1) You are required to read all chapters and articles in advance.
- (2) Please bring the textbook(s) and articles to class.
- (3) Your grade is based on:
  - 1) Response Paper
  - 2) Mid-term Exam
  - 3) Final Exam
  - 4) Small Group Discussions
  - 5) Group Presentation

## **Assignment:**

I will NOT accept your late assignment. Your assignment must be turned in on the assigned day in class.

If you are ill on the day when the assignment is due, you need to inform me of your illness and submit your doctor's note before or on (not after) the day of the examorder to get appropriate credits. Then you will turn in your paper on the next class period. I will NOT accept your email submission. Without the doctor's note, you will NOT receive any points.

Regardless of the reasons, you will not receive any credits for your assignment if you will not follow this instruction. The assignment is scheduled in the beginning of the semester, and there is no reason why you cannot complete these assignments prior to the due date. This is your responsibility.

# Response Paper (70 points)

The response paper is due on Thursday, April 25, 2019 in class.

**You need to read the following required textbook and write a response paper**. Fox, J.A., Levin, J., & Quinet, K. 2011. *The Will to Kill: Making Sense of Senseless Murder* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Los Angeles, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781506365961

- (1) You need to choose three chapters out of the following 6 chapters:
  - Ch. 4 Intimate and Family Murder
  - Ch. 5 The Young and the Ruthless
  - Ch. 6 Well-Schooled in Murder
  - Ch. 7 Serial Killers
  - Ch. 9 Rampage
  - Ch. 10 Hate Homicides
- (2) The following points must be incorporated in your written paper.

# You will write each chapter separately based on the following points.

- z What is the purpose of the book chapter? Examine.
- Z Identify the major themes and key points of the chapter. In 3 or 4 sentences, what is the author basically trying to get across? Make special note of those, which are relevant to the concerns of the course.

- Z Choose theory (<u>You need only one theory for each chapter</u>. But <u>use three different theories for three different chapters</u>) and apply the theory to <u>each chapter</u>. In order to apply the theory, briefly explain the <u>assumptions</u> of each theory, and then using the theory, explain the most important theme in the chapter that you chose.
- z Evaluate the author's point. How does the author support his or her position? Is it convincing? Why, or why not?
- z Write your critical analysis of each chapter.
- z Write a short summary of each chapter.
- (3) Your written comments should be typed and double-

- Hirschi's Control Theory or
- Sykes and Matza's Techniques of Neutralization
- (4) Labeling Theory
  - Edwin Lemert's Theory or
  - Howard Becker's Theory
- (5) Social Disorganization Theo
  - Shaw and McKay's Theory
- (6) Anomie and Strain Theories
  - Durkheim's Anomie Theory or
  - Merton's Anomie/Strain Theory or
  - Albert Cohen's Theory or
  - Agnew's General Strain Theory
- (7) Marxist Theories
  - Karl Marx or
  - Richard Quinney
- (8) Feminist Theories
  - Adler or
  - Rita Simon or
  - Messerschmidt

# **Final Grade (400 points):**

(1) 1 Response Paper (CLO #1 and #4)	70 points
(2) Mid-term Exam (CLO #1, #2, #3 and #4)	100 points
(3) Final Exam (CLO #1, #2, #3 and #4)	100 points
(4) 12 Small Group Discussions (CLO #1)	60 points
(5) 1 Group Presentation (CLO#1 and #2)	70 points

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.

# A final grade of incomplete (I):

http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/students/gradesgrades\_changes/grade\_symbols\_and\_values/

# **Grading Policy**

**Total Points Possible: 400 points (There is no possibility of extra credit)** 

A+ = 100-96% (384-400)	A = 95-93% (372-383)	A minus = 92-90% (360-
		371)
B+ = 89-86% (344-359)	B = 85-83% (332-343)	B minus = 82-80% (320-
		331)

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is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without

# JS 151 Criminological Theory, Spring 2019, Course Schedule The

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	February 21	Criminological Theory (Social Learning Theory) Ch. 5, Akers, Sellers, & Jennings
		<ul> <li>Additional Reading</li> <li>Miller, H.V., Jennings, W.S., Alvarez-Rivera, L.L. &amp; Miller, J.M. (2008). Explaining Substance Use Among Puerto Rican Adolescents: A Partial Test of Social Learning Theory. <i>Journal of Drug Issues</i>, 38, 1, 261-283.</li> </ul>
		(Group Exercise #4)

6 February 28 <u>Criminological Theory</u> (Social Bonding and Control Theories) Ch. 6, Akers, Sellers, & Jennings

# **Additional Reading**

Morris, R.G. & Higgins, G. E. (2009). Neutralizing Potential and Self-Rep0 Td (-d7i)-2 (ng)10 (P)-4 (ot)8(i)2 (o)4 (na)4otdolctfvaG. E2 (44(dd 74.047))

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Ch. 9, Akers, Sellers, & Jennings
		(Group Exercise #8)
11	April 4	Spring Recess
12	April 11	Criminological Theory (Marxist Theories) Ch. 11, Akers, Sellers, & Jennings
		• (Herbert, Bob (1995). "Central American Free Trade Zones Exploit Girls" (excerpted) shown in <i>The New York Times</i> , July 26. Retrieved from <a href="http://pangaea.org/street_children/latin/maquil.htm">http://pangaea.org/street_children/latin/maquil.htm</a>
		(Group Exercise #9)

13 April 18 <u>Criminological Theory</u> (Feminist Theories) Ch. 13, Akers, Sellers, & Jennings

# **Additional Readings**

- Scelfo, Julie (2005). "Bad Girls Go Wild: A rise in girl-on-girl violence is making headlines nationwide and prompting scientists to ask why." *Newsweek*, June 13.
   Retrieved from <a href="http://www.fisheaters.com/forums/index.php?topic=482521.0">http://www.fisheaters.com/forums/index.php?topic=482521.0</a>
- Britt, Robert Roy (2006). "Girls Gone Bad: Statistics Distort the Truth." April 10.
   Retrieved from <a href="http://www.livescience.com/4048-girls-bad-statistics-distort-truth.html">http://www.livescience.com/4048-girls-bad-statistics-distort-truth.html</a>
- Reckdenwald, Amy & Parker, K.F. (20082 (t)7 (p.004 Tc 0.004 )3 (24892s)-1 (m)-2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Shootings in Rural Communities. <i>Journal of Rural Community Psychology</i> , 5, 1.
		(Group Exercises #11)
		The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison
		Reiman & Leighton, Ch. 1, Ch. 2 Ch. 3, and Ch. 4
15	May 2	The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison
		Reiman & Leighton, Ch. 1, Ch. 2 Ch. 3, and Ch. 4
		(Group Exercises #12)
16	May 9	<b>Group Presentation</b>
17	May 16	Final Exam from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.