

San José State University

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Allison Martin, Ph.D.
Office Location: Washington, D.C.
Email: allison.martin@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: All emails will be answered within 24 hours
Class Days/Time: online
Prerequisites: JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11 Pre/Co-requisite: JS 100W; Justice Studies
Minors: Any 100W

Course Description

Analysis of the nature and extent of crime, in the U.S. and worldwide. Topics include: crime rates, crime patterns, crime victims, crime prevention, crime control, and the criminal justice system.

graduates work in a multitude of settings including probation, parole, corrections, law enforcement, crime labs, and nonprofit agencies, or they continue their education in law school or other graduate programs.

This degree program is housed in the Department of Justice Studies. More information is available at [www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/](http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/)



anticipate missing the cut-off times are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor prior to the cut-off times.

You are required to be an active participant in the class, which means that you are to prepare your own threads, read other students' discussion threads, and respond to other students' threads with substantive observations. This course will ask students to make a claim regarding the weekly discussion board posts, and support that claim with reason and evidence. The written work you submit will reflect your own thinking about information you obtain from the required readings, PowerPoints, and other course-related experiences.

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Detailed Introduction Post**

This assignment is meant for the class and the instructor, to get acquainted with you. In approximately one page, please tell us (1) your name and where you are from, (2) your major and why you chose to take this class, (3) how familiar you are with the topic of Criminological Theory (4) how important you think it is to understand the role of theory explaining criminal behavior, and (5) a fun fact about yourself! This assignment will be due before the end of the first week of class (see Course Schedule).

### **Discussion Boards**

You are to provide thoughtful and original discussions based on the weekly readings and course material in a manner that uses critical thinking skills and is respectful to other students. Discussion boards will be heavily graded on your use of reading material and the conversations you have with me and other students. Each week, you must incorporate the assigned material; in other words, make reference to the textbook where appropriate. When using evidence in your discussion posts, you must cite the source using APA format in-text, as well as cite at the end of your post. If you need assistance on APA format, visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Students are required to first read all assigned readings and then respond to the module discussion board topic **by Wednesday at 11:59pm**. Original posts (responses to the question posed) should be approximately 1 page in length, in a Word document equivalent. Students will then respond to *two* other student's original posts, as well as any questions I may ask regarding their post **by Sunday at 11:59pm**, when the weekly topic will close. These posts should be approximately ½ page. Be sure to use references to reading material in all the posts you can, especially when agreeing with or refuting points made by the author. Responses consisting of a lack of thought as in "I agree" or "great thought" will not count as a quality response.

If I pose a question to your post, it will be by Saturday, so be sure to check to see if I have posted on your discussion board anytime on Sunday; please keep in mind that if you do not see a post by me from that week, then I did not ask you a question and you are not required to respond. Please also regularly check your university email account, as follow-up questions will also be asked through email. Required responses to other students must be on their original post, not on the question they pose to you. This idea here is to keep the conversation going; you will discuss with other students, as well as with the instructor.

Posts that exceed expectations (grade of an "A+") will be reserved for those who have integrated material thoughtfully and have shown a true interest in the topic for the week (e.g., responds to other students who have commented on their original posts and checks other conversations in the discussion board thread). Please keep in mind that a grade of an "A+" is defined as "exceptional quality work." Logging into Canvas later in the day







was moderately thoughtful in completing it, but could have done higher quality work with more time and/or effort. Students generally used accurate and appropriate references to topics covered in the paper, but additional or more relevant citations should have been used, and/or the citations were not correctly formatted/referenced. The full range and scope of the topic are not addressed fully. The paper format (spacing, page limit, etc.) is mostly correct.

“C”:



by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

**Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Discussion Board #3</li> <li>&lt; <b>EXAM #1</b></li> </ul>
<p>Week 5: 2/17 – 2/23</p>	<p>Module 5: Early Positive School Perspectives of Criminality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Read Chapter 4</li> <li>&lt; Readings on Canvas: Rafter (2005)</li> <li>&lt; YouTube: What is That? – Phrenology</li> <li>&lt; Discussion Board #4</li> <li>&lt; <b>Midterms Theory Project Presenters: Submit Article for Approval</b></li> </ul>
<p>Week 6: 2/24 – 3/1</p>	<p>Module 6: Modern Biosocial Perspectives of Criminal Behavior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Read Chapter 5</li> <li>&lt; Readings on Canvas: Walby and Carrier (2010)</li> <li>&lt; TedTalk: Exploring the mind of a killer</li> <li>&lt; Discussion Board #5</li> </ul>

Week 7:

Week 10:                   Module 10:  
3/23 – 3/29      Social Process and Learning  
                                  Theories

- < Read Chapter 8
- < Readings on Canvas:

Week 16:

5/4 – 5/10

Module 15:

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Final Thoughts