

**San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS 151-80, Criminology Theory, Summer 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 _____, including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. _____

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.

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

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

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

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