

**San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS 151-01, Criminology Theory, Winter 2022**

Contact Information

Instructor: Wilson Yuan Ph.D.

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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 (2016) Vold's Theoretical Criminology. Oxford University Press. Seventh Edition. 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.

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 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

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 [Syllabus Information web page](#) at

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 |