

CRIJ 2362: CRIMINOLOGY
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Fall 2017; ONLINE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will familiarize students with the issues surrounding concepts of crime, criminals, crime typologies, and societal responses to crime. Students will examine the theoretical, methodological, and policy issues in criminology.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Required Text: Schram, P., and Tibbetts, S. G. (2014). *Introduction to Criminology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This semester we will focus on accomplishing a few particular goals:

1. You should walk away from this course with a good understanding of the **factual knowledge** of criminology
2. You should walk away from this course having learned about the **basic fundamental principles and theories** in the study of criminology
3. You should also have learned how to **use and apply course material** as you think about crime, criminals, and criminality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to read the required reading, complete assignments, and participate in online discussions. Your grade will be based on one discussion, six writing assignments and 15 chapter quizzes. Each quiz will cover material assigned in course readings, online videos, and information discussed in the PowerPoint lectures.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This course requires regular, dependable access to the Internet as well as Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use Blackboard or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the SHSU technical team ASAP. They are staffed Monday through Saturday (except for Holidays) from 7am to Midnight. They can be reached by email (delta@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-2780). Updated information can be found in the "Need Help" link on the left navigation bar on Blackboard.

GRADING SCALE

Discussion: 10 points (Initial post, two response posts)

Quizzes: 300 points (15 exams worth 20 points each)

Writing Assignments: 120 points (Six assignments worth 20 points each) **Total**

Possible: 430 points

A = 89.5 – 100%

B = 79.5 – 89.4 %

C = 69.5 – 79.4%

D = 59.5 – 69.4%

F = 59.4 % or less

MANDATORY REPORTING FOR TITLE IX

As a professor at SHSU, I am under federal obligation to relay information regarding victimization disclosure to our University's Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring appropriate services and accommodations are provided to anyone who has disclosed victimization. It is important that you know, should you disclose ongoing or past victimization in writing assignments, during class, or to me personally, I am legally obliged to relay this information to the Dean of Students' Office.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OF OTHERS

Texas law* says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help. Here is a link to allow for such reporting and for further information:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced class. There are important deadlines and students are expected to make routine progress. It will be very likely MORE difficult to learn the material in this class if you have only devoted a short time to the class and try to cram a week's worth of material into a single day. Please make a strong attempt to work on the class material and log into the class throughout the semester. You will probably learn the material more effectively and you may have a more enjoyable experience with the class.

Regular and ongoing participation is *required* in this course. You are expected to check the course throughout each week. Among other things, this means that exams **MUST** be completed during the scheduled time and that assignments/discussion board posts must be completed within the specified time. Make up exams and assignments will **NOT** be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior to* the absence. Rare situations arise when it is impossible to notify the professor in advance. If this occurs, the student must provide the professor with a typed description of the reason for the absence. This must be provided to the professor within five school days of the absence. The professor may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note,

police report, etc.) to excuse an absence that has conflicted with a scheduled test or assignment/discussion post. Attendance is required and critical to your performance in this class. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 8004001 http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf

QUIZ POLICY

There are 15 quizzes in this course. Each quiz is worth 20 points and will include multiple choice and true/false questions. There are a total of 300 available points for these 15 quizzes. The quizzes will close at 11:59pm on the day that it is due (see schedule below).

- There is a 10 minute time limit for each exam.
- The clock starts once you begin the test.
- The exams are set to force completion so if you log out or lose your Internet connection, the clock keeps ticking and will submit your test when the time is up.
- Make sure to have a dependable, hardwired Internet connection when taking exams.
- If you use a wireless internet connection and you get kicked out of the exam, special considerations and make-up exams will not be granted. Therefore, it is important that you schedule time to take the tests in a location where your computer is connected to the internet through a hard wire.

There will be NO make-up quizzes unless there is an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, the professor must be notified *prior to* the absence. If early notification is not possible, students must make sure that they contact the professor as soon as they are safely able to do so. Early notification and/or proper documentation will not necessarily guarantee that a make-up quiz will be granted. *If the student misses the make-up quiz, they will receive a zero for that quiz without exception.*

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

In accordance with SHSU policy 861001, students who wish to be absent from class on a religious holy day may provide a written statement to the professor concerning their absence. For a complete list of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

ACADEMIC (ONLINE) ETIQUETTE

In this class, you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner. The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, *not* combative. Be sure to proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting. Do not use “text” shorthand or any other inappropriate abbreviations – as stated earlier, I expect properly composed, grammatically correct discussion posts. Discussion responses will be graded for content, but spelling/grammatical errors will result in point reductions.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For a complete listing of the University policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf
For information on services provided, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and abuse of academic materials will not be tolerated. Students caught exhibiting such behavior will receive a **failing grade in the course**. If you have any questions with regard to what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., what is plagiarism/cheating?), please see me.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

For each assignment, you will be provided with an article to read/review, followed by a description and a set of instructions. In order to get full credit, you must follow the assignment guidelines (these can be found on Blackboard where each assignment is explained). In preparing your assignment responses, make sure that you are writing in academic voice, are thorough in your points, and are making an intellectual contribution. Cite your work and do not make assertions that you cannot provide evidence for. **Your responses must address each question in order to get credit.** Assignments will be graded for content AND grammar/spelling errors. This means that you may be able to answer the questions entirely appropriately, but if you do not edit your response before your completed assignment has been submitted, points will be deducted for errors. **You must use APA citation in order to get full credit.** LATE ASSIGNMENTS will not be accepted.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

1. Class grades are **NOT** negotiable.
2. As this is an online class, if you need to get a hold of me, call me at 281-935-1303 or email me.
3. If an emergency occurs contact me by phone.

The course schedule may be modified at the discretion of the professor. Students will be notified electronically through blackboard if there are changes/modifications and are thus responsible for all schedule modifications.

COURSE SCHEDULE

COURSE

INTRODUCTIONS: **Course Overview, “Meet and Greet” Discussion 1**
8/25-8/27

Readings: Syllabus, Professor Information

Assignment: “Meet and Greet” - Discussion 1

Due Dates:

Self-introduction post for Discussion 1 due by Sunday 8/27 at 11:59p.

Two Response posts for Discussion 1 due by Sunday, 8/27 at 11:59p.

LECTURE 1

8/23-8/30

Introduction to Criminology

Readings: Schram & Tibbetts, 2014, Ch. 1

Quiz 1: Opens Wednesday, 8/23 and closes on Wednesday, 8/30 at 11:59p.

LECTURE 2

8/30-9/06

Classical School of Criminology

Readings: Schram & Tibbetts, 2014, Ch. 2

Assignment 1: “Crime in the News: Three-Strikes”
(Opens Wednesday, 8/30 and closes Wednesday, 9/06 at 11:59p.)

Quiz 2: Opens Wednesday, 8/30 and closes Wednesday, 9/06 by 11:59p

LECTURE 3

9/06-9/13

Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research

Readings: Schram & Tibbetts, 2014, Ch. 3

Quiz 3: Opens Wednesday, 9/06 and closes Wednesday, 9/13 by 11:59p

LECTURE 4

9/13-9/20

Early Positivism: Biological Theories of Crime

Readings: Schram & Tibbetts, 2014, Ch. 4

Assignment 2: “Crime in the News: Sterilization”
(Opens Monday, 9/13 and closes Friday, 9/17 at by 11:59p)

Quiz 4: Opens Wednesday, 9/13 and closes Wednesday, 9/20 by 11:59p

LECTURE 5

9/20-9/27

Modern Biological Perspectives of Criminal Behavior

Readings: Schram & Tibbetts, 2014, Ch. 5

Assignment 3: “Crime in the News: ADHD and Behavior”

(Opens Wednesday, 9/20 and closes Wednesday, 9/27 by 11:59p)

Quiz 5: Opens Wednesday, 9/20 and closes Wednesday, 9/27 by 11:59p

LECTURE 6

9/27-10/04

Psychological/Trait Theories of Crime

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 6

Quiz 6: Opens Wednesday, 9/27 and closes Wednesday, 10/05 by 11:59p.

LECTURE 7

10/04-10/11

Structural Theories of Crime I: Early Development/Strain Theory

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 7

Quiz 7: Opens Wednesday, 10/04 and closes Wednesday, 10/11 by 11:59p.

LECTURE 8

10/11-10/18

Structural Theories of Crime II: Social Disorganization and Subcultures

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 8

Assignment 4: “Crime in the News: Homicide Rates in New York and Chicago.” (Opens Wednesday, 10/11 and closes Wednesday, 10/18 by 11:59p)

Quiz 8: Opens Wednesday, 10/11 and closes Wednesday, 10/18 by 11:59p

LECTURE 9
10/18-10/25

Social Process and Control Theories

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 9

Quiz 9: Opens Wednesday, 10/18 and closes Wednesday, 10/25 by 11:59p.

LECTURE 10
10/25-11/01

Labeling Theory and Conflict Theories

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 10

Assignment 5: "Crime in the News: Manifestos"
(Opens Wednesday, 10/25 and closes Wednesday 11/01 by 11:59p.)

Quiz 10: Opens Wednesday, 10/25 and closes Wednesday, 11/01 by 11:59p.

LECTURE 11
11/01-11/08

Feminist Theories of Crime

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 11

Quiz 11: Opens Wednesday, 11/01 and closes Wednesday, 11/08 by 11:59p

LECTURE 12
11/08-11/15

Developmental/Life-Course Perspectives of Criminology

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 12

Quiz 12: Opens Wednesday, 11/08 and closes Wednesday, 11/15 by 11:59p.

LECTURE 13
11/15-11/22

White Collar Crime, Organized Crime and Cyber Crime

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 13

Quiz 13: Opens Wednesday, 11/15 and closes Wednesday, 11/22 at 11:59p.

LECTURE 14

11/22-11/29

Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 14

Assignment 6: “Crime in the News: National Counterterrorism Center”
(opens Wednesday, 11/22 and closes Wednesday, 11/29 at 11:59p)

Quiz 14: Opens Wednesday, 11/22 and closes Wednesday, 11/29 at 11:59p.

LECTURE 15

11/29-12/07

Drugs and Crime

Readings: Schram and Tibbetts, Ch. 15

Quiz 15: Opens Wednesday, 11/29 and closes Thursday, 12/07 by 11:59p.

