

# **SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

## **Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**

### **CRIJ 2362.11: Criminology I Course Syllabus FALL 2017 ONLINE**

**Instructor:** Andrea Sanchez, MSW, LCSW-S

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**Office:** Virtual Office

**ONLINE Office Hours:** 12:00-1:00PM Mondays + 5:30-6:30 Thursdays + By Appointment

#### **Required Readings:**

- Siegel, Larry J. (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Criminology: The Core. Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-285-06890-9; ISBN-10: 1-285-06890-4

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed during the course. Students are responsible for any changes and should check syllabus periodically for changes. The instructor will provide notice via email to all students if and when changes occur.

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the concepts of crime, law, and criminology, as well as to theories of crime causation. It reviews different types of crime and presents how criminological thought has influenced social policy.

**Course Objectives:** Rather than trying to accomplish everything in this course, we will focus on a reasonable set of learning objectives. The course attempts to provide students with at least an introductory level of knowledge on a broad array of topics in the general areas outlined below. Specific objectives are as follows:

1. Define terms related to the study of crime
2. Understand the component areas of criminology
3. Examine theories and principles of criminology
4. Describe the basic concepts of major criminological theories
5. Distinguish between various types of crimes
6. Think critically about crime, law and justice
7. Develop a critical perspective toward the social institutions and legal institutions entrusted with crime control

**Course Participation/Attendance Policy:** Unlike a traditional, instructor-led course, this course does not require you to show up to class at a specific time every day to earn your class-participation grade. Instead, you need to make a constant effort to read the online course lectures, complete assignments, and participate in the class discussion boards.

While attendance is not an official part of your grade, students are expected to attend/participate in all discussions as assigned. Participation and attendance is reported as part of the SHSU Attendance Initiative as requested by the university for university records. Given the nature of the course, those who do not participate in the discussion thread sessions and assignments regularly will likely receive a lower overall grade.

**Class Format:** Each week will run from **Sunday through Saturday** with most assignments due on Saturdays, except quizzes and Exam #4 (see last week of class). Assignments may be submitted early and is often encouraged. Each session/unit will consist of a lecture presentation and discussion/activity related to material covered in lecture. You are expected to read the assigned materials on a weekly basis to participate in activities as assigned. Students who read the assigned material on a weekly basis are much more likely to succeed in the course. Assignment access will be limited to timeframes listed on syllabus. Therefore, do not expect course material to be available concurrently during your examinations and/or outside the week the assignment is to be completed. I would encourage you to print material and/or take notes as needed while completing assignments on a weekly basis. Please notify me ahead of time if you foresee any limitations in completing syllabus assignments.

**Online Etiquette:** The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative. Please proofread your responses for spelling, grammar and possible offensive language before posting. Use discussions to develop your skills in

collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions and/or revise opinions. This is your place to discuss/suggest/learn from your readings along with your colleagues. **Please REFRAIN from posting personal stories in the discussion boards. Discussions should be strictly elaborated from text/readings, assignments, and/or related current events.**

**Grading Policy:** There will be **four exams**, consisting of a mixture of multiple choice and true/false questions. Each exam will cover each session/unit and each one is worth 15% of the overall course grade, total of 60%. Students are also required to participate in **four online discussions** worth 20% of the overall course grade—review the Discussion Thread Policy below. There will also be **four short quizzes** worth 20% of the overall course grade.

See the course schedule for the exams, discussions, and assignment due dates. Grades will be determined as follows: A = 100-93.0, A- = 92.9-90.0, B+ = 89.9-87.0, B = 86.9-83.0, B- = 82.9-80.0, and so on. An F = 59.9 or lower. **I DO NOT engage in Grade Bargaining. If EXTRA CREDIT** is offered (I usually don't) it **WILL NOT** be offered on an individual basis. Given the nature of the course, access to quizzes, exams, and discussion threads will be limited to specific timeframes; therefore each student is responsible to complete assignments within specified timeframes.

**Make note that assignments will be graded within two weeks of due dates.** Each student is required to make note of assignment due dates. Although most weekly assignments close on Saturdays, some examinations and quizzes may be due before Saturdays. Each student is responsible to check grades routinely. If you notice an error or are missing grades after two weeks of submission, please email the professor for help. Always submit assignments as WORD or PDF attachments as applicable—no text or typing in the submission window is accepted.

ASSIGNMENTS	WEIGHTS (%)
Four Discussion Posts (5% Each)	20%
Four Exams (15% Each)	60%
Four Quizzes (5% Each)	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Discussion Policy:** Discussions are to be completed as assigned on the syllabus. The first discussion post is required by Tuesdays (10 points max) OF THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SESSION to prevent losing participation points. Each student will then be responsible to respond to classmates with two additional posts (5 points each max) by the discussion closing date, usually Saturdays at midnight; see syllabus for dates. Failure to participate in discussions will lead to loss of participation points. Each discussion thread (total of 3 posts) is worth 20 points. The more thorough your posts, the higher the grade.

**Make Up/Late Work/Missed Exam Policy:** Given that this is an online course with a great deal of flexibility, there will be no make-up or late work in this class. There will be **NO** make-up exams in the absence of an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. If you become unable to participate in each class session and/or deadline, you must notify the professor as soon as possible. In the case of such an emergency, if there is proper documentation of a University recognized excuse, an exception to the make-up work policy may be granted. Early notification and/or proper documentation do not necessarily guarantee that a make-up exam/assignment will be granted. This decision will be at the discretion of the professor and in accordance with university policy. Make-up exams will consist of **WRITTEN ESSAY QUESTIONS ONLY**.

**Academic Honesty:** The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with extra integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. Further information concerning academic honesty is available at the following address: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

**Academic Etiquette:** Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately, respecting the opinions of others. Any type of disruptive or discourteous behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students guilty of such behavior will first be asked to stop the behavior. If the student refuses to stop the disruptive

behavior and/or will not leave class, University Police will be asked to remove the student and further **UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS WILL BE PURSUED.**

**Disabled Students:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodation to be unavailable. For further information concerning university policy see the following website: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html). For information concerning services for students with disabilities see the following: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>; [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability); Phone 936.294.3512; TDD 936.294.3786

**Religious Holy Day Observances:** 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 instructor concerning their absence. If such an occurrence conflicts with an exam or assignment due date, assignments will be due during the next class meeting and exams will be taken during a time agreed upon by the student and professor. For additional information, please see the following: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

**IT ONLINE HELP DESK:** <http://online.shsu.edu/campus/support-desk/>  
Located at AB1 Room 144  
Phone 936.294.2780 (Mon-Fri 7AM-12AM/Sat 8AM-8PM)  
Email: [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu) (Mon-Fri 7AM-12AM/Sat 8AM-12M)

## **CJ 2362 CRIMINOLOGY - COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **INTRO SESSION: Wed 8/23 – Sat 8/26**

Syllabus Review

Introduction Discussion Thread\* (See Discussion Policy for instructions)

**INTRODUCTION DISCUSSION: Due by 9/2 at midnight (Saturday)**

### **SESSION 1: Week of 8/27-9/23**

Chapter 1: Crime and Criminology (pp 1-27)

Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Crime (pp 28-57)

Chapter 3: Victims and Victimization (pp 58-81)

**DISCUSSION 1: Due by 9/23 at midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**QUIZ #1 Due by 9/20 by midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**ONLINE EXAM #1 Due by 9/23 by midnight (Saturday)**

## **ILLEGAL DRUGS**

### **SESSION 2: Week of 9/24-10/21**

Chapter 4: Rational Choice Theory (pp 82-105)

Chapter 5: Trait Theory (pp 106-133)

Chapter 6: Social Structure Theory (pp 134-165)

**DISCUSSION 2: Due by 10/21 at midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**QUIZ #2 Due by 10/18 by midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**ONLINE EXAM #2 Due by 10/21 by midnight (Saturday)**

### **SESSION 3: Week of 10/22-11/18**

Chapter 7: Social Process Theory (pp 166-195)

Chapter 8: Social Conflict Theories (pp 196-225)

Chapter 9: Developmental Theories (pp 226-253)

**DISCUSSION 3: Due by 11/18 at midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**QUIZ #3 Due by 11/15 by midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**ONLINE EXAM #3 Due by 11/18 by midnight (Saturday)**

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**SESSION 4: Week of 11/19-12/1**

Chapter 10: Violent Crime (pp 254-287)

Chapter 12: Economic Crimes (pp 320-351)

Chapter 13: Public Order Crimes (pp 352-387)

**DISCUSSION 4: Due by 12/1 by midnight – See Blackboard**

**QUIZ #4 Due by 11/29 by midnight (Saturday) – See Blackboard**

**ONLINE EXAM #4 Due by Friday, 12/1/17, by midnight | Exam #4 access granted 11/26 (Sunday) through 12/1 (Friday)**