

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Sam Houston State University (SHSU)

CRIJ 5333
Critical Analysis of Justice Administration - Online
Spring 2018

PROFESSOR: Stephen Lee Morrison, Ph.D.

OFFICE: Online

TELEPHONE: 832-308-0711 For questions: **I like emails first - sxm130@shsu.edu**
I usually respond within an hour.

If it is more important - then text me at 832-308-0711. For “emergencies” you may call 832-308-0711. Emergencies do happen – they are different than neglect of your course work or due to conflicts in your life with work, family, and school. Plan ahead.

E-MAIL: sxm130@shsu

CLASS HOURS: online

CLASSROOM: online

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 6 pm to 9 pm online

TEXTBOOK(S):

Required Text:

“Criminal Justice Theory, An Introduction.” Hopkins Burke, Routledge. 2012.
“Crime and the American Dream.” Messner and Rosenfeld. 5th ed. Wadsworth, 2013

The textbook can be purchased at the SHSU bookstore. *IF* additional readings are required they will be available on electronic reserve through the library or on the Web.

Recommended Text: *Student Guidebook to Proper Citation in APA Style*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“Theory without practice is sterile. Practice without theory is futile.”

This course blends theory and practice, which is implicitly stated in the course description as “the analysis of the criminal justice system in the United States; role of justice agencies as part of societal response to crime; the knowledge base of criminal justice; issues, problems, trends.” But justice is a two-sided coin, “retributive” and “distributive.” Criminal justice responds to retributive justice, and social justice pertains to the inalienable rights of humankind, (the “life-liberty-and-pursuit-of-happiness – as-long-as-it-doesn’t infringe-upon-the-inalienable-rights-of-others,” thing).

Part I of this course focuses upon the theoretical development of modern justice concepts.

Part II involves a case study of Chicago. You will review news and information of the recent and current events, and will assess potential causes of current conditions and recommend corrective policies within the confines of the parameters set by our current constitution and laws.

There will be on-going discussions throughout the semester that will require your attention and participation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, the successful student will know:

1. The foundations of modern perspectives on...
 - a. Crime and criminal behavior
 - b. Philosophy of law and legal ethics
 - c. Policing
 - d. Legal process
 - e. Punishment
 - f. Juvenile justice
 - g. Future challenges to doing justice
2. The probable link between the “American Dream” and crime
3. The application of theoretical perspectives to ...
 - a. Assess problems in practice
 - b. Formulate and defend practical solutions to real-world challenges

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Postings (7 each, 70 points max) – For starting a discussion thread on an informative item related in some way to Chicago’s homicide problem. Duplication of posted items do not count.

Discussion (80 points max) – Discussing postings (yours and others) will be scored on a rubric posted on the class Blackboard site. Points will be awarded for meaningful contributions (“I agree” is not meaningful, why you agree/disagree, or under what conditions you agree/disagree adds meaning). Questions and answers add equally to the content of a discussion. Diplomacy in offering differing points of view greatly aid to a lively discourse and will be appropriately rewarded.

Testlets (13 x 7 points each + 2 points) – Seven points per testlet plus 2 points each for each testlet completed before the policy brief is assigned. Your grade average will be based upon 100 points, which gives 117% possible point total. The testlets’ purpose is to

focus your attention to key issues in your reading assignments, but NOT to the neglect of the other material. Your responses should be brief but should cover the key points of what is asked. I grade these so cutting to the chase will be greatly appreciated and rewarded. Excessive verbiage will be interpreted as lacking clarity.

Policy Brief (150 points) – You will submit your policy brief through the class web site. Briefs will be assessed on the degree to which they conform to guidelines in (Writing Policy Briefs). Points will be added or lost for issues of accuracy, completeness, and communication practices (including layout, use of color, word/number/graphic usage). The 1,500-word guideline on maximum length will be treated as a “soft” limit (read this as “don’t stop in mid-sentence or mid-paragraph.” Beyond that, points will be lost for excessive length. Also note that there is no penalty for shorter briefs that properly fulfill the other guidelines for completeness, clarity, etc.

GRADING:

Your grade will be based upon 500 points. All grades will be calculated on a percentage basis with 90/80/70/60 representing the threshold for A/B/C/D, respectively. Evaluation areas and their weights are listed below: There will not be extra credit opportunities in this class.

Postings 7 each 70 points max

Discussion 80 points max

Testlets 13 x 7 points each + 2 points

Policy Brief 150 points

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

This is an online class – course work should be completed by deadlines presented in course schedule.

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the **FAILURE** of a course or 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.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal process can be found in the manual entitled:

http://www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007_2008.pdf, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

Spam Mail and Netiquette

Please do not use the collaboration tools in this course as an outlet for general mail message. The purpose of these areas of communication are to facilitate collaborative learning among all students involved in the class. Use caution discretion about what material you post or email to other students and make sure it pertains to the ongoing discussions or contributes to the general discussions.

Resources

Newton Gresham Library

The Newton Gresham Library (<http://library.shsu.edu>.) has many resources you will want to use in this course. These include databases, reference material, journals, digital collections and Google Scholar. You will also find research information such as Citation Guides (<http://library.shsu.edu/research/citationguides.php>) and research assistance and instruction in the use of library resources, especially the electronic resources, for SHSU students enrolled in SHSU online courses. This instruction can be found via lib_ref@shsu.edu, or telephone (936)-294-1599 or 1-866-NGL-INFO (toll free), whatever is most convenient for the student. To take advantage of these services you will need to register as a Distance Education student with the Library by filling out the registration form found at <http://library.shsu.edu/services/distance/application.php> form.

SHSU Writing Center

The Writing Center provides services including generating ideas for your term paper, identifying your target audience, organizing your paper, improving your writing style, identifying and correcting grammatical errors, and more. If you choose to use these services you will need to provide them the information about your paper found at <http://www.shsu/-wctr/Distance.pdf> through email. Be sure aware that they will need 48 hours to review a paper.

Requirements

Disabled Student Resources

Students with disabilities should initiate contact with the disabilities office.

“Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.” The physically impaired should review the following policies for more information at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

Computer and Internet

Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web (www). Students will be required to participate in asynchronous sessions through the class Blackboard portal. All students will be required to download and view *Microsoft Word* documents, *Excel* spreadsheets, and *PowerPoint* presentations. In addition, all students will need to have a microphone and speakers for presentations. **Please be sure to contact the SHSU 24x7 helpdesk if you have any problems connecting or accessing materials or tools in this course (helpdesk@shsuonline.net or 1-877-870-9214).**

Requirements

Document Formatting

Any material submitted to the instructor for grading must be sent in a format compatible with *Microsoft Word 2010* (ending with the suffix *.docx* or *.doc*).

Students using any other word processing program such as *WordPerfect*, should select the option that allows the material to be saved as a Rich Text Format (RTF) or Portable Document Format (PDF) document before submitting it. Retain a hard copy as well as a back-up digital copy of any submitted material in case of technical problems.

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC

CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS

MEETING:

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	START DATE OF WEEK	ASSIGNMENTS
0	JANUARY 17 TH	Orientation and preparation.
1	JANUARY 22 ND	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 1 Post and Discuss Articles
2	JANUARY 29 ND	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 2 Post and Discuss Articles
3	FEBRUARY 5 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 3 Post and Discuss Articles
4	FEBRUARY 12 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 4 Post and Discuss Articles
5	FEBRUARY 19 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 5 Post and Discuss Articles.
6	FEBRUARY 26 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 6 Post and Discuss Articles.
7	MARCH 5 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 7 Post and Discuss Articles
8	MARCH 12 TH	Spring Break
9	MARCH 19 TH	CJ Theory – Read/Test Chapter 8 Post and Discuss Articles
10	MARCH 26 TH	CATAD – Read/Test Chapters 1 and 2 Post and Discuss Articles
11	APRIL 2 ND	CATAD – Read/Test Chapters 3 and 4 Post and Discuss Articles
12	APRIL 9 TH	CATAD – Read/Test Chapter 5 Writing policy Briefs
13	APRIL 16 TH	Policy Brief: – Submit your policy brief proposal – Number Crunching Bayesian Style
14	APRIL 23 RD	Policy Brief – Communicating with Graphs and Charts
15	APRIL 30 TH	Policy Brief – Prepare final draft
16	MAY 7 TH MONDAY	All assignments are due.

DISCLAIMER

The class schedule in this syllabus is subject to change. Announcements of any changes to the schedule will be made in class, via email, and/or posted in Blackboard. These announcements are considered proper notice of change.

Best way to communicate with me is via email. I usually answer within a few minutes up to a couple hours.

If the answer to your question is found in the syllabus – then I will refer you back to the syllabus.

Do Your BEST - Your best does not occur if you wait until the last minute to address your assignments.

SHSU Finals Schedule

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>