

**San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS 151-02, Criminology Theory, Spring 2020**

Contact Information

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Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 9-10AM
Class Days/Time:	T/R 7:30AM -8:45AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word.

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 Show substantive knowledge about the measurement of crime and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of major sources of crime data.

SLO #3 Demonstrate 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-13: 978-0134548647

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, quizzes, and exams will not be accepted.*

Requirements: You are required to read all book chapters and articles in advance. Your grade is based on weekly quizzes, in-class discussions, a midterm, a group presentation, and a final exam. Details of these requirements will be provided in Canvas.

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

Midterm Essay: The midterm essay question will ask you to apply two criminological theories to a movie. You are expected to elaborate on how these criminological theories can explain the movie characters' behaviors. Your essay should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins using a 12-point font Times New Roman. The essay should be three pages at a minimum without counting reference page. You should put your word count at the bottom of your answer (do not count the words in the question itself). Please incorporate information from the textbook readings, discussion questions, and other resources or content covered in your discussion. Essay instructions and information will be provided in Canvas.

Group Presentation. You will be assigned into a small group to do a class presentation. The presentation is about theory application. Here are the four steps: 1) choose one theory provided by the textbooks; 2) study major theoretical propositions and hypotheses based on the chosen theory; 3) identify your research methods (e.g. interview your friends or ask your friends for help, interview police officers, on-line survey, or making a short documentary film etc.); 4) report your findings and conclude. Presentations are scheduled for the first week of May (May 5&7).

Final Exam. Final exam is scheduled on Friday, May 15 (07:15-09:30 AM). The final exam will be “closed book” tests that will require you to incorporate materials discussed and presented in class with the assigned readings. The format of the final will be multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay.

Final Grade (total points possible: 300 points)

The point totals break down as follows:

Weekly Quizzes	150 points
In-class Discussion	20 points
Presentation	30 points
Midterm Essay	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Total	300 points

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-86%	B = 85-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-76%	C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-66%	D = 65-63%	D minus = 62-60%
F = 59-0% 0-179		

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

Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Tentative Class Schedules

Topic	Readings / Resources (Additional articles will be posted in Canvas)
Introduction Overview of syllabus and course material	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
Social Conflict	Schmallegger Chapter 8 Bernard et al. Chapter 12&13
Final Exam	Final Exam