

San José State University

College of Applied Sciences and Arts / Department of Justice Studies JS 151, Criminological Theory, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125
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Email:	natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M/W 12-1:15pm – email me for an appointment please! If you wish to schedule an online office hour, please email me.
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

This course adopts an online delivery format. All course work will take place on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Course Description

Analysis of the nature and extent of crime, including causation and prevention. Descriptions 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 of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Confidently discuss criminological theories, including history, limitations, and applications of theories. (CLO1)
2. Apply criminological theories to real life situations. (CLO2)
3. Write papers evaluating and applying criminological theories. (CLO3)
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about readings on criminological theories. (CLO4)
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. (CLO5)

Required Texts

Tibbets, S.G. & Hemmens, C. (2019). *Criminological Theory: A Text/Reader, 3rd Edition*. SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Consider investing in an APA style guide, there are many different formats, including a pocket size one, that are very affordable (e.g. ISBN: 9781433805608)

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.
4. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.

Participation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4 & CLO5)

This class should be engaging for everyone, and therefore relies on student participation. All students will be expected to have read all assigned readings and completed any assignments before participating in a weekly discussion board. Participation in online discussions is expected to be **thoughtful and thorough**, and should **show student understanding of the assigned topic**.

Reading Responses (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4 & CLO5)

Students will write weekly reading responses to the required readings. You will choose one of the discussion questions listed at the end of one of the chapter assigned for that week to reflect on the reading. Reading responses are due as listed on Canvas. Late work will not be accepted. Reading responses should be no less than one (1) page and no more than two (2) pages long (not counting any headers or footnotes), and must be written in formal English, in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, and double-spaced. If in-text citations and references are used, they must be in APA-style formatting.

Please make sure to write the question you chose at the top of the page (this reciting of the question does not count as part of your page requirement) and do not put your name or the class information on the paper.

Weekly Discussion Boards (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4 & CLO5)

You will be expected to participate in each week's discussion board by responding to the posted discussion question(s) at least once and responding to one of your peer's at least once. Your responses should be thoughtful, analytical, insightful and respectful. It is great to be able to argue a point and have an opinion in a discussion forum, however, it is important to do so in a respectful manner.

Theory Application Papers (CLO3)

Each student will write two (2) theory application papers in order to learn to evaluate and apply criminological theories. Topics for each paper, as well as further instructions detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements for each assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Students must reference any sources in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines.

Midterm (CLO1, CLO4 & CLO5)

The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover all materials assigned from week 2 up to the date of the midterm. The midterm will take place on Canvas (see Canvas schedule for date).

Final Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO4 & CLO5)

The final will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover all materials assigned from the midterm to week 16. The final will take place on Canvas per the university finals schedule (see Canvas for date).

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	84.0 to 87.99	B	71.0 to 73.99	C minus
94.0 to 97.99	A	81.0 to 83.99	B minus	68.0 to 70.99	D plus
91.0 to 93.99	A minus	78.0 to 80.99	C plus	64.0 to 67.99	D
88.0 to 90.99	B plus	74.0 to 77.99	C	61.0 to 63.99	D minus

Determination of Grades

Discussion Boards	100 pts / 20%
Reading Responses	100 pts / 20%
Theory Application Papers	100 pts / 20%
Midterm	100 pts / 20%
Final	100 pts / 20%
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Total	500 pts / 100%

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

1. Be prepared and participate

2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) should be posted on the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

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/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately by emailing me or by making an appointment with me as soon as possible. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Department of Justice Studies 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.

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The following schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be posted as early as possible on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21-8/23	Introduction & Review of Syllabus
2	8/26-8/30	Section 1: An overview of issues in criminological theory Reading 1: Sherman, L. (2005). The use and usefulness of criminology, 1751-2005.
3	9/2-9/6	Reading Response 1 due Section 2: Preclassical and classical theories of crime Reading 3: Britto, S. & Noga-Styron, K.E. (2014). Media consumption and support for capital punishment.
4	9/9-9/13	Reading Response 2 due Section 3: Modern applications of the classical perspective Canvas: Stotzer, R.L. & MacCartney, D. (2016). The Role of Institutional Factors on On-Campus Reported Rape Prevalence
5	9/16-9/20	Reading Response 3 due Section 4: Early positive school perspectives of criminality Reading 8: Yun, I. & Lee, J. (2013). IQ and delinquency: The differential detection hypothesis revisited.
6	9/23-9/27	Reading Response 4 due Section 5: Modern biosocial perspectives of criminal behavior Reading 10: Wilson, L.C. & Scarpa, A. (2012). Criminal behavior: The need for an integrative approach that incorporates biological influences.
7	9/30-10/4	Reading Response 5 due Section 6: Early social structure and strain theories of crime Canvas: Levin, J. & Madfis, E. (2009). Mass murder at school and cumulative strain: A sequential model.
8	10/7-10/11	Midterm
9	10/14-10/18	Reading Response 6 due Section 7: The Chicago school and cultural and subcultural theories of crime Canvas: Martinez, R., Rosenfeld, R. & Mares, D. (2008). Social Disorganization, Drug Market Activity, and Neighborhood Violent Crime
10	10/21-10/25	Theory Application Paper 1

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	10/28-11/1	Reading Response 7 due Section 8: Social process and learning theories of crime Canvas: Harris, M.G. (1994). Cholas, Mexican-American Girls, and Gangs
12	11/4-11/8	Reading Response 8 due Section 9: Social reaction and critical models of crime Canvas: Aiello, B. & McQueeney, K. (2016). "How can you live without your kids?": Distancing from and embracing the stigma of "incarcerated mother."
13	11/11-11/15	Reading Response 9 due (on Reading 24) Section 10: Feminist models of crime Reading 24: Chesney-Lind, M. (2006). Patriarchy, crime, and justice: Feminist criminology in an era of backlash. Canvas: Schaffner, L. (2007). Violence against girls provokes girls' violence.
14	11/18-11/22	Reading Response 10 due Section 11: Life-course perspectives of criminality Canvas: Pyrooz, D.C. & Decker, S.H. (2011) Motives and methods for leaving the gang: Understanding the process of gang desistance.
15	11/25-11/29	Happy Thanksgiving
16	12/2-12/6	Theory Application Paper 2
17	12/9	Final Review
Final Exam	Thursday, 12/12/2019	On Canvas