

**San José State University**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Justice Studies 151-81 Criminological Theory**  
**Dr. Chris Hebert**  
**Online Only**

### Contact Information

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CANVAS mailing tool

### On Burglary:

The owners! Shoot, this is country folk. These people don't believe in calling the cops. You in their yard stealing something; they coming out with shot-guns. You don't know who's land you're on. You don't know who or what they are capable of doing. People shoot you around here and bury you in their backyard and no one will ever miss you ... Think about it, if you in their yard stealing you ain't telling no one you was going to steal this.

(A young thief in response to whether he feared the police or property owners more.) From "Managing Fear to Commit Theft," Hochstetler and Copes in "In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime." Paul Cromwell (ed.).

### On Human Perfectibility

Crime is eternal—as eternal as society. So far as we know, human fallibility has manifested itself in all types and forms of human organization. Everywhere some human beings have fallen outside the pattern of permitted conduct. It is best to face the fact that crime cannot be abolished except in a nonexistent utopia.

Frank Tannenbaum (1949).

### Course Information

**Pre/Corequisite:** JS 100W

### Catalog 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.

### Section Specific Description and Student Learning Objectives:

There are four major themes to the course: 1) Why are some harmful behaviors defined as criminal and others are not? 2) How are the common measures of crime constructed and how does this influence

public perceptions of the “crime problem?” 3) The social and physical organization of crime and victimization. 4) Theoretical explanations of criminal behavior.

### **Justice Studies Required Course Notice:**

Note: Justice Studies 151 is a required course for the Justice Studies major. As with all JS courses, to be accepted for credit towards a degree a grade of “C” or better is required. In addition, because JS 151 is a required course, failure to obtain a grade of “C” or better after two attempts will result in disqualification from the degree program.

*If you are taking JS 151 for the second time, be sure to contact me early and often regarding your progress in the course*

## Course Requirements

### **Required Readings:**

1) Walsh, Anthony and Cody Jorgensen, “*Criminology: The Essentials 4<sup>th</sup> ed.*” Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California, USA

New copies are available at:

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/criminology/book259188>

and no doubt elsewhere on the web.

2) Other readings such as news and journal articles. All other readings will share the characteristic of being free of charge.

3) Student-Contributed Readings. (More below.)

### **Quizzes and Exams:**

The “chapters” are in reference to quizzes and exams are the textbook chapters and any material assigned during the class period to which the textbook chapter was assigned. Quizzes and exams are largely multiple-choice with a couple of short-answer questions.

### **Student-Contributed Readings:**

Instructions for the **Student-Contributed Readings** will be distributed separately.

### **Participation:**

Class participation will be graded on: 1) quality of questions from text; 2) answering of student questions and; 3) general participation.

**Assignments:**

Between two and five short assignments will be assigned during the semester. Content and dates to be distributed later. These are short assignments, so don't panic.

**Distribution:**

I am upfront about changes to the class schedule and assignments and document the changes through a version numbering system based on that used in the software industry. As a general rule, moving the opening and closing date of a quiz by a day or two will not result in a new version number.

**Course Grade Determination**

Course grades are based on quizzes, exams, assignments, Student-Contributed readings and class participation. All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis. No extra-credit is offered in this course.

**Course Weighting and Description of Material:**

- 1) Quizzes (11\* 4.545% = 50%) There are thirteen multiple choice quizzes, each covering 1 chapter. I may throw in a short answer or a multiple-choice question or two based on a previous material. Eleven of these quizzes will be used to calculate the course grade and are chosen as follows: The lowest score of the first seven and the lowest score of the last six quizzes will be excluded from the course grade calculation. A quiz not taken is assigned a score of zero and thus becomes the low score. Between 15 and 30 minutes will be allocated for quizzes.

Unless otherwise noted, quizzes will be available no later than Thursday and are due the Friday of the assigned week. You will not be able to review your answers until the quiz has closed for all students. Grades will be posted by the Monday following the quiz. Do not use the online grade trackers, I don't use it.

- 2) Mid-Term Exam (10%): All material assigned or presented in class from the first day to the day prior to the Mid-Term exam.
- 3) Final Exam (15%): Predominately material covered since the mid-term, though course material from any part of the course will be included.
- 4) Student Provided Readings (5%): See instructions to be handed out.
- 5) Assignments (10%): Dates to be determined and instructions distributed later.
- 6) Participation (10%): Participation we be evaluated on taking an active role generating and responding to questions in the Discussion pages. During most weeks  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the class will be assigned to create a question. These questions will be submitted to me and the best, will, in turn, be asked of students randomly selected from the course list. The best of these questions will be posted in Discussions. The presumption is the question will receive a score of 1 (one), but if the question is not answerable, because of very poor construction, or not in the textbook (you would be surprised!) a score of zero (0) will be applied. Questions selected for Discussion will be awarded 2 (two) points and yes, it is possible to earn more than 100% by the end of the semester. Poor questions will receive a score of 0 (zero), and the default expectation is a score of 1 (one). Students who have been selected to answer the questions will receive a score of 1 (one) for an adequate answer zero (0) for an incorrect answer, and minus 1 (-1) for not answering an assigned question. Students not assigned to ask or answer a question are expected to participate as well.

**Curves and Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence:**

I usually apply a curve to quizzes and exam. The posted scores reflect any curving that I have done (I only curve up, never down). If a curve is applied, approximately 20 to 25 percent of the class will receive an A- or better on that exam. **AGAIN: I do not use the online gradebook which will automatically record your course "grade." That is not your grade, your official grade will be manually posted by me, probably under "Discussions."** All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis, and correspond to the following letter grades.

The percentages listed are threshold scores and no rounding is done. That means, for example, a score of 89.9% is a B+.

Percentage to Letter Grade Correspondence											
A+	96%	A	93%	A-	90%	B+	86%	B	83%	B-	80%
C+	76%	C	73%	C-	70%	D+	66%	D	63%	D-	60%
F 0%											

**Quiz and Exam Score Postings:**

**NOTE: I do not use the gradebook on CANVAS, it is too primitive for my grading practices.**

Quiz and Exam scores will be posted on CANVAS, likely under "Announcements". Scores will be posted using a synthetic number called a "Posting ID." To create your posting ID number, multiply the first five digits (including the leading zeros) of your SJSU student ID number by the last four digits of the ID number. The last four digits of the product is the posting ID number.

**EXAMPLE:** SJSU ID number is 004199408

First five digits are: 00419

Last four digits are: 9408

Multiply = 3941952

The last four digits, 1952, is the Posting ID number.

**Late Test and Assignment Policy:**

No to full credit depending on circumstance. The possible combinations of circumstance are damn near infinite and thus an attempt to assign specific penalty weights a truly Herculean task. Instead, the following are the factors I consider, along with examples of good, OK, and bad excuses.

Dimension	Good	OK	Bad
Notification:	Notification delivered in class at least one class meeting prior to absence	Note in mailbox/ e-mail day of exam.	Five weeks after assignment due date.
Reason:	Work-related travel. Getting married, personal illness, serious illness of a close relative, death of a close relative.	Too much coursework/job stress. Relationship troubles, ceremonial participation.	Hung over, forgot, getting married more than once, weekly participation in ceremonies of death or other.

Dimension	Good	OK	Bad
What Missed:		Quizzes and Mid-Term Exam.	Assignment, Crime Portfolio, Final Exam.
Documentation:	Newspaper article, Medical appointment note, receipt for automotive repair, court summons	Note from Mom.	Insultingly bad forgery.
Made up by:	Next Class Meeting	Two Class Meetings	Final Exam Week.
Attendance:	I can match name to face.	Pretty sure that you are, or were, in one of my classes.	Couldn't pick you out of a lineup for \$100,000.

It is your responsibility to notify me of your need to take a make-up exam or quiz and to arrange a time that accommodates my schedule. Except under extraordinary circumstances, if an exam has not been taken within two weeks or a quiz within one week of its administration to the class, you will forfeit that quiz/exam and receive a zero.

### Recording and Distribution of Class Material:

The following is reproduced from SJSU Policy S12-7.

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.

So, if you want to record my or any instructor's lecture, receive permission first. Just as a reminder (also reproduced from S12-7): "Audio recording without consent in private settings is prohibited by California Penal Code 630-635."

### Mandatory Statements:

These things have reproduced more rapidly than bacteria in a petri dish. But in a spate of sanity, we can now link rather than reproduce the statements which are found here:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

(Verified August 17, 2020)

My remarks on selected statements follow.

### Academic Integrity:

In the long run academic dishonesty hurts only you. Academic dishonesty can also cause pain in the short run, see [Academic Senate Policy F15-7](#)

### Course Requirements and Assignments:

This statement is required by Federal regulation. And, unsurprisingly, is close to incomprehensible unless schooled in educratspeak. It translates as this: This is a three credit course so you should spend  $3 \times 3 = 9$  hours/week on the course. Three of those hours are spent in the classroom ( $1 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 = 2 \frac{1}{2}$ ),

which we fictionalize to 3 hours, so you should spend 6 hours /week outside of class reading, studying, etc. for this course. Since this is an online course, you really aren't spending 3 hours/week in a class room, but the expectation is the same: 9 hours per week for this course.

**Religious Accommodation:**

[Included under protest as appears to be a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> (Equal Protection) Clause.]

Note: I will continue to use my long-standing and far more liberal notification requirement specified above.

**Miscellaneous Items and Some Repeating:**

Course material will be distributed via Canvas. Be sure that MySJSU has your current e-mail address.

You are adults and I treat you as such. I don't require attendance because I assume that you are the best judge of the use of your time. A corollary to this is don't expect a lot of sympathy from me if you fail an exam because you knew nothing about material that was only presented in class. Instructors are prohibited from [grading on attendance](#) (see [F15-12](#)). BTW: F15-12 had absolutely no effect on my grading. As a student I disliked classes that graded on attendance and since I could do something about it as a professor, I never did. If you are going to miss a class for any reason and there isn't an assignment due or a quiz or exam scheduled, I don't need to be notified. As I said, I assume you are the best judge of the best use of your time. OTOH: If you miss an exam or quiz, you must contact me to arrange a time to make it up and the sooner the better (see Late Test and Assignment Policy above).

Have I mentioned that it is probably in the syllabus / greensheet?

Hey, I forgot to mention that if it isn't in the syllabus, have you read the assignment? I receive many inquiries about assignments. 80% of these inquiries I answer by responding: "It's in the assignment."

I highly recommend checking out the greensheet / syllabus. While you are at it, read any assignments that have been distributed.

If a substantial change in due dates or assignments is required, I will distribute an updated syllabus via Canvas or e-mail. A quiz may be postponed for one meeting without creating a new schedule.

To get started on the semester: It's probably in the greensheet / syllabus.

**This syllabus, like any [syllabus is subject to revision](#).**

## Justice Studies 151 Fall 2020 Class Schedule

Week of	Read / Watch	Graded Items	A & A Group
August 19	HELLO!		
August 24	Nothing assigned, get right on obtaining a copy of the required text.		
August 31	Chapter 1: An Overview of Crime and Criminology	Quiz 1*	
Sept. 7	Chapter 4: The Early Schools of Criminology	Quiz 4	
Sept. 14	Chapter 2: Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior	Quiz 2	
Sept. 21	Chapter 12: Crimes of Violence	Quiz 12	
Sept. 28	Chapter 14: Property Crime	Quiz 14	
October 5	Chapter 15: Public Order Crime	Quiz 15	
October 12	Chapter 3: Victimology: Exploring the Experience of Victimization	Quiz 3	
October 19	<b>Review, Missed Items, etc. Mid-Term! Mid-Term!</b>	<b>Mid-Term!</b>	
October 26	Chapter 5: Crime as Choice: Rationality, Emotion, and Criminal Behavior	Quiz 5	
Nov. 2	Chapter 6: Social Structural Theories	Quiz 6	
Nov. 9	Chapter 7: Social Process Theories	Quiz 7	
Nov. 16	Chapter 8: Critical and Feminist Theories	Quiz 8	
Nov. 23	Chapter 16: White-Collar Crime	Quiz 16 will be due on Monday, November 30.	
Nov. 30	Chapter 17: Organized Crime	Quiz 17	
Dec. 7	Review Day. missed material, etc.		
Dec. 10 (Thursday!)	<b>FINAL EXAM 5:15 -7:30</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM!</b>	

\* Unless otherwise noted, Quizzes will be due on the Friday of the assigned week.