CJ 302 Crime and Behavior
Mon/Wed, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. in PG 153
San Diego State University
Fall 2012

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E-mail: sylvia.uci@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00, and by appointment. At the Starbucks on College & Lindo Paseo (adjacent to College Square)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an overview of criminological theories. Before we begin to explain crime we consider: what is crime? Why do people break the law? Why doesn’t everyone break the law? Why do some neighborhoods have very high rates of crime, and others do not? These are only some of the questions that we will address. The aim of this course is to explicate the theories – to explain how they differ from one another, the phenomena they aim to explain, and their strengths and weaknesses.

In addition to explicating theories and examining the etiology of crime, students will be required to apply the theoretical knowledge to everyday crime and behavior. Students’ knowledge of theories will be applied to issues of social control and crime reduction. A secondary goal of this course is to develop students’ intellectual skills: their ability to analyze, develop cogent arguments, articulate objections and express their thoughts to other people.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. By the end of this course, students should have a thorough understanding of key criminological theories
2. Students should be aware of the social and political influences that shape crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system
3. Students should be able to apply their knowledge of theories to real-life crime scenarios
4. Students should be able to discuss the etiology of crime using various theories
5. Students should develop their critical thinking skills via class discussion and writing

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE READINGS:

➢ Additional readings TBD will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

As you read each chapter, or assigned reading, make sure you:
- Know and understand the main points, strengths, and weaknesses of the theory
- Know how the theory compares to other theories
- Can articulate your thoughts about the theory. Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

GRADING:
Each student is expected to attend class, complete the assigned readings, assignments, and participate in class discussion. Failure to attend class or submit assignments on time will lower your final grade. Your final grade will be based on:

- Midterm exam: 20%
- Project: 20%
- Research paper: 20%
- On-line assignments: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Your final grade will be based on your total points in each of the above areas. Final grades generally represent the following:

**A to A-:** Excellent. Students present above average work in all or nearly all aspects of each assignment. The student demonstrates a clear understanding of course material; and written assignments have few grammar errors, if any.

**B to B-:** Very good. Student demonstrates good work with a possible lapse here or there. Ideas are clear and properly expressed; the writing is generally good with some minor grammar errors. Student shows strong grasp of course material and participates in class regularly.

**C to C-:** Average/Good. The student met minimal expectations for the course. The student’s ideas tend to be oversimplified and lack sufficient explanation or exploration. Problems may also exist with grammar, logic, or ability to express thoughts effectively. Student had limited participation in class discussions.

**D to D-:** Below average. A minimal effort by the student; does not show basic knowledge of the course materials. Work and effort is below that which one would normally expect from a college student. Writing may have major technical problems, and assignments show little effort. Limited or low participation in class discussions.

**F:** A failing grade. Minimal course requirements are not met. Written work fails to demonstrate college-level proficiency in English language and shows little to no grasp of concepts.
Attendance and Participation:
Attendance may be taken during each class meeting or randomly throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to be in class. If you miss a class, you should ask another student—not the professor—to review what you missed. Students who miss class will not be allowed to make up exams or assignments, with the following documented exceptions:

1) Jury duty (a copy of the official paperwork must be provided);
2) University-sanctioned activities (e.g. research conferences, intercollegiate sports, student government, etc.);
3) Family death – with documentation; and
4) Serious illness – with documentation from a doctor or health practitioner

Class participation may be taken into account when determining your final grade. Active and thoughtful participation may help improve your final grade if you are on the borderline.

Midterm and final exams:
Both exams will include multiple choice, true/false, and may include short answer questions. These questions will require you to apply the class material to the questions.

The final exam is mostly not cumulative; meaning the bulk of the questions will be drawn from course material discussed after the midterm. However, there may be one or two questions on the final exam about material prior to the midterm. You are responsible for all readings, even if we do not discuss them in class.

Project:
The goal of the project is to help you apply theories to everyday life. The following ideas are merely suggestions; you are encouraged to develop their own ideas. The project may include:

- Observations, and photographs, of a city examining social disorganization
- Weekly analysis of articles in newspaper and application of appropriate theory
- Ride along with a police officer and apply theories to explain their views on crime
- Interview a formerly incarcerated person and use theories to explain their crimes
- Interview a prostitute or drug user and ask them about views on crime. Or explain their behavior, only if SAFE!

Research paper:
You are required to write a 5 page research paper for this course. For this paper you 1) pick one criminological theory to discuss in depth or 2) pick one crime and apply two different theories,
using scholarly articles. You must use at least THREE journal articles, but you may include non-academic sources. The bulk of your paper must be based on the information in journal articles.

Your paper must use the following format: Times New Roman, size-12 font, page numbers at the bottom of page, double-spaced, one inch margins all around, and must use APA citation format throughout. You will lose points for not following the format. I will provide you with more guidance on the content of the paper during the course of the semester.

On-line assignments:
There are ten on-line assignments dispersed throughout the semester that correspond to the material covered in class. The assignments are short (one page or less) and are meant to encourage your creative application of theories to everyday events. You will submit these electronically via Blackboard.

Classroom rules:

➢ Arrive to class on time. If you arrive late, please be courteous to others be entering as quietly as possible. If you need to leave early, please be courteous.

➢ Our class discussions may touch upon sensitive issues. Differing opinions are encouraged! We will treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, despite opposing views.

➢ Please silence your cell phones during class. No texting or use of social media during class! This is rude to the professor and a distraction to other students. If this becomes a repeated problem I will ask you to leave class. If you text during an exam, you will receive an F and will face University sanctions for cheating.

➢ Email: I will do my best to respond to all reasonable emails, but it is very difficult to answer in depth questions via email. Please try to see me during scheduled office hours or make an appointment. When sending emails, please include a salutation, write in complete sentences, and include your name.

➢ Disabled students – it is the student’s responsibility to inform me, in a timely manner, of any special needs they have. The student should also contact the disabled students’ center for accommodations.

➢ Plagiarism and cheating – students are expected to submit their own original work. Material that violates this requirement in any way, or that constitutes any form of dishonesty, cheating, fabrication, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and/or plagiarism, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course and in appropriate disciplinary action being initiated. Don’t cheat.
### COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change by instructor):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>On-line Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Introduction to course&lt;br&gt;What is Crime?&lt;br&gt;What is Criminology?</td>
<td>Review syllabus&lt;br&gt;Lanier &amp; Henry Ch.1-2</td>
<td>What is crime?&lt;br&gt;Reading TBD</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 3 &amp; 5&lt;br&gt;No class 9/3</td>
<td>Classical, Neoclassical, &amp; Rational Choice</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 3</td>
<td>Newspaper article on bio &amp; crime</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Biological &amp; Psychological Theories</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 4 – 5&lt;br&gt;Library instruction TBD</td>
<td>Library assignment</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 17 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Learning to be Criminal-Differential Association, Social Learning, Neutralization theory</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 6</td>
<td>Did you learn how to commit crime?&lt;br&gt;Reading TBD</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sept. 24 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Failed socialization&lt;br&gt;-Control and Labeling theories</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 7&lt;br&gt;<em>Mi Vida Loca</em></td>
<td>Pick a crime movie &amp; apply theory to it.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Social Ecology&lt;br&gt;Midterm Review</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 8&lt;br&gt;<em>Mi Vida Loca</em></td>
<td>Show &amp; explain disorganization</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Sick Society: Anomic, Strain, General Strain, &amp; Subculture</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 9&lt;br&gt;<em>Mi Vida Loca</em></td>
<td>Find a newspaper article about crime &amp; strain.&lt;br&gt;Reading TBD</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 15 &amp; 17</td>
<td>The Sick Society cont.</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 9 cont.&lt;br&gt;<em>Bastards of the Party</em></td>
<td>Discuss theories in movie.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 22 &amp; 24</td>
<td>Conflict, Radical, &amp; Feminist</td>
<td>Lanier &amp; Henry 10 - 11</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Oct. 29 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Righteous Dopefiend&lt;br&gt;<strong>Project due</strong></td>
<td>B&amp; S 1&lt;br&gt;Guest speaker – cultural criminology</td>
<td>Show &amp; explain an artistic representation of crime</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 5 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Righteous Dopefiend&lt;br&gt;Research paper tutorial</td>
<td>B &amp; S 2 – 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 12 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Righteous Dopefiend</td>
<td>B &amp; S 5</td>
<td>What would you make a crime?</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 19 &amp; 21</td>
<td>Righteous Dopefiend</td>
<td>B &amp; S 6 – 7</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Nov. 26 &amp; 28</td>
<td><strong>Research paper due</strong></td>
<td>B &amp; S 8 -9</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dec. 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Review of Righteous Dopefiend&lt;br&gt;Final exam review</td>
<td>B &amp; S conclusion</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dec. 10 1-3pm</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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