San José State University

College of Social Sciences / Department of Justice Studies
JS 151-03, Criminological Theory, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125 (office hours will take place on Zoom due to Covid space regulations)
Telephone:	(408) 924-2753 x42753 – email is the best way to reach me!
Email:	natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M/W 10:20-11:40AM online – email me for a Zoom invite
Class Days/Time:	T/R 12:00PM-1:15PM
Classroom:	Clark Hall 238
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing; JS 100W, JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal to learn of any updates.

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. (2019). *Criminological Theory: The Essentials, 3rd Edition.* SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA. (ISBN 9781506367897)

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website 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

Nyle Monday, nyle.monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted. Missing, late, or plagiarized work will receive a grade of zero points.
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. Quality of writing must be appropriate for university level education and must include proper APA citation. Refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.
5. To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com on Canvas, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Turnitin.com is integrated into all Canvas assignments, but students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments.

"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."

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 class, to be able to successfully participate in class discussions. Come to class ready to engage, debate, and discuss! **Your participation grade will not be based on simply being present in the classroom but on meaningful participation.** Review the participation rubric on Canvas for detailed grading information.

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 Excelsior Online Writing Lab if unclear about APA guidelines.

Presentation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

Individually or in groups of up 3, you will sign up to present on a current issue in criminal justice by completing a series of tasks, including: (1) discussing the issue (2), discussing 2 applicable criminological theories in depth, (3) applying those criminological theory to issue, (4) provide policy recommendations based on your theory, and (5) generating discussion questions. Each member of the group must participate actively in the presentation, and your presentation must be cohesive. As a group, you will create a power point to guide your presentation. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Midterm Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The midterm will cover the first part of the semester. It will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions.

Final Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The final exam will cover the latter part of the semester, will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The final exam will be taken at the time of the scheduled in-class final on Canvas.

Technical difficulties during exams

- Internet connection issues:

Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

- Other technical difficulties:

Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation. Additionally, you must contact IT services immediately and include a case number in your email to the instructor.

- Contact the SJSU technical support for Canvas:

Technical Support for Canvas
Email: ecampus@sjsu.edu
Phone: (408) 924-2337
https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/support/

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

Presentation	100 pts / 20%
Theory Papers	100 pts / 20%
Participation	100 pts / 20%
Midterm	100 pts / 20%
Final	100 pts / 20%
Total	500 pts / 100%

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Have a webcam installed and be able to use it during scheduled class times
3. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
4. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
5. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
6. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

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.*

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

1. Mute Your Microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
2. Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions: Find a quiet place to attend class, to the greatest extent possible.
3. Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
4. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
5. Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
6. Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.

Academic Integrity / Plagiarism

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 [pdf] requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website for more information.

- **Plagiarism:** San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism includes:
    - 1.2.1 Knowingly or unknowingly incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work;
    - 1.2.2 Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own.
- **Sanctions:** There shall be two major classifications of sanctions that may be imposed for violations of this policy: Academic and Administrative. Academic sanctions are actions related to the coursework or grades determined by the faculty member. Administrative sanctions are actions that address a student's status on campus and are determined by the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development. Academic sanctions and Administrative sanctions may be imposed simultaneously.

To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments. In case plagiarism is detected once, the plagiarized assignment will receive a failing grade. If plagiarism is detected multiple times, students will receive a failing grade for the course.

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, 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; yo u 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.

JS 151-03 / Criminological Theory, Spring 2022, T/R 12:00PM – 1:15PM

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	R – 1/27	Introduction & Syllabus
2	T – 2/1	Chapter 1: An overview of issues in criminological theory
	R – 2/3	Canvas: Freakonomics: Abortion & Crime, Revisited (Episode 384)
3	T – 2/8	Chapter 2: Preclassical and classical theories of crime
	R – 2/10	Canvas: Britto, S. & Noga-Styron, K.E. (2014). Media consumption and support for capital punishment.
4	T – 2/15	Chapter 3: Modern applications of the classical perspective
	R – 2/17	Canvas: Stotzer, R.L. & MacCartney, D. (2016). The Role of Institutional Factors on On-Campus Reported Rape Prevalence
5	T – 2/22	Chapter 4: Early positive school perspectives of criminality
	R – 2/24	Canvas: Yun, I. & Lee, J. (2013). IQ and delinquency: The differential detection hypothesis revisited.
6	T – 3/1	Chapter 5: Modern biosocial perspectives of criminal behavior
	R – 3/3	Canvas: Wilson, L.C. & Scarpa, A. (2012). Criminal behavior: The need for an integrative approach that incorporates biological influences.
7	T – 3/8	Chapter 6: Early social structure and strain theories of crime
	R – 3/10	**Theory Application Paper 1** Canvas: Levin, J. & Madfis, E. (2009). Mass murder at school and cumulative strain: A sequential model.
8	T – 3/15	Midterm Review
	R – 3/17	**Midterm**
9	T – 3/22	Chapter 7: The Chicago school and cultural and subcultural theories of crime
	R – 3/24	Canvas: Martinez, R., Rosenfeld, R. & Mares, D. (2008). Social Disorganization, Drug Market Activity, and Neighborhood Violent Crime
10	T – 3/29	*Spring Break*
	R – 3/31	Spring Break
11	T – 4/5	Chapter 9: Social reaction and critical models of crime
	R – 4/7	Canvas: Aiello, B. & McQueeney, K. (2016). "How can you live without your kids?": Distancing from and embracing the stigma of "incarcerated mother."

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	T – 4/12	Chapter 10: Feminist models of crime
	R – 4/14	Canvas: Burgess-Proctor, A. (2012). Pathways of victimization and resistance: Toward a feminist theory of battered women's help-seeking.
13	T – 4/19	Chapter 11: Life-course perspectives of criminality
	R – 4/21	**Theory Application Paper 2** Canvas: Pyrooz, D.C. & Decker, S.H. (2011) Motives and methods for leaving the gang: Understanding the process of gang desistance.
14	T – 4/26	**Presentations due**
	R – 4/28	Presentations
15	T – 5/3	Presentations
	R – 5/5	Presentations
16	T – 5/10	Presentations
	R – 5/12	Presentations
17	T – 5/17	Dead Day
Final Exam	**T – 5/24**	**On Canvas**