



SYLLABUS
AJ 325 CJ Theory
Fall 2009 - HBG

Professor: Kelly Cheeseman Dial, PhD

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Class Hours: T 9-11:45

Classroom: CH 203

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-4, Wednesday 10-4-12, Thursday or BY APPOINTMENT

Required Texts

Siegel, L. (2005). *Criminology: The Core*. 3rd ed. Wadsworth Publishing

Monk, R. (2001). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Crime and Criminology*. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill.

Course Goal

The student should have a deeper understanding of crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crime; past and present theories; evaluation of prevention, control, and treatment programs and the future trends of criminological theory and criminal justice systems.

Class lectures will be conducted according to a lecture-discussion format. Lectures and presentation materials will help clarify points made by the author(s). Discussions (a major emphasis in the class) will help other students think critically about criminology and what it means to society as a whole and the criminal justice field in particular. It is crucial that students come to class prepared having read the required material for class and having completed any other tasks or assignments that are required. Films, other video presentations, and guest speakers will be utilized to try and critically evaluate criminology and its importance in society. Criminology and the criminal justice system do not exist apart from the people who make, enforce, and suffer from it.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn and have fun in the process.
2. To introduce the student to research and theories that are relevant to understanding crime and deviant behavior in the 21st Century.
3. To increase our understanding of the criminological theory and how this impacts ourselves and society as a whole.
4. To provide a forum for students to express their ideas and feelings regarding the criminal justice system and how it responds to people.

Attendance Policy:

It is expected that students attend class and be prepared to discuss the scheduled topic. Attendance will be taken at every class session. Please note that in class assignments/discussions/free writes are a portion of your grade and absences, for any reason, will begin to influence your grade.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements:

Student course grades will depend on:

Test #1	20%	Grade: _____
Test #2	20%	Grade: _____
Test #3	20%	Grade: _____
Issue Papers	15%	Grade: _____
Current Events	15%	Grade: _____
Participation	10%	Grade: _____

Grades indicate either superior (A), good (B), satisfactory (C), passing (D) or Failing (F) evidence of, among other things, the student’s grasp of the subject matter; critical evaluation of the subject matter; and ability to organize, analyze, and integrate ideas.

The following is the course grade distribution:

- A 90-100
- B 80-90
- C 70-80
- D 60-70
- F 59 and below

TESTS: Tests will consist of multiple choice, true/false questions, and essay questions. The tests will cover material presented in class as well as material for the assigned readings in the textbook.

PLEASE BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU TO THE EXAMS

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE PAPERS: Current Event Papers will be one page in length and will be due every THURSDAY. These papers will correspond to the readings assigned to you for the Taking Sides Book. The paper should be a discussion of the 2 positions on the issue. I do not want you to give me a synopsis of the writings. I am looking for your thoughts, ideas, opinions, etc... **Each individual paper must be a minimum of 300 words.** Failure to submit an assignment on Thursday will result in a 10 point reduction from your Controversial Issues Grade. Students will be expected to talk about their papers in class.

CURRENT EVENTS PAPERS: Current Event Papers will be one page in length and will be due every Thursday. These papers can be related to anything that pertains to our understanding of crime and criminology, although attention should focus on class related material. The paper should be a discussion of an article found in the news media. I do not want you to give me a synopsis of the article. I am looking for your thoughts, ideas, opinions, etc. This can be obtained from a newspaper, magazine, or the internet. Please attach a copy of the article with your synopsis. **Each individual paper must be a minimum of 300 words.** Failure to submit an assignment on Tuesday will result in a 10 point reduction from your Current Events Grade. Students will be expected to talk about their current events in class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: As noted above class participation is essential to the learning process and facilitates class discussions. Although attendance in class is important it is also necessary to be an active participant in learning. The instructor may place students into groups and facilitate discussions on a variety of topic areas that relate to criminology. Students are expected to contribute.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: It is expected that students conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others. The instructor will not tolerate disrespect of others. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited. **THIS INCLUDES TEXT MESSAGING AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS.** It disrupts your learning and the learning of others around you. This class is only one hour and 15 minutes in duration. If you cannot commit your full attention to class for any reason, please do not ruin the class for those who want to learn. The professor reserves the right to ask any student to leave if their behavior is disruptive (this includes students who are perceived to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs).

E-mail Accounts:

Every student is issued an e-mail account by the university. The university uses this account to contact students with messages from the Administrative and other offices. Students in this class are required to access their university e-mail account. You will, on occasion, be receiving information about the class and materials through this account.

FAILURE TO HAVE AN ACCOUNT OR HAVE ACCESS TO IT IS NOT A FAILURE ON MY PART TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

Make Up Policy:

Make-up exams will not be given. There is a strict make-up policy for the exams. Instructors are not under any obligation to give a make-up exam unless the student has a valid excuse that can be supported by appropriate documentation (i.e. Dr.'s note) Only one make-up exam will be given. If you do miss an exam it is your responsibility to notify me and to get the make-up taken. Each make-up will be short answer and essay, and each must be scheduled and taken before the next exam.

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

University Policy on Disability:

If a student has a disability which qualifies under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing address: 118 College Drive, 8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; Telephone: (601) 266-5024; TTY: (601) 266-6837; Fax: (601) 266-6035.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

The reading assignments for each class week are noted below. These reading assignments are the required reading for that particular class period and topic. It is expected that we may deviate somewhat from the time schedule as we spend more time on some topics and less on others. Nevertheless, unless stated in class you are expected to come to class with the days reading completed. Exams will include all reading material assigned up to the time of the exam, including those not discussed in class.

Important Dates to Consider

Last Day to Drop with 100% financial refund: Sept. 1
 Last Day to drop without academic penalty: Sept 30
 Fall break: October 8-9
 Last Day to file for Spring 2009 Commencement: Nov 6
 Thanksgiving Holiday: November 25-27
 Final exam week: December 7-10
 Graduation: December 11th

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topics	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	Introduction	
	The Criminal Justice System	Chapter 14
Week 2 -	The Criminal Justice System	Chapter 14
Week 3 -	Crime and Criminology	Chapter 1
	Crime v. Deviance	
Week 4	The Nature and Extent of Crime	Chapter 2
Week 5	Victims and Victimization Victimless Crimes?	Chapter 3
Week 5	Exam 1	Thursday September 18th
Week 6	Classical/Choice Theories	Chapter 4
Week 7	Biological/Trait Theories	Chapter 5
Week 8	Social Structure Theories	Chapter 6
Week 9	Social Process/Social Learning/Social Control	Chapter 7
Fall break No Class Thursday		

Week 10	Social Process/Social Learning/Social Control	Chapter 7
Week 11	Exam 2 Critical Criminology Developmental Theories	Tuesday Oct 21 Chapter 8 Chapter 9
Week 12	Violent Crime Property Crime	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Week 13	White Collar Crime Cyber Crime	Chapter 12
Week 14	Sexual Deviance	Outside Readings
Week 15 Thanksgiving Week No Class on Thursday	The future of Criminology	
Week 16 Last class Day Dec 1		

By signing this sheet I acknowledge receipt of the syllabus for AJ 325 Fall 2009 and have read and understand the requirements, including but not limited to the policies on academic honesty, attendance and use of cell phones and computers during class.

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date

CELL PHONE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

It is the policy of the professor to restrict the use of cell phones and laptops in class due to access to Google, text messaging, music, etc. Students who fail to follow this policy will face the following consequences:

1st Offense: freebie

2nd offense: reduction of ONE LETTER GRADE off of final course grade

3rd Offense: reduction of ONE ADDITIONAL LETTER GRADE off of final course grade

4th Offense: student will fail the course with a grade of F

Students who have special circumstances that require that their phone remain on or on vibrate must submit these to me in writing by the 2nd class day.

By signing this sheet I acknowledge that I have read and understand the cell phone and technology policy

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date