

AJ 325 –CRIMINAL JUSTICE THEORY
University of Southern Mississippi ~ Fall 2009
MW 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. CH 110

Instructor: Wendi Goodlin

Office: 120 Arthell Kelley Hall

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **AND ALWAYS** by appointment

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Required Textbooks:

Hickey, Thomas J. 2008. Taking sides: Clashing views in crime and criminology (8th Edition). McGraw-Hill. (ISBN No. 0073397210)

Williams, Stanley “Tookie” & Cottman, Barbara. 2001. Life in prison. Chronicle Books. (ISBN No. 1587170949)

Recommended Textbook:

Siegel, Larry. 2008. Criminology: The core (3rd edition). Thomson Wadsworth Publishing. (ISBN No. 0495094773)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an overview of the criminal justice system
- To comprehend theories and explanations of crime
- To understand current trends in crime

ATTENDANCE:

Although an attendance grade will not be assigned, students, whether present or not, are responsible for all assigned readings, materials presented in class, class discussions, assignments, and any announcements concerning course procedures or changes in the course schedule. If you do not attend class regularly, it is unlikely that you will do well in the class.

GRADING SCALE:

Your grade will be based on three exams in the course, with each constituting 20% of your final grade. Each exam will be based on material from the readings as well as material from lecture and class discussion. Exams **MUST** be taken on the scheduled date unless there are **serious extenuating** circumstances (e.g. **YOU** are in the hospital), which are determined by the instructor. **Also, you MUST let the instructor know the serious extenuating circumstances PRIOR to the start of the original exam time.** Appropriate documentation from a physician, clinic, or hospital **MUST** be provided for documentation in order to make-up an exam. Failure to take the exam on the scheduled date can result in a one-half letter grade penalty per day. A score of zero will be assigned after two weeks have elapsed. If a make-up exam is given, it will be an alternative version to the original exam.

Because this is a writing-intensive course, 30% of your grade will be based on papers that you will write frequently throughout the semester. **These papers are to be at least three typed-pages in length.** Some are to be based on assignments given to you throughout the semester and others are to be based on the readings from Hickey (2008) and should discuss both positions of the issue. **I do not want you to give me a synopsis of the writings; rather, I want you to express your thoughts, ideas, and opinions of the issue and the sides that were presented. Also, I want you to discuss what theory/theories can be used to solve or be applied to the issue AND how this issue affects the criminal justice system.** Please see <http://www.usm.edu/aj/goodlin.htm> for additional Writing Tips. Papers are due by the day and time they are scheduled to be turned in (please see

the **tentative** schedule at the end of the syllabus). **Late papers will be accepted but for every day late (including the weekends), your grade will drop one-letter grade. E-mail submissions will NOT be accepted.** Your last name and page number **MUST** be included on every page (except for the first page) in case your papers become loose. In addition, **headings for EACH paper should look like this:**

Your Name
Dr. Wendi Goodlin
AJ 325 (Fall 2009)
Date Due
Paper #, Issue #

Grading Scale for Each Paper:

A = 95% = Answered ALL FOUR questions thoroughly, cited correctly, & NO grammatical errors

B = 85% = Answered all four questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 5 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer one of the four questions

C = 75% = Answered all four questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 10 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer two of the four questions

D = 65% = Answered all four questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 15 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer three of the four questions

F = 0% = Failure to turn-in an assignment

An additional 5% of your grade will be based on signing and submitting the last page of the syllabus stating that you understand the classroom policies and rules and USM's plagiarism policy to Dr. Goodlin **by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th**. Failure to do so will result in a "0" for 5% of your grade. **DR. GOODLIN WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT!**

The last 5% of your grade will be based on completing the Plagiarism Tutorial (found on the Library's website at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>) and e-mail BOTH your PRE- AND POST- scores to the instructor by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th. Failure to e-mail BOTH scores by the schedule time will result in a "0" for 5% of your grade. **DR. GOODLIN WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT!**

Your grades for the semester will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90% and above
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

Final Grade Based on Above Scale

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Writing Assignments	30%
Academic Honesty Statement	5%
Plagiarism Score Assignment	5%

Final Grade = (Exam 1*0.20) + (Exam 2*0.20) + (Exam 3*0.20) + (Average of Writing Assignments*0.30) + (Academic Honesty Statement*0.05) + (Plagiarism Score Assignment*0.05)

Although a “class participation grade” will not be assigned, you are encouraged to ask questions and initiate class discussion. Those who contribute regularly increase the likelihood of receiving a higher grade in the course, especially for those who have a borderline grade.

COURSE POLICIES:

- Extra credit work will **NOT** be accepted under any circumstances.
- E-mailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted under any circumstances.
- Incompletes are warranted **ONLY** under unusual or extenuating circumstances. A grade of “INC” will be assigned **only if prior and explicit arrangements have been made with me.**
- You will receive a failing grade if all requirements for the course are not completed.
- When sending e-mails to the instructor, **ALWAYS** include your name!
- **THE USE OF CELL PHONES, PAGERS, LAPTOP COMPUTERS, AND PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS (PDAS) IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS. THIS INCLUDES TEXT MESSAGING. CELL PHONES, PAGERS, AND PDAS MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS. IF THESE ELECTRONICS ARE USED IN CLASS, DR. GOODLIN WILL ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University’s general Codes of Conduct defined in the *USM Student Handbook*. Specifically, the Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not cheat, fabricate, plagiarize or facilitate academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is scholarly theft, and it is defined as the unacknowledged use of secondary sources. More specifically, any written or oral presentation in which the writer or speaker does not distinguish clearly between original and borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Because students, as scholars, must make frequent use of the concepts and facts developed by other scholars, plagiarism is not the mere use of another's facts and ideas. However, it is plagiarism when students present the work of other scholars as if it were their own work. Plagiarism is committed in a number of ways:

1. Reproducing another author's writing as if it were one's own.
2. Paraphrasing another author's work without citing the original.
3. Borrowing from another author's ideas, even though those ideas are reworded, without giving credit.
4. Copying another author's organization without giving credit.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. An act of plagiarism may lead to a failing grade on the paper and in the course, as well as sanctions that may be imposed by the student judicial system.

According to the USM Undergraduate Bulletin “When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by The University of Southern Mississippi.”

As a reminder, students must sign and return to Dr. Goodlin the sheet at the end of the syllabus stating that they understand USM’s academic honesty policy and also understand that if they do not uphold the

standards of academic honesty, the instructor will enforce all applicable punishment by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th. Failure to do so will result in a score of “0” for 5% of your grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

In accordance with University policy, if a student has a disability that qualifies under the American 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 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.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi Office for Disability Accommodations 118 College Drive # 8586 Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232 Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the *Mississippi Relay Service* at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy requires that every reasonable effort be made to allow students to observe religious holidays without academic penalty. It is the student’s obligation to provide the instructor with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which he or she will be absent. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons, however, does not relieve the student of responsibility for completing required work that is missed. Following the necessary notification, the student should consult with the instructor to determine what appropriate alternative opportunity will be provided to allow the student to fully complete his or her academic responsibilities.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, & EXAMS:

Crime and Criminology: Aug. 24 & 26
Read: Siegel Chapter 1 & Williams (2001)

The Criminal Justice System: Aug. 31 & Sept. 2
Read: Siegel Chapter 14

SEPT. 7: LABOR DAY ~ NO CLASSES!

Nature and Extent of Crime: Sept. 9 & 14
Read: Siegel Chapter 2

Victims and Victimization: Sept. 21 & 23
Read: Siegel Chapter 3 & Hickey Issue #5

Review for First Exam: Sept. 28

FIRST EXAM: SEPT. 30 BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!

Biological/Trait Theories: Oct. 5 & 7
Read: Siegel Chapter

Choice Theories: Oct. 12 & 14
Read: Siegel Chapter 4

Social Structure Theories: Oct. 19 & 21
Read: Siegel Chapter 6

Social Process Theories: Oct. 26 & 28
Read: Siegel Chapter 7 & Hickey Issue #17

Review for Second Exam: Nov. 2

SECOND EXAM: NOV. 4 BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!

Developmental Theories: Nov. 9 & 11
Read: Siegel Chapters 8 & 9 & Hickey Issue #16

Violent Crimes: Nov. 16 & 18
Read: Siegel Chapter 10

Prostitution and Pornography: Nov. 23 & 30
Read: Outside Readings

Review for Final Exam: Dec. 2

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Paper Due Dates

- 1st Aug. 28 (Social Norms)
- 2nd Sept. 11 (Issue #16: Should Marijuana be Legalized?)
- 3rd Sept. 25 (Issue #5: Racial Profiling)
- 4th Oct. 16 (Sheriff Joe)
- 5th Oct. 30 (Issue #17: Three-Strikes Law)
- 6th Nov. 20 (My Life of Crime)

This schedule is tentative in nature and Dr. Goodlin reserves the right to alter this schedule throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **SEPT. 1: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES W/O FINANCIAL PENALTY**
- **SEPT. 30: EXAM 1**
- **SEPT. 30: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES W/O ACADEMIC PENALTY**
- **NOV. 4: EXAM 2**
- **NOV. 6 LAST DAY FOR GRADUATION APP.**
- **DEC. 10: FINAL EXAM (7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.)**
- **DEC. 11: GRADUATION**

Please Sign and Return the following page to Dr. Goodlin by Friday, August 28th by 5:00 p.m. Failure to return this sheet by this time will result in a “0” for 5% of your grade.

By signing this document, I acknowledge receipt of the current syllabus for AJ 325 (Fall 2009) and I have read and understand the course policies and classroom rules. In addition, I understand USM’s academic honesty policy and also understand that if I do not uphold the standards of academic honesty, Dr. Goodlin will enforce all applicable punishment. I also understand that I am not to use cell phones, pagers, computers, PDAs, or any other electronic devices in class and if I fail to adhere to this rule, I will be asked to leave the classroom.

Student Printed Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date