

**CJ 325 – Criminal Justice Theory – Summer 2011**  
**Writing Intensive Course**  
**Syllabus**

Professor: Hayden Griffin  
Email: hayden.griffin@usm.edu  
Office: Arthell Kelley Hall 117  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Class Meeting Time: MTWRF 8:00-5:00  
Classroom: TEC 106

**Course Objectives**

This course teaches students the core concepts of criminology/criminal justice including: the origins and subfields of criminology/criminal justice, how crime is defined and measured, issues affecting victims of crime and leading theories that attempt to explain crime. Since this is a writing intensive course, students will be responsible for writing more than 5000 words. To satisfy this requirement a student will write two short essays the week of the mini-session and one longer paper that will be due a month after the mini-session ends.

**Course Materials**

Required Textbook: Siegel, Larry. (2011). *Criminology: Core Edition*. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning.

**Course Management**

This course will primarily be a lecture-based course. Occasionally the instructor will have in-class exercises that will be considered as part of the student's participation grade. Attendance and participation are expected and will be evaluated as part of the student's final grade.

**Course Evaluation**

- 1) Attendance and participation will comprise 10% of your final grade.
- 2) Two reading-reaction essays of three to four pages each (Double-spaced, Times-New Roman, 12-point font) will comprise 10% of your final grade (Each essay is worth 5% each). The parameters of the assignment will be given in class and the essay will be due the following day.
- 3) A seven to eight page paper (Double-spaced, Times-New Roman, 12-point font) will comprise 20% of your final grade. For the paper, the student must choose one criminological theory to analyze (subject to approval by the professor). The paper should begin by explaining what the main components or ideas of the theory and what the theory attempts to explain. The paper must include a literature review of at least five articles taken from peer-reviewed journals (such as *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Journal of Criminal Justice* or *Law and Society Review*). The paper then must follow one of three paths: (1) A student may either design a program (based upon the theory chosen) the student believes will decrease crime; (2) A student must describe what laws or values in American

- society need to be changed or altered (based upon the theory chosen) to decrease crime; (3) A student must describe how the theory they have chosen relates to some issue in criminal justice. Each student must go to the writing center at least once with either a draft or outline of their paper topic. Failure to go to the writing center will result in a one-letter grade deduction on the assignment. Please keep in mind the paper will be due one month after the mini-session ends.
- 4) Test 1 will comprise 30% of your final grade.
  - 5) Test 2 will comprise 30% of your final grade.

### **Final Grade Scale**

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F <60

### **Attendance**

All students are expected to attend every class.

### **Late Work**

All late essays will face a one point deduction per day and late papers will face a two point deduction per day they are late until the value of the assignment reaches zero. Assignments will not be accepted beyond this date.

### **Submission of Work**

Essays and papers will not be accepted via e-mail unless the student receives prior approval and some necessity exists for the electronic submission of the work. Additionally, papers turned in that consist of more than one page must be numbered and stapled together.

### **Class Conduct**

Please turn off or silence all cell phones and pagers before class begins. Those that repeatedly disrespect the learning environment in this manner will be asked to leave.

### **Students Needing Accommodations**

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](mailto:Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu)

### **Honor Code**

All students are expected to abide by the Honor Code of The University of Southern Mississippi. Although students may study together in groups no collaboration is allowed on your individual papers or case briefs. If you have any questions about either of these assignments please see me and I will be more than happy to help you out. It should be noted that many violations of the Honor Code are the results of misunderstandings regarding honor policies.

### **Tentative Schedule**

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| May 23  | Chapter 1: Crime and Criminology, pp. 3-24<br>Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Crime, pp. 26-57             |
| May 24  | Chapter 3: Victims and Victimization, pp. 58-81<br>Chapter 4: Choice Theory, pp. 82-105<br>Essay 1 Due         |
| May 25  | Chapter 5: Trait Theory, pp. 106-133<br>Chapter 6: Social Structure Theory, pp. 134-165<br>Test 1              |
| May 26  | Chapter 7: Social Process Theories, pp. 166-195<br>Chapter 8: Critical Criminology, pp. 196-223<br>Essay 2 Due |
| May 27  | Chapter 9: Developmental Theories, pp. 224-251<br>Test 2   |
| June 27 | Papers Due   |