

**CJ 325 – Criminal Justice Theory**  
**The University of Southern Mississippi - Spring 2010**  
**Class Time: 5:10 p.m. - 6:25 p.m. – Tu & Thu – College Hall 110**

**Instructor:** Marcos L. Misis, M.S.  
**Office:** 120 Arthell Kelley Hall  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.  
**Phone:** 601-266-4509 (Front Desk)  
**E-mail:** [Marcos.Misis@usm.edu](mailto:Marcos.Misis@usm.edu) [Best way to reach me]

**Required Textbooks:**

Clifford R. Shaw. **The Jack-Roller: A delinquent boy's own story.** The University of Chicago Press—Revised edition (December 15, 1966). ISBN: 978-0226751269

Sudhir Venkatesh. **Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets.** Penguin. ISBN: 978-0143114932

**Recommended Textbooks:**

Larry J. Siegel. **Criminology: The Core (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).** Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 978-0495094777

Frank P. Williams & Marilyn D. McShane. **Criminology Theory.** Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0135154618

**Course Objectives**

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

**Course Requirements**

- Text and handout materials must be read before the day's discussion. The student must be prepared to ask and respond to questions and participate in class discussions.
- I am going to provide you with a set of notes to make readings easier. **You need to print the notes, read them before our next meeting, and bring them to class.** Notes will be posted at <http://www.usm.edu/cj/misis.htm>
- Attendance and punctuality are extremely important. Thus, students are expected to arrive to class on time and do not leave early before the end of the class (If you leave the class early, it will count as an absence). You are allowed **FIVE (5) justified or unjustified absences in this class.** If a student has more than 5 absences, he or she will fail the course—No exceptions. If you come to class 15 minutes after the start of the

class, it will be considered an absence. Please remember that what is said in class during the lectures is exam material. Thus, it is very important for you to attend class.

- Those students with less than 3 absences during the semester will receive 10 extra points towards their final grade.
- **LAPTOPS, PDA'S, CELL PHONES, PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY DURING CLASS. TEXT MESSAGING IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS AND ANY STUDENT FOUND USING ANY OF THESE DEVICES WILL BE ASK TO LEAVE THE CLASS.**

## Examinations

- There will be **Three (3)** examinations in this class. Exams may be composed of but are not limited to short essays, fill in the blank, true/false, matching, or multiple choice questions. Exam questions may come from materials covered in the textbook, the notes provided by the instructor and class discussions. Exams will be composed of 50 questions. Each question will be 2 points for a total of 100 points (unless specified otherwise).
- 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. Appropriate documentation from a physician, clinic, or hospital **MUST** be provided for documentation in order to make-up an exam. No make-up exams will be given for the final exam. Each make-up will be short answer and essay.
- Make-up exams **MUST** be taken within a week after the scheduled date of the exam and questions may be more difficult than the ones in the original test.

## Written Assignments

- This is a Writing Intensive Course as established by the University of Southern Mississippi. Consequently, you are required to write no less than 5,000 words during this semester. This is a university policy that must be followed by this instructor and the students.
- There will be a required two (2) written assignment for this course; one for each book required for this course. Each written assignment will be no less than 2500 words (excluding words on the title page). Each assignment has to be double-spaced, 12-point type, Times New Roman, one inch margins on all sides, and left justified. Further instructions will be provided later in the semester.
- No late assignments will be accepted and considered for grading. Assignments are due at 5:10 p.m. on the assigned date.
- The written assignment will be worth it 100 points towards your final grade. Paper grades will be a reflection of the following
  - Grasp of the subject matter
  - Critical evaluation of the material
  - Ability to organize, analyze, synthesize, integrate ideas, and express thoughts fluently.
  - Proper use of grammar and spelling.

**Semester grade based on:**

1. (3) Exams (300 pts)
2. (2) Written Assignment (200 pts)

**Course Grade Computation:**

Letter Grade	Performance	Percentage
A	460 points or more	90 - 100
B	420 - 459 points	80 - 89
C	380 - 419 points	70 - 79
D	340 - 379 points	60 - 69
F	339 points or less	0 - 59

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is the transfer, receipt or use or the attempted transfer, receipt, or use of academic information in a manner not authorized by the instructor or by university rules. It includes but is not limited to cheating and plagiarizing as well as aiding or encouraging another to commit academic dishonesty. Cheating is defined as wrongfully giving, taking or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding oneself or another on academic work. This includes but is not limited to a test, examination, presentation, experiment, or any written assignment which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. Academic dishonesty also includes submission of materials for which students have already received a grade, either in the current course or a previous course. To avoid any confusion, students must inform the course instructor when the student is submitting a paper on a topic that the student has researched for another course. Plagiarism is the taking or attempted taking of an idea, a writing, a graphic, music composition, art or datum of another and presenting or attempting to present is as ones own.

According to the USM Undergraduate Bulletin “When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the students 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.”

**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 Herbert at [Suzanne.Herbert@usm.edu](mailto:Suzanne.Herbert@usm.edu)

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Monday, February 1: Last date to drop and receive financial credit

Monday/Tuesday, February 15, 16: Mardi Grass—No Classes

Wednesday, March 3: Last day to drop without academic penalty

Monday to Friday, March 15-19: Spring Break—No Classes

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 11 From 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### **Schedule of Topics, Readings & Exams**

January 19: Class Overview, Review of the Syllabus

January 21: Concepts

January 26: Concepts

January 28: The Classical School

February 2: The Classical School

February 4: The Positive School

February 9: The Positive School

February 11: Emile Durkheim

**Tuesday, February 16: MARDI GRASS. NO CLASSES**

February 18: The Chicago School

February 23: The Chicago School

**Thursday, February 25: FIRST EXAM**

March 2: Differential Association Theory

March 4: Differential Association Theory

March 9: Anomie Theory

March 11: Anomie Theory

**Tuesday, March 16: NO CLASSES. SPRING BREAK**

**Thursday, March 18: NO CLASSES. SPRING BREAK**

March 23: Subculture Theories  
March 25: Subculture Theories

**Tuesday, March 30: FIRST PAPER DUE→THE JACK-ROLLER**  
Class Topic: Labeling Theory

April 1: Labeling Theories  
April 6: Conflict Theories  
April 8: Conflict Theories

**Tuesday, April 13: SECOND EXAM**

April 15: Social Control Theories  
April 20: Social Control Theories  
April 22: Social Learning Theory  
April 27: Social Learning Theory

**Thursday, April 29: SECOND PAPER DUE→ GANG LEADER FOR A DAY**  
Class Topic: Gender-Based Theories

May 4: Rational Choice Theories  
May 6: Flex-Day

**MAY 11—7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. : FINAL EXAM**

**Note: The schedule above is a tentative daily class schedule. It is a guide for this course, not an absolute. The instructor reserves the privilege and discretion to modify the course outline throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any modifications.**

By signing this sheet I acknowledge receipt of the syllabus for AJ 325 Spring 2010 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.

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Student Signature Date

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Student's I.D.