

SOCI 2336

Criminology Course Syllabus Spring 2011

Associate Professor: Jane Hellinghausen; MA, Sociology; MS, Criminology; BA Sociology

Course Information

SOCI 2336 Criminology (45.0401.5125) (3-0) 3 hours. An in-depth study of current theories and empirical research pertaining to crime and criminal behavior and its causes, methods of prevention, systems of punishment, and rehabilitation. (SCANS 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Prerequisite: None.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in:

- 1) Defining terms central to the measurement of crime, criminological theory and victimology;
- 2) Summarize crime trends and describe how various factors are suspected to influence crime rates including the economy, number of at – risk youth in the population, criminal; justice policies, social indicators and other factors;
- 3) Explaining how characteristics including ecology, firearms, gender, social class and race are associated with crime and victimization patterns;
- 4) Differentiating between the core causes of crime presented in each of the major perspectives (choice, trait (biology and psychology), social structure, social process and social conflict);
- 5) Categorizing individual theories into their respective branches and branches into to their appropriate perspectives;
- 6) Evaluating the validity of explanations for crime based on personal examples and available data;
- 7) Identifying and understanding the functions of Criminal Justice System in the US and various approaches to crime and punishment;
- 8) Familiarity with organizations and web sites relevant to the field of criminology and
9. Improved Information and Communication Technology skills.

Required Material/Student Must Purchase:

Text: Conklin, J. Criminology (10 th ed.). 2010. Upper Saddle Ridge, NJ: Prentice Hall

Criminology Spring 2010 Semester Schedule

Week of	Read Chapter	Quiz	Discussion Topic	Writing Assignment
January 18 – 22	1 The Study of Crime		Introduction Posts Communication area	Course Orientation
Jan 23 – 29	2 Measuring Crime			Orientation due 1/29 midnight
Jan 30 - February 5	13 Criminal Justice System	1(1 – 2)	1	
Feb 6 – 12	14 Det, Inc, Retribution and Rehabilitation		1	1
Feb 13 – 19	3 Crime and Costs	2 (13 – 14)		
Feb 20 – 26	4 Dimensions of Crime		2	2
Feb 27 – March 5	5 Biological/Psychological Explanations	3(3 – 4)	2	
March 6 – Mar 12	6 Social, Cultural, Economic Sources of Crime	4 (6-7)		3
March 13- 19		Spring	Break	
March 20 – 26	7 Social Control and Commitment to the Law	5 (8-9)	3	4
March 27 – April 2	8 Learning to Commit Crime		4	
April 3 -9	9 Opportunities and Facilitating Factors	6 (10-11)	4	
April 10 – 16	10 Criminal Careers			5
April 17 – 23	11 The Organization of Criminal Behavior	7 (12-13)	5	
April 24 – 30	12 Community Reactions to Crime		5	6
May 1 – 7	15 Solving the Crime Problem	8 (14-15)		
May 8 - 14				

Important Dates:

http://www.odessa.edu/catalog/schedule/SP11/pg03_academic-calendar.pdf

Course Assignments

All assignments are explained under the **Assignments** button of the course homepage.

There is no final exam per se in this class; quiz 8, discussion 5, and writing assignment 6 serve as your final. Even if you are satisfied with your points at this time, you must complete ALL of these! If you do not complete ALL these, you will fail the course as per the OC policy that any student who does not take the final exam fails the course.

Course Evaluation:

Your final grade is determined by the following:

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|---|------------|
| 1. Introduction Post | 10 points |
| 2. The Course Orientation | 60 points |
| 3. Multiple choice quizzes (8 at 30 points each) | 240 points |
| 4. Written assignments/essays (6 at 75 points each) | 450 points |
| 5. Small group discussion (5 at 50 points each) | 250 points |

1000 points

Final Grading Scale:

880 - 1000 points =	A
780 - 879 points =	B
680 - 779 points =	C
580 - 679 points =	D
Under 579 points =	F

Attendance policy:

Please note that if you fail to check into the course and check your OC email 3 times each week, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade!

Communication Policies:

Students must check in to the General Discussion Board AND to her/his OC email account AT LEAST 3 times per week. The General Discussion board is for all communication related to the course. This includes questions, comments, and requests for clarification. Please note, however, if the answer to a student question is to be found within the course web site, she will be returned to the site to continue to look for the answer to the question. I will email you each week about the weeks' work due.

Student names and SOCI 2336 should be included in all emails; if an email without this information is sent it will be returned to the sender.

If you email the instructor, she will respond in a very timely manner. You are expected to acknowledge her reply and indicate that she has addressed your concern. You should therefore check email for a response if you sent the instructor an email.

DO NOT communicate in texting (r, u, c, etc) format. This is not college level communication; this includes emails to instructor, in small discussion groups, on the General Board and on any assignments. Use of texting will result in returned emails and no credit on assignments.

Other Policies and Procedures:

Checking in to the Course – students are required to check in to the course at least 3 times each week (General Discussion Board). Announcements and updates can be found there. Students should read all posts there. Email should be checked 3 times each week, especially if you have emailed the instructor.

Submitting assignments – writing assignments will be prepared in word processing documents and saved in files that are submitted on the assignments page. All documents should be double spaced and have your name on them. You should also conduct a spell – check on all assignments. Save them to your hard drive and/or to a flash drive.

Late Submission Policy:

Late work is not accepted except under special circumstances. Acceptance of late work is up to the instructor's discretion. If you feel you have a unique situation/circumstance that prohibits your meeting a deadline, you should communicate it to me privately via email. Students are strongly encouraged to communicate any problems to the instructor in a timely manner.

Incomplete Policy:

A grade of "Incomplete" may be given only if (1) the student has passed all work completed, and (2) he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

Instructor Response Time:

The instructor will respond to emails and bulletin board posts with 24 – 48 hours of receiving them. If she will be unavailable for any length of time for any reason, she will post such a message in the announcements area and on the general Discussion Board.

Statement of Academic Dishonesty:

Ethics, Cheating and Plagiarism "Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism." "Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken material, of course, from whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, and, indeed, phrases. but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. "Someone else" can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing "service" (online or otherwise), which offers to sell written papers for a fee."

(statement taken from <http://webster.commnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>)

I do not tolerate cheating in any form. If you plagiarize an essay or cheat on an exam once, that assignment will receive a "0." If you plagiarize or cheat the second time, you will receive an "F" in the course.

“Cutting and pasting” any information from any Internet source is considered cyber plagiarism and will result on a 0 for the first offense and an F in the course for any subsequent offenses.

See the section on "Scholastic Dishonesty" in the updated Odessa College *Student Handbook*.

See <http://www.riosalado.edu/library/tutorials/Pages/avoidingPlagiarism.aspx>

Statement of Special Accommodations:

In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities. Students with a disability should contact *ADA Accommodation/Support personnel* Becky Rivera-Weiss @ 432-335-6861 or brivera@odessa.edu

Computer skills:

Students should be able to navigate the Internet and conduct required research, create word processing documents and navigate the course web site. Students must also be able to use email, attach files and use various features of Blackboard.

Other Skills: Is an online course right for You?

Please see http://www.odessa.edu/de/online_courses/student_resources/rightforme.htm

Preparation for Computer Emergencies

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Server problems

When the Blackboard server needs downtime for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing the time and the date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems your course instructor will send an email.

Complete Loss of Contact

If you lose contact with me completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Blackboard or email), you need to call me at my office, 335-6555, and explain the reason you cannot contact me and leave me a way to contact you.

Lost/Corrupt/Disappeared files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, I may/will request you to resubmit the files. In other words, if you submit a document to me, and I either do not receive it (lost in cyberspace) or it is corrupted when I open it, it is incumbent upon you to resend it to me, corrected, with little or no "downtime" in regard to the timeline for submission.

Computer Requirements and Settings:

Please see http://www.odessa.edu/de/online_courses/blackboard/requirements.htm

Email: Students enrolled in Odessa College courses must use Odessa College email. Please go to <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/> to set up your computer if you have not already done so.

