SWRK 126 is an advanced study writing intensive course. You must have passed the Writing Placement for Juniors (WPJ) or the equivalent to be enrolled. The course requires active student participation and a great deal of writing. The course analyzes various theories of crime in terms of their logic, historical origins and policy implications from a critical perspective. The course addresses the following issues:

- **THE SCOPE AND DEFINITION OF CRIME**: before investigating the merits of various theories of crime, we must first understand how crime is defined and prosecuted, as well as its extent in different forms throughout the society. We will especially examine the interrelationship of class, race and gender with the definition and scope of crime.

- **THEORIES OF CRIME**: we review the development of major theories of crime in the 20th century, paying special attention to the values and ideology which motivate and organize these theories.

- **TOWARDS A THEORY OF CRIME**: based on a critique of theories of crime we will begin to construct the elements of a plausible theory of crime, included in this will be an examination of specific types of criminal behavior.

- **IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY**: throughout the class, we will address the policy and program implications of various theories of crime.

### Learning Objectives and Outcomes

**A.** Understanding how and why defining certain types of behavior are defined as criminal; demonstrated in writing assignments, examinations, and class discussions.

**B.** Developing an historical perspective on how different theoretical explanations of criminal behavior have evolved over time and the impact on changing populations; demonstrated in writing assignments, examinations, and class discussions.

**C.** Analyzing the criteria, definitions and data utilized in developing theories of criminal behavior; demonstrated in writing assignments, examinations, and class discussions.

**D.** Examining the theoretical explanations of several specific criminal behaviors; demonstrated in writing assignments, examinations, and class discussions.
**Course Expectation**

At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to critically examine and discuss theoretical explanations for criminal behavior.

**Course Requirements**

1. As an advanced study writing intensive course you must write a minimum of 8000 words throughout the semester. To meet this requirement there will be five essay assignments, as well as a final examination. All take-home assignments must be typed (double-spaced, 12 point font). Use the APA format for all papers. For information on correct APA format see the University Library Reference Desk Web sites.

2. **You must complete all of the assignments to pass the class.**

3. Active participation in class discussion not only enhances your learning experience, it will help your grade.

4. **A two to three page (typed) take-home essay is due September 17, 2010. Please explain why you think people commit crimes and any personal experiences you have had with crime. Discuss the strengths and limitations of your explanation. Be prepared to read/discuss your essay in class. It is worth 50 points.**

5. There will be two take home midterms exams. Each exam is worth 100 points and will cover materials from class lectures, discussions, and readings.

6. The final exam will have two parts, an essay to be written outside of class and an in-class short answer exam during finals week. The essay is due at the final exam. Each part is worth 50 points, for a total of 100 points.

7. The research essay requirement is described at the end of the course syllabus. The essay is worth 200 points.

8. There will be weekly quizzes on the assigned readings. In general a question will be given at the end of the previous class. Each quiz will be worth 2 points. If you are absent for a quiz, it can not be made up. The points for quizzes are extra credit.

9. There will be ‘no fault’ writing assignments made throughout the semester. They are designed to help you understand the subject under discussion. These brief (150 words) papers written in class will not be graded. You do receive an extra credit point when they are turned in. If you are absent you can not make it up. The points for ‘no fault’ assignments are extra credit.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At CSUS plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person’s contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporation of another’s work into one’s own requires adequate
identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge. Plagiarism at CSUS includes but is not limited to: not only word-for-word copying, but also the "mosaic" (i.e., interspersing a few of one’s own words while, in essence, copying another’s work), the paraphrase (i.e., rewriting another’s work while still using the other’s fundamental idea or theory); fabrication (i.e., inventing or counterfeiting sources), ghost-writing (i.e., submitting another’s work as one’s own) and failure to include quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged; and representing as one’s own another’s artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works. At CSUS, it may result in a lowered grade, a failed grade for the course, suspension, or even expulsion.

Often, the writer does not intend to plagiarize but has failed to cite sources properly. It is important to avoid plagiarism by understanding what needs to be cited and how to properly cite all sources used.

For additional University policies on plagiarism see:
http://library.csus.edu/guides/rogenmoserd/general/plagiarism.html

Writing Style: Apply the basic APA (American Psychological Association) style for all written assignments both in the main text and in citing references. Copies of the APA manual are available in the library. All written assignments should be typed and double-spaced. They must be mechanically and stylistically acceptable. Serious deficiencies in areas such as spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and coherent organization will result in lower grades. See the following APA tutorial for citations.
http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm
Sample references:
http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/sample-references2.pdf

Students with learning disabilities, who require assistance, will need to contact the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities for coordination of academic accommodations. It is located in Lassen Hall 1008. Contact at 916.278.6955 or 916.278.7239.

GRADING POLICY
Grading is based on the Advisory Standards for Writing in the Undergraduate Program.

A EXCELLENT--A paper in this category
• Addresses the assignment thoughtfully and analytically, setting a challenging task.
• Displays awareness of and purpose in communicating to an audience.
• Establishes a clearly focused controlling idea.
• Demonstrates coherent and rhetorically sophisticated organization; makes effective connections between ideas.
- Provides clear generalizations with specific detail, compelling support and cogent analysis.
- Cites relevant sources and evaluates their validity, effectively integrating them into text when appropriate.
- Displays superior, consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English.

**B STRONG--A paper in this category**
- Addresses the assignment clearly and analytically, setting a meaningful task.
- Addresses audience needs and expectations.
- Establishes a clearly focused controlling idea.
- Demonstrates clear and coherent organization.
- Provides clear generalizations and effective support and analysis.
- Cites relevant sources, effectively integrating them into text when appropriate.
- Displays consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English.

**C ADEQUATE--A paper in this category**
- Addresses the assignment with some analysis.
- Addresses most audience needs and expectations.
- Establishes a controlling idea.
- Demonstrates adequate organization.
- Provides support for and some analysis of generalizations.
- Cites relevant sources, effectively integrating them into text.
- Displays adequate control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English; errors do not slow the reader, impede understanding, or seriously undermine the authority of the writer.

**D SERIOUSLY FLAWS--A paper in this category**
- Addresses the assignment inadequately.
- Shows insufficient audience awareness.
- Strays from the controlling idea, or the idea is unclear.
- Displays formulaic, random, or confusing organization.
- Lacks generalizations, or provides generalizations with inadequate support or analysis.
- Fails to cite sources or cites and/or integrates them inappropriately.
- Shows deficient control of syntax, word choice, and convention of Standard English; errors impede understanding.

**F FUNDAMENTALLY DEFICIENT--A paper in this category**
- Fails to address assignment.
- Demonstrates a lack of audience awareness.
- Lacks a controlling idea.
- Lacks organization or organizes illogically.
- Displays inability to generalize, analyze, or support ideas.
- Fails to use outside sources or misuses the texts of others.
- Shows inadequate control of syntax, word choice, and convention of Standard English.
Grading is based on the assumption that the paper deserves a C grade (on the midterm that is approximately 70 points).

Assignment #1: 50 points (short essay)
Assignment #2: 200 points (research essay)
Assignment #3: 100 points (#1 midterm)
Assignment #4: 100 points (#2 midterm)
Assignment #5: 100 points (final exam, 2 parts, each worth 50 points)

Total number of points in class is 450.
All quizzes and 'no fault' writing assignments count as extra credit.

A, A- = 550 to 495  C+, C, C- = 439 to 385  F = 329 and below
B+, B, B- = 494 to 440  D+, D, D- = 384 to 330

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Required Reading**


SacCT: Readings for SWRK 126 Theories of Criminal Behavior

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 September 3**
Introduction to Class; Definition of Terms, Scope of Crime

Speaker: University Writing Center.
**Readings:** Start Krakauer, J. (2004). *Under the banner of heaven.* Due 10/1/10. See study guide on SacCT.

**Week 2 September 8**
How to do research: topic selection, format etc.
Defining Crime; Crime and Punishment; What is Theory?

Class meets in Library 2022
**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapter 1; Krakauer.
Review Library Plagiarism Information at: http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=360
Complete the plagiarism quiz at:
http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/selector.htm
(Quiz cites San Jose State’s plagiarism policy, which is not different from Sac State’s policy)
Print out quiz to discuss in class.

**Week 3  September 17**  Short Essay Due
General Discussion of different explanations of crime (bio/psych/social)

**ASSIGNMENT:** Please explain why you think people commit crimes and any personal experiences you have had with crime. Discuss the strengths and limitations of your explanation. Be prepared to read/discuss your essay in class. *It is worth 50 points.*

**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapter 2; Krakauer.
Movie: Bowling for Columbine

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**RESEARCH TOPIC DUE 9/24/10**

**Week 4  September 24**  Biosocial Explanations

**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapter 3; Krakauer

Movie: The Madoff Affair (60 minutes)

**Week 5  October 1**  Psychosocial Explanations

**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapter 4.
Krakauer, J. (2004). *Under the banner of heaven.* **DUE**
Movie: A Dangerous Business (60 minutes)

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**REFERENCES DUE 10/8/10**

**Week 6  October 8**  Psychological/Sociological Explanations

**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapter 5;
**Start** Butterfield, F. (1995). *All God’s children.* **DUE 11/5.** See study guide on SacCT.
Movie: Little Criminals

**Week 7  October 15**  Sociological Explanations

**Readings:** Barlow, Kauzlarich, Chapters 6 & 7; Butterfield.

**Week 8  October 22**  Violence/Drugs

**Midterm #1 Available on SacCT. Due 11/05/10**
Readings: Barlow, Kauzlarich, Epilogue; Butterfield.


**Week 9 October 29**

OUTLINE and THESIS STATEMENT DUE

Violence/Drugs

**Readings:** Butterfield.


Movie: The Meth Epidemic

**Week 10 November 5**

Violence/Drugs

Midterm #1 Due

**Reading:** Butterfield, *All God’s children*. DUE

Movie: Enron

**Week 11 November 12**

Corporate-State Crime

Midterm #2 available on SacCT; Due 12/2/10

**Reading:**


Movie: A Dangerous Business Revisted

**Week 12 November 19**

Corporate-State Crime

Draft Workshop

**Readings:**


**Bring in three (3) copies of your TYPED draft. If you do not turn in a draft on this date you automatically lose 25 points for the assignment**

Movie: Black Money

**Week 13 November 26**

Thanksgiving

**Week 14 December 3**

Genocide
Midterm #2 Due

Readings:

Week 15  December 10  Restorative Justice; Summary; Review.

***FINAL RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE In Class***

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 17:  Short Essay
September 24:  Research Topic
October 8:  References Due
October 22:  Midterm #1 available on SacCT
October 29:  Outline and Thesis Statement
November 5:  Midterm #1 Due
November 12:  Midterm #2 available on SacCT
November 19:  Research Paper Draft Due
December 3:  Midterm #2 Due
December 10:  Research Paper Due
December XX:  Final Essay + Short answer exam
RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to refine your research and writing skills. **You will be graded on content and form.**

Select a specific crime you are interested in studying. The subject must be approved by the Instructor.

Your research paper must include the following:
- How extensive is the problem;
- The identified primary and secondary offenders;
- The identified primary and secondary victims;
- What types of punishments are given;
- How do theories of criminal behavior explain this specific crime;
- What are the limitations and strengths of the theories of criminal behavior in understanding this crime?
- Incorporate the course assigned readings in your analysis.

Your paper should be approximately 8 to 10 typed pages.

Useful Library Resources:
- [http://library.csus.edu/guides/amatab/CriminalJustice/CJhandout.htm](http://library.csus.edu/guides/amatab/CriminalJustice/CJhandout.htm)
- [http://library.csus.edu/guides/rogenmoserd/krist/socialwork.html](http://library.csus.edu/guides/rogenmoserd/krist/socialwork.html)

**DUE DATES**

**September 24, 2010:** a one paragraph typed description of your research subject. You must turn in this description with your final paper. (25 points)

**October 8, 2010:** a typed reference list with a minimum of six (6) references that you will be using to write your paper. (25 points)

Use the APA format (see the Reference section of the Library) for proper citation format. The references must include at least **four different articles from academic journals. The articles must have been published between 1995 and 2010.** The other references may be books published before 2000. If you are unsure if your references are appropriate, please see me **before** the due date, or you will lose points on this assignment. **You can not have more than one citation from the same journal.** The following journals are NOT acceptable as academic journals for your paper:
- Crime Control Digest
- Criminal Law Reporter
- Financial World
- GAO
There are other journals that are also not acceptable, but these are ones used by many students. **If you are not sure if a journal is acceptable, check with me before the list of references is due.**

You may use two references from the Internet. These references must be in approved by the instructor.

Turn in original list with final paper.

**November 5, 2010** typed outline and thesis statement are due. You must turn it in with your final paper. (25 points)

**November 19, 2010** typed draft due. You must bring in three copies of your draft to the class. These copies will be given to other students to read and give you feedback. The draft must include the introduction and at least 5 pages of text. (25 points)

**December 10, 2010** Final paper is due. All materials previously turned in for this assignment MUST be attached to the final paper.

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS