OVERVIEW OF COURSE

Course Description

This course focuses on the study of particular social behavior, which is defined as criminal. It is designed to explore the relationship between the state, law and morality. Traditionally, “crimes without victims” referred to consensual, non-harmful behavior between or by adults that is subject to legal penalties or controls. At different times, this behavior is criminal, and at other times it is legal. In our society the nature and consequences of “victimless crime” has always been controversial.

The following questions will be addressed and discussed during this semester: Is the behavior inherently wrong? Is the behavior morally harmful? Who does the behavior harm? Who determines the applicable standard of morality? What is the distinction between public order and private morality? Should the state intervene in issues or conduct that concerns private morality? If so, how and under what circumstances? Should our society do anything about drug or alcohol addiction, prostitution, pornography, abortion, homosexuality, gambling, and suicide? This course will explore these questions and in particular try to understand why certain behaviors are criminalized.

This course will also explore who is targeted for enforcement of laws focusing on consensual behavior and what ideologies and values guide our policies with respect to “crimes without victims”.

A note from the Course Instructor: For classroom learning to take place, there must be lively class discussion and tolerance for our differences. This must take place in a “safe” environment, where there is empathy and understanding for the personal pain that could exist for many individuals who may have experienced/or are experiencing one or more of the crimes/social issues discussed this semester. The primary responsibility for creating this safe space lies with the course instructor. However, all participants in this course will share this burden, through the respect and courtesy they demonstrate during every discussion. For many students, this course, because of the dynamic and meaningful content, can serve as a turning point in some unexpected way. Students can be tremendously helpful to other students in sharing their feelings and realizations.
Learning Objectives (All GE Area D2)

A. Understanding how and why certain types of behavior are defined as criminal.

B. Understanding the historical perspective on how the different theoretical explanations of these behaviors have changed over time.

C. Understanding the criteria, definitions and data utilized in developing theories regarding this behavior.

D. Examining the theoretical explanations of specific criminal behaviors.

Measurement of Learning Objectives

Learning objective A will be measured by the research assignment issue #4

Learning objective B will be measured by the answer to question 2 of Assignment #2

Learning objective C will be measured by the answer to question 2 of Assignment #1

Learning objective D will be measured by the answer to question 1 of Assignment #1

Course Expectation

At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to critically examine and discuss “victimless” criminal behaviors from a variety of perspectives.

Course Requirements

1. All take-home writing assignments must be typed (double-spaced). All assignments must use the APA format for footnotes and bibliography. (Always keep a copy of your papers.)

ANY ASSIGNMENT TURNED IN LATE MAY LOSE UP TO TWENTY-FIVE (25) POINTS FOR EACH DAY IT IS LATE. YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THE CLASS.
2. It is expected that students will be in attendance at each class meeting. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions not only enhances your learning experience but also will help your grade. Students with more than two unexcused absences, students and who are chronically late (‘lateness’ is arriving to class at 12:10 pm or later) may expect to be graded down. Role will be taken at the end of each class. Students who leave class early and who do not respond to the role may be marked as ‘absent’ and will not receive credit for attending that class.

3. Two exams will cover materials from class lectures, guest speakers, discussions, readings, videos, and handouts.

4. Non-Graded Final Exam – this is a C.S.W.E.requirement for all SW134 students.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading is based on the assumption that a paper deserves a C grade (on the basis of 100 points that is approximately 70 points). For example, an A paper (approximately 90 points) will clearly communicate your understanding of the topic under discussion; it will be well organized and will fully develop the ideas discussed in class. It will be written in a clear and concise fashion with little ambiguity. It will also make clear references to the assigned readings and show that the writer has thought carefully about the topic. There will be no grammatical or syntax errors.

A B paper (approximately 80 points) will contain some but not all of the strengths of the A paper. It is also a well-written paper, but the examples will be less specific, clear, or appropriate than those in the A essay.

A C paper like the A and B essays will be organized around the assigned topic and will directly discuss the topic. It will be organized but in a less clear and concise manner. Transitions will be weak and there will be repetitiveness and a poorer use of examples. The essay will communicate the basic information, but not in a clear, effective or persuasive fashion.

A D paper (approximately 60 points) is too general; it lacks a direct and specific focus on the topic. It is poorly organized and does not provide documentation and support for the topic. It is a poorly constructed essay that makes it very difficult to follow the information and argument that is being presented.

An F paper (approximately 50 points) fails to even minimally discuss the assigned topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>50 possible points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment # 1:</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
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<td>Assignment # 3:</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment # 2:</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
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Total number of points in class = 400 points
Students with learning disabilities, please talk with me immediately.

The Course Instructor reserves the right to change the assignments, exams and readings during the semester as deemed appropriate for student learning.

COURSE OUTLINE

Required Text Books


Jacobs, Bruce A., Investigating Deviance – An Anthology (Roxbury Publishing Co.) 2002

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT FOR FALL 2006

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

Select a particular “victimless” crime that you are interested in studying. The Instructor must approve of the subject.

Your research paper must discuss the following issues:
1. How extensive is the conduct in society;
2. Who are the primary participants involved;
3. What do you believe is the primary motivation for the conduct?
4. Why is the conduct considered criminal, offensive or deviant?
5. What types of punishments are given for this conduct?
6. Does the punishment fit the “crime”? Justify your response.

Your paper must be minimum of (10) typed pages.

Important Assignment Benchmarks:

✔ Week 4: September 29, 2006 – You must turn in a brief typed description of your research subject (Two paragraph minimum).

✔ Week 7: October 20, 2006 – You must turn in a typed bibliography with a minimum of ten (10) references that you will be using to write your paper. Use the APA Manual (see the Reference section of the Library) for proper citation format. The bibliography must include at least four different
articles from academic journals. The articles must have been published after 1995. Other references may be books. The books must have been published after 1994. Internet sources are permitted. If you are unsure if your references are appropriate, please see me before the due date, or you will lose points on this assignment. **If you do not turn in a bibliography that day you will lose 25 points from the final grade for the paper.**

- **Week 11: November 8, 2006** – You must submit a typed outline of your research paper. **If you do not turn in an outline that day you could lose 25 points from the final grade for the paper.**

- **Week 14: November 29, 2006 Research Paper WORKSHOP** - A typed ‘FINAL DRAFT of your paper is due. You will need to bring in 4 copies of your research paper. It should be in its ‘final form’. You will join a group and share 3 copies with the other students in the group. One copy will be given to the course instructor. **Students who do not participate in the rough draft workshop and do not turn in a draft that day may lose 25 points from the final grade for the paper.** Note: these points may not be made up.

- **Week 16: December 8, 2006** - Your Research paper is due in class.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** When you are writing your research paper you must use the APA Citation format. Your paper will be graded on form as well as its content.

**Assignment #1** – Please answer both questions: due Week 10, November 3, 2006: (3-5 pages double spaced)

1. Analyze the theories and explanations of why most Americans oppose the legalization of prostitution.

2. Compare and contrast the various arguments for and against pornography.

**Assignment #2** – due week 13, November 22, 2006: Please answer all questions: multiple choice in-class exam comprised from the readings, lectures, suggested films, guest speakers, and or handouts.

**NOTES ABOUT THE C.S.W.E. EXAM.**

This non-graded exam is required by the C.S.W.E. and may consist of 3-5 multiple choices and/or true-false covering the course objectives.

The exam will be taken in class during **week 15 or 16** and will not affect the student’s grade for the course.
Class Schedule

**Week 1 & 2:** What is meant by ‘crimes without victims’?

Introduction to course goals & objectives. What is meant by ‘deviant behavior’? What is meant by ‘victimless crimes’? Defining ‘victimless crimes’.

*Readings:* Chap. 1 in Meier and Geis; Chap. 2-4 in Jacobs

**Week 2 & 3:** Deviance & Morality.

*Readings:* Chap. 5-7 in Jacobs

*Movie:* Crash

**Week 4 and 5:** Prostitution/Sex Work/Heterosexual Deviances Part 1

*Reading:* Chap. 2 in Meier and Geis. Chap. 29, 30, and 33 in Jacobs. Research Topic due.

*Movie:* Atlantic City Hustlers; Born To The Brothel

**Week 6:** Drugs

*Reading:* Chap. 3 in Meier and Geis; Chap 18 – 20 in Jacobs. Bibliography due.

**Week 7:** Homosexuality/Transgenderism

*Reading:* Chap. 4 in Meier and Geis, Chap.31 in Jacobs

*Movie:* The Middle Sex

**Week 8 and 9:** Abortion

*Reading:* Chap. 5 in Meier and Geis.

*Movie:* Citizen Ruth

**Week 10 and 11:** Heterosexual deviance: Part 2 - Pornography.

*Reading:* Chap. 6 in Meier and Geis. Assignment #1 due; Outline Due.

**Week 12:** Gambling

*Readings:* Chap. 7 in Meier and Geis.

**Week 13:** Exam
Week 14: Writing Workshop/Feedback

Week 15: C.S.W.E. Exam

This non-graded exam is required by the C.S.W.E. and may consist of 3-5 multiple choices and/or true-false covering the course objectives. The exam will not be graded.

Week 16: Class Summary
Research Paper Due

Crimes without Victims: *Overview of class readings and class lectures.*

Week 17: Finals’ Week