OVERVIEW OF COURSE

I. Course Description

This course focuses on the study of particular 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? Is there a 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, 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”.

II. 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.
III. 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

IV. Course Expectation

At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to critically examine and discuss these types of behaviors from all perspectives.

1. All written assignments must be typed (double-spaced). All assignments must also use the APA format for in-body citations and bibliography. The APA Manual may be found as a reference reserve in the Main Library.

   Remember to always keep a copy of your paper and keep the assignments returned to you to ensure accuracy of your progress and grade.

   SPEAKING OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING OF THEM:

   ANY ASSIGNMENT TURNED IN LATE WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE TWENTY-FIVE (25) POINTS FOR EACH DAY IT IS LATE.

   ALSO: 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 activities and discussions not only enhances your learning experience but also will help your grade. Students with more than two unexcused absences and/or students who are chronically late (‘lateness’ is arriving to class at 6:40 pm or later) may expect to be graded down). Students who leave class early, who leave class at the class break or who do not respond to the role will be marked as ‘absent’ and will not receive credit for attending class on that date.
V. Course Requirements

A. Two (2) take-home written mid-term assignments each five (5) pages in length and each worth one-hundred (100) pts. Each mid-term paper will be a series of questions you will be required to answer

1. Each mid-term will cover information from materials from class lectures and readings, guest speakers, discussions, videos, and handouts presented in the class up to that point.
2. Each mid-term must be in APA format for structure including running head, headers on each page and in-body citations (if used) and bibliography.
3. Mid-term length does not include cover page or bibliography page.

B. One (1) Research Assignment worth 200 pts.

The purpose of the research assignment is enhancing your study and investigative abilities, deepen and open your understanding of a selected victimless crime and further your written communication skills.

The Research Assignment requires the student to select a particular "victimless" crime or deviancy’, for example, prostitution or gambling that you are interested in studying. In your paper please discuss the following:

1. Why is this behavior considered a victimless crime or deviant?
2. How extensive is this victimless crime or deviancy in our society;
3. Who are the primary people involved in this victimless crime or deviancy?
4. What types of punishments, if any for this victimless crime or deviancy (here’s tip: sometimes the punishment may not necessarily mean jail or fines)?
5. Which theory (or theories) discussed in class this semester help explain why this victimless crime or deviancy occurs in society today?

Remember: the paper must include the following to receive full credit:

✓ Do insure your bibliography meets the requirement of a minimum of ten (10) peer-reviewed or academic journals or books (e.g. Newsweek, Time, Police Bulletin, McCalls or Psychology Today are not considered peer-review or academic journals)
✓ Tip: Peer-reviewed or academic journals have references at the end by professionals in the same or similar field as the author
✓ A minimum of five (5) references must be from peer-reviewed or academic journals dated no later than 1997.
✓ Do not use the course texts as part of your required ten (10) reference sources (you may however, use them but only as additional reference sources)
Do make sure that the articles and books are dated no later than 1997 (articles presented later will not be accepted)
Do select different articles from different journals or books to broaden your understanding of the topic
Do not select two articles from the same journal [say article A and article B from the same issue of SOCIAL WORK] as this is not acceptable;
Once you have selected an article from a journal you may not use the same journal again even the date or issue of the journal is different [using an article from the January 2006 & then using an article from the August 2006 issues of SOCIAL WORK is not acceptable]
Do make sure the course instructor approves of your bibliography before citing them in the bibliography
Do make sure to cite all the articles from the material in your bibliography in the body of the paper.
Papers whose references noted in the bibliography but not cited in the body of the paper will be graded down
Do make sure to use APA format throughout the paper including running head, page headers, in-body citation and bibliography
Paper must be 10 pages maximum not including cover page and bibliography (no table of content will be required)

Please do not start your research until you have submitted the topic to the course instructor and he has approved your selection. Remember assignments that are researched without the course instructor’s prior approval will not receive credit.

C. Non-Graded Final Exam consisting of no-more than ten (10) multiple choice and true-false questions— is requirement by the C.S.W.E. for all SW134 students and does not effect the overall students final course grade. This exam is mandatory for all SW134 students in attendance and is given on the last day of class.

D. Role will be taken at the end of each class so plan to attend and arrive on time.

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 assignment given and the topic under discussion; it will be well organized with multiple references appropriately cited and will fully develop the ideas discussed in class. It will be written in a clear and concise fashion with little ambiguity. There will be no grammatical or syntax errors. Again, it will make clear reference to the assigned readings and show that the writer has thought carefully about the
subject matter.

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 their will be less references and examples given 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 subject. 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. References will be few and/or may not be cited appropriately.

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 of references to be cited to provide 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 or provide the required information of a college-level paper.

Assignment # 1: 100 points
Assignment # 2: 100 points
Research Assignment: 200 points
Total number of points in class = 400 points

A, A- = 400 to 360 B+, B, B- = 359 to 320 C+, C, C- =319 to 320
D+, D, D- = 279 to 240 F = below 240

Students with learning disabilities, please talk with me immediately.

The Course Instructor reserves the right to change the assignments, exams and readings/provide additional required readings during the semester as deemed appropriate to enhance the student’s learning.

COURSE OUTLINE

Required Text Books

Roxbury Publishing Company.


Supplemental Readings you will find interesting and useful:

Due dates:

Week 3, September 20, 2006, turn in a one (1) page typed description of your research topic. The typed submission should include

- The victimless crime or deviancy you wish to research
- Why you believe this victimless crime or deviancy exists in American society today
- What you hope to learn from this research
- How might your research into this topic help you as Social Worker

Week 7: October 18, 2006: turn in a typed bibliography with a minimum of ten (10) references that you will be using to write your paper. Students must use the APA 5th edition for proper citation format. The bibliography must include at least four (4) different articles from academic journals. The articles must have been published after 1997. Other references may be books. The books must have been published after 1997. 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 10: November 8, 2006: submit a typed outline of your research paper. Please ensure that the Outline identifies and describes in one (1) to three (3) paragraphs each component of your research paper as described in the syllabus under Course Requirement, section B. If you do not turn in an Outline that day you will lose 25 points from the final grade for the paper for each day that it is late.

Week 13: November 29, 2006: Research Paper Draft Workshop - A typed ‘FINAL DRAFT’ of your paper is due in class. You will need to bring in four (4) copies of your research paper. Again, the paper needs to be in its ‘final form’. as you will share 3 with the other students for review and suggestions in a group.

Do bring one (1) copy for your instructor to review. Papers will be returned to students at the end of this Research paper draft workshop for your revisions to your paper. Students who do not participate in the rough draft workshop and do not turn in a draft that day will lose 25 points from the final grade for the paper.

Week 15: December 13, 2006, Your Research paper is due in class.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Student’s research topic selected must be pre-approved by the Course Instructor. Also: When you are writing your research paper you must use the APA Citation format. Remember: your paper will be graded on form as well as its content.

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 and will not affect the student’s grade for the course.

A note from the Course Instructor: For classroom learning to take place, there must be class discussion and tolerance for our differences. Likewise, there should be empathy and understanding for the personal pain that could exist for many individuals who may have experienced/are experiencing one or more of the crimes discussed this semester. For many students, this course, because of the dynamic and meaningful content, will serve as a turning point in some unexpected way. Students can be tremendously helpful to other students in sharing their feelings and realizations.
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’ and deviancy.

Readings: Chap. 1 & 2 in Johnson

Week 2 & 3: Deviance & Morality.

Readings: Chap. 1 in Meier & Geis;

Week 3 & 4: Violent forms of deviancy ‘victimless crime’.

Reading: Chap. 3, 4 & 5 and 6 in Johnson.

Week 5, 6 & 7 & 8 Mental illness, addictive behaviors and sexual deviancy

Reading: Chap. 7, 8, 9 & 10 in Johnson; Chap. 2, 3 & 4 in Meier & Geis

Week 11: Abortion.

Reading: Chap. 5 in Meier & Geis.

Week 12 and 13: Property Offending, W/C and Organized Crime & Cyber Deviance

Chap. 11, 12 & 13 in Johnson

Week 14: Cyber, positive and ‘extreme forms’ of deviance

Chap. 14 & 15 in Johnson

Week 15: Deviance in the 21st century

Chap. 16 in Johnson

Review Crimes w/out Victims and deviancy: why are these topics important for Social Workers to know?