

## Course Syllabus

CJ& 112 Introduction to Criminology

Summer 2011

Dr. Michael Caldero

Office: Fully Online

Office Hours: Online Only

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Class meets online

Textbook: Textbook: Criminology: A Sociological Approach, Beirne and Messerschmidt, Oxford University Press,

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT:

The course is designed to make students aware that the objective of Criminology is the development of a body of general and verified principles and of other types of knowledge regarding the process of law, crime, and treatment or prevention. These bodies of knowledge are constructed from study and analysis conducted in accordance with the scientific principles of research methodology.

To accomplish these broad objectives, the course will be divided into three parts. Each part is necessary in order to adequately study crime and the theories that explain it.

1. The first part of the course will be dedicated to understanding what criminology is and how it came to be something that we study.
2. Second, we will examine all of the major theories in criminology. These theories explain crime as a social phenomena and individual criminal behavior in many different ways. Some theories explain criminal behavior as a deficiency in the individual, while others explain that crime occurs because of inadequacies within society.
3. The course will end with a more applied approach to study of crime. We will discuss different types of crime, and how these types can be explained using our theories from the previous section.

At the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of crime and criminology. This knowledge will enable you to view the relevant issues surrounding the question of criminal behavior from more than one perspective.

**Syllabus test:** During the **first week** of this course you will need to take the "syllabus test", it is worth ten points and can only be taken during the first week. Just click on the "syllabus test" icon **after** you have finished reading this syllabus.

You must have:

- Internet access
- Text
- An open mind

Technological Objective:

To master the simple use of any computer that happens to be available. Many of your assignments and readings will be located on the Internet. Outcomes: You will be expected to research information on a website. With that information, you will be expected to create a paper and to post your research in the discussion forum.

· Praxis Objective:

To recognize differences between theory, factual knowledge, and the application and synthesis of that knowledge in praxis. Outcomes: You will apply theoretical discussions to examples within their own institutions, as they relate to race and ethnicity. Focus on conceptually linking criminological theory to current events and personal narratives shared in discussions.

## **IF YOU WANT TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM CAREFULLY**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS:** If you want to score the maximum possible points for all your papers and discussion here is some very important information. **FIRST**, and most important is to be sure you utilize the APA referencing format in both the body of your work and at the end which is a "**reference**" page not a "bibliography" or a "works cited" page. The instructions for the APA format can be found on the class website, or the Bellevue College website or in the bookstore. I highly recommend that you find a book or manual that teaches you the APA format and use it carefully every time you do an assignment, this means a discussion as well as a paper. **SECOND**, utilize more than one reference. This means more than one outside source other than the text book. **THIRD**, do not use WIKIPEDIA as a reference, it is not a recognized source for any academic work. **FOURTH**, do not copy a classmate's work and do not paraphrase from a reference source unless you cite it properly. The idea behind these assignments (papers and discussions) is to encourage the production of proper scholarly activity and the pursuit of course directed research and knowledge through writings and peer interaction. Properly done research papers are the heart of college level learning and something you must learn to master if you expect to be successful in any educational or professional endeavor.

**Extra Credit Work:** If you want to hedge your grade a bit, especially if you have missed an assignment and need to make up points, you can do so by following these directions. Check the Bulletin Board regularly (just click on the website icon) and you will see that I often post topics and questions for you to research. I suggest you go the Bulletin Board right now and read the posting instructions. The first three students who do these three things will receive an extra credit grade point that will be added to your total grade score. **First**, research the topic. **Second**, post the reference you located concerning the topic (this means post the information or article not the url or website). **Third**, write a paragraph or two discussing or describing what you found, you can even express your personal opinion on the subject, and post it. If your work follows these guidelines and is timely (one of the first three) I will notify you through the Bulletin Board. These extra points can be a real grade saver by the end of the course, grab them when you can. And please note that just because three of your classmates have posted on a given extra credit subject this doesn't mean you shouldn't post yours, often times a posting does not receive credit because it doesn't adhere to these standards.

What you can expect in this class:

- Etiquette and Netiquette

Netiquette:

Threaded discussion posts in online course spaces are an integral part of online learning environments. A feeling of safety is basic for any collaborative dialogue. An overview of the process of creating and participating in a safe discussion environment is provided in the online course space.

Critical Engagement Criteria:

In addition to the netiquette guidelines for online collaboration, you will be expected to participate in the online discussions in a way that engages with the topic and with the other participants. An overview of the criteria used in this course to evaluate your participation through your original and response posts is provided in the online course space.

Critical Thinking

The ability to think and write critically is essential skills in many walks of life. Critical thinking skills are developed and refined through practice, self-reflection, and the critique and support of peers and instructors. Throughout this course you will have many opportunities to exercise your analytical thinking, synthesize information, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

Deadlines/Due Dates - All due dates and deadlines are firm. Late assignments (discussions and papers) will not be accepted under any circumstances.. The absolute final deadline for ALL course work is every designated Sunday no later than 11:55 PM PST. The final paper has a different due date which is 11:59pm PST on Friday, August 5th.

PLEASE NOTE that all papers and discussions must be submitted by the indicated dates and times, no late papers or discussions will be accepted under any circumstances so please don't ask. In addition, you MUST respond to at least two (2) other students discussions in order to receive ANY points for your discussion posting.

Exam question will be developed from three sources, your textbook, posted lecture material and Bulletin Board Posting (those of students and mine). Please note that lecture material will regularly be found on the Bulletin Board. You should also check your email often too.

Communicating - It is your responsibility to communicate to me any emergency and/or other situations in a timely manner (24 hours in advance) prohibiting you from completing an exam.

Groupwork: You may work in study groups on all exercises, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Cooperative learning groups are strongly encouraged, however, you may not, under any circumstance collaborate during the actual taking of any exam. The penalty for doing so is immediate failure of the class.

**WARNING: THIS IS NOT YOUR TRADITIONAL COURSE WHERE I LECTURE AND YOU QUIETLY TAKE NOTES. I ENCOURAGE A COOPERATIVE LEARNING APPROACH AS WELL AS SEVERAL EXPERIMENTAL AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING/LEARNING TECHNIQUES. GROUPWORK (PEER COLLABORATION), IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THIS COURSE!**

What you can expect for assignments:

1. Assigned textbook reading (About 2 chapters a week)
2. Four (4) (4 page minimum) Papers
3. Five (5) (2 page minimum) Discussions
4. One (1) Mid-term exam and One (1) Final Exam (both timed).
5. One Final Paper (5 page minimum length).

Discussions:

You will apply principles you are learning and participate in discussion with the online class on the information covered in the assigned reading. You must participate in each discussion and must respond to at least two (2) other student's discussions. Please remember that the above referencing instructions apply to the discussions as well as the papers.

**ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM DUE DATES**

Your papers and discussions will both be due on the following dates:

Discussion number one (introduction) **Sunday, July 3rd**

Paper number one and Discussion Number two, **Sunday, July 10th**

Paper number two and Discussion Number three, **Sunday, July 17th**

Paper number three and Discussion number four, **Sunday, July 24th**

Paper number four and Discussion number five, **Sunday, July 31st**

Final paper, **Friday, August 5th.**

The mid-term exam can be taken from **Friday, July 15th thru Sunday July 17th**

The final exam can be taken from **Friday, August 5th thru Sunday August 7th**

Grading:

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Your course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Mid-Term and Final Exam: 100 points (each) (200 point total)

FOUR 4 page papers: 25 points EACH (100 point total)

Discussion Board: FIVE 2 page discussions each worth 20 points (100 point total)

Final Paper: 100 points

Total 500 Points

Grades and Grading

- Grades on assignments are calculated using a 100-point scale
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A      A-      B+      B      B-

100-95   94-90   89-86   85-84   83-80

C+      C      C-      D+      D      D-      F

79-76   75-74   73-70   69-66   65-64   63-60   Below 60

All assignments are due on the dates listed in the assignment module: It is very important that you submit all assignments (papers and discussions) in a timely manner, please plan ahead. Planning is an essential element to the successful completion of online courses.

All assignments must reach me through Assignment drop box midnight on the due date.

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### Critical Engagement Criteria:

In addition to the netiquette guidelines for online collaboration, you will be expected to participate in the online discussions in a way that engages with the topic and with the other participants. An overview of the criteria used in this course to evaluate your participation through your original and response posts is provided in the online course space. You will be required to respond to at least two (2) other students postings in each discussion.

### Final Exam – Exam #2

Final Paper: (1) 5 Page Paper referenced in APA (see Bellevue College Writing Lab below for instructions to reference in APA Format) to be submitted via assignment drop-box

For all modules there are indeed chapter readings consisting of about 1 chapter a week. All of the necessary material is contained in the "lectures" and demonstrations in each week's module.

### Assignments:

General breakdown and basic description of assignments. Refer to full description of assignments in each week's module.

### Exam:

There will be two exams which will cover the course material. The exams are in multiple-choice. For each, your score on the exam will be the percentage of questions you answered correctly. It is important that you take these exams in a timely manner, please check the exam module for exact times and dates, and again, plan ahead.

The exams are each 90 minutes in duration, and are administered such that each question is shown on the screen. You can go on or return to a previous if needed. Further, should you not complete all questions before the 90-minute deadline, any unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect. This format makes it imperative that you begin the exam well-prepared.

## Plagiarism

The BCC Student Code is also very clear about the seriousness of cheating and the actions that faculty members are required to take in cases of plagiarizing: The BCC Student Code prohibits cheating, stealing, plagiarizing, knowingly furnishing false information to the college, or submitting to a faculty member any work product that the student fraudulently represents as his or her own work for the purpose of fulfilling or partially fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of a program of instruction. All forms of cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Instruction.

## Other Important Notes

### BCC Technical Support

#### Troubleshooting for WebCT or Vista

First: Check the WebCT Server Status page to find out if there are reported problems

Second: If the problem is with your class, not the system, contact your instructor to report the problem

Third: If you cannot reach your instructor, contact the Distance Education office at (425) 564-2438 or [landerso@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:landerso@bcc.ctc.edu)

#### Guide to Documentation, APA Style

Bellevue College writing lab website address: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/APA.html>

The Academic Tutoring Center offers one-on-one and group tutoring sessions for college credit courses.

Location: D204

Phone: (425) 564-2468

Students and community members can find career planning and job search assistance in the Career Center. The Center provides one-on-one career advising, classes and workshops, work-study and internship opportunities, and many computerized resources.

Location: B231

Phone: (425) 564-2018

Academic, career, and personal counseling services and credit classes are available to all enrolled BCC students.

Location: B234

Phone: (425) 564-2212

DRC provides advocacy and classroom accommodations, including specialized materials, technology and equipment for eligible students with disabilities.

Location: B132

Phone: (425) 564-2498 or 564-4110 (TTY line)

The Childcare Center provides affordable, quality childcare to children ages 3 months to 7 years, an on-site Head Start program, and resources and classes for parents.

Location: Building Q

Phone: (425) 564-2240

Educational Planning Resource Center

Advisors, counselors and resources are available for students who wish to transfer to a four-year university, pursue a career or are undecided about their major.

Location: B232

Phone: (425) 564-2437

Learning & Computer Labs

Many academic learning labs and nearly 1,300 computers are dedicated for student use at BCC. View our complete list of labs including those located in the library and across campus.

Location: Various

Library Media Center

In addition to traditional library resources, the LMC provides access to electronic periodicals, research assistance, books and publications, computers with Internet connections, material reservation, media lab, study rooms and other helpful resources.

Location: D124

Phone: (425) 564-225

Multi-Cultural Student Services (B233)



MCS provides culturally-sensitive academic and support services to BCC students. MCS services include outreach, advising, counseling, cultural events planning, and curriculum and policy development.

Location: B233

Phone: (425) 564-2208