

CJ 112 INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

Fall Quarter 2010

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Course Information

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of scholarly perspectives on crime and criminality. The course materials are organized around the themes of criminal motivation and responsibility. We will address questions such as: Why do people commit crimes? What can we do about it? And what are the best ways to hold them accountable? My highest priority is to help you gain knowledge and skills that will help you express your own informed opinions on crime. We will spend much of our time together discussing the readings and practicing critical thinking skills. Many of the questions we will address remain controversial and do not have a single 'right' answer. Throughout the course, I encourage you both to express your point of view (in an educated and respectful manner, of course) and to remain open to others' perspectives.

Course Outcomes

Objectives – At the conclusion of this course students are expected to be able to:

Within each chapter of the required text, the author had identified objectives for the respective chapter. As you read the assigned chapters, be sure to note these specific objectives. Many of these serve as the guide for lectures, assignments, and quizzes.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Delineate the historical development of criminology and criminal justice and the difference between the two disciplines.
2. Understand the significance of research as it relates to the discipline of criminology.
3. Identify the different methods for measuring and reporting crime data.
4. Describe the six broad different theoretical views of crime causation and their general focus.
5. Recognize the significant contributors to criminological theory and identify their primary writings.
6. Comprehend the significance of current issues in criminal behavior



7. Name the primary academic associations, websites, and academic journals in criminology.
8. What and how offenders are thinking before they commit their crimes
9. How skill and opportunity lead to the perpetration of various crimes
10. How the criminal calculus changes over the life span
11. How social contacts and skills can promote or discourage crime
12. How social conditions change offenders' decision-making processes
13. How to think critically about social responses to crime

How Outcomes will be met

Reading Assignments – Reading Assignments must be completed prior to the relevant class. You must be prepared to discuss the entire reading assignment in class. I may call on random individuals to answer questions related to the reading assignment.

Budgeting Your Time—The Social Science Division shares the expectations of the campus at large that students should plan on spending at minimum three hours outside of class for every hour in class. This class is one hour long per class, which would mean you should plan to spend at minimum three hours outside of class for one class. Students who have been away from the academic environment for an extended period of time, new to college settings, or international students should take note as this amount of time may be different than you might have expected. Preparation time may include reading (and re-reading!) textbooks, being part of a study group, completing chapter questions and assignments, outlining the class, creating index cards, or using other method of preparing for exams, etc.

Keys to Success in this Course – Throughout the course, I will share my suggestions for succeeding in this course. You can take note now that reading and re-reading the assigned materials will help enhance your understanding as will reviewing your class notes. Procrastination in this class, and in the legal profession, can be deadly and is not advised. If you experience overwhelm, disorganization, procrastination, or other difficulties in studying for this course, let me know – there are many tools to combat these problems, and I am here to help you succeed!

Here is the site for the student supplements for this book. To help you prepare for the exams, I suggest that you take any of the quizzes and review the interactive materials.

Grading

Your grade will be based upon attendance, participation in class and two exams to receive a passing grade in this course, students must complete all of the assignments and exams. Students must submit the assignments on the due dates. The instructor will grade each student individually on a possible total score of 450 points, which is structured as follows:



1. **Exams (200 points):** The exams are based on all of the assigned reading material regardless of whether or not we discuss the material in class. There will be two examinations - a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will consist of short answer questions and essay questions. Each exam will cover all the course work up to the date of the exam, both readings and in class discussion and performance. Tests may also cover handouts, material presented in class including but not limited to, lectures, videos, and guest lecturers. A portion of each exam will be drawn from material presented only in class. ***There will be no make up exams without advance approval from me.*** Such approval will be granted only for true family or medical emergencies. You are encouraged to take notes in class and to make outlines of the readings - *there will be no formal exam review in class, although I will set aside time during the class before each exam to address any issues that may need clarification or review.*
 - a. Midterms (200 points)
 - b. Final Exam (100 points)
2. **Research Paper (100 points):** The paper should be approximately five (5) pages, typewritten and double spaced. I will provide the topic and submission instructions and grading criteria to the students in separate documents.
3. **Class Participation & Attendance (50 points):** is required and expected. Since this course will focus on both mastering the relevant facts and developing the analytic and advocacy skills needed to use what you know, one cannot fulfill the course requirements without attending and participating in the class discussions and presentations. In addition to the above-referenced grading criteria, I do take into account the degree and quality of your class participation when determining the final grades. Thus, class participation can only help your grade and it is highly recommended. Also, the course exams will test both familiarity with the assigned readings and topics covered exclusively in class I will take attendance at every class. If you cannot attend class due to an emergent situation, e-mail or call me *in advance*.

Books and Materials Required

Required Text: Larry Siegel, **Introduction to Criminology**, 10th Edition, 2008, Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectation

All issues in society are subject to observation, analysis, and change. Crime is one of those issues that require our active understanding and comprehension as it makes up an integral part of our social reward and punishment. Hence to study crime is to study the underlying forces of society in any given time and at any given place. Crime and criminal justice--the subject matter of criminology--reflect society and its prevailing culture, that is, its history, economics, psychology, politics, and many other such factors that make up the totality of culture.

This course is designed not only to teach about crime and the study of crime, but is also intended to assist students in building marketable skills to use in their careers of choice, particularly those related to crime, law, and justice. Be aware of such skills and the possibility of building them throughout the quarter. The following skills are crucial for such careers:

1. Understanding criminological theory and research for policy and practice in law and criminal justice.
2. Understanding the relationship between theories of crime and public policy for criminal justice practitioners.
3. Acquiring methodological skills to evaluate studies and conduct research in law, marketing, research and development.
4. Honing critical thinking and writing skills for work in legal settings, industry, and government.
5. Developing oral argumentative skills for law, government, and policy.
6. Working together with others to develop social and team skills for industry and government.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Division Statements

The social sciences are often seen as occupying a position between the natural sciences and the humanities and to overlap with both types of disciplines. While the natural sciences concern processes that occur in nature and they attempt to discover the universal laws that govern these processes, the humanities deal with human activities that they seek to understand and from which they attempt to derive meanings. Are the social sciences more akin to the natural sciences or to the humanities? This is an issue that divides social scientists and is reflected in the diversity of approaches represented in social science courses.

Preventing Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't

document his/her source.

- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

A good resource for Plagiarism is the Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

Student Code

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.” The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to:

<https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> .

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Final Exam Schedule

The Final will be on Wednesday, 12/8/10 at 9:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. See this link for the official final schedule: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/classes/exams>

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

Week 1 (9/20)

Chapter 1. Crime and Criminology

Week 2 (9/27)

Chapter 2. The Nature and Extent of Crime

Week 3 (10/4)

Chapter 3. Victims and Victimization

Midterm 1 on 10/7

Week 4 (10/11)

Chapter 4. Rational Choice Theory

Chapter 5. Trait Theories

Week 5 (10/18)

Chapter 6. Social Structure Theories

Chapter 7. Social Process Theories

Week 6. (10/25)

Chapter 8. Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice

Chapter 9. Developmental Theories: Life Course and Latent Trait

Week 7 (11/1)

Midterm 2 on 11/1

Chapters 10. Interpersonal Violence

Week 8 (11/8)

Chapter 11. Political Crime and Terrorism

NO CLASS 11/11

Paper Due 11/12

Week 9 (11/15)

Chapter 13. Enterprise Crime: White-Collar and Organized Crime

Week 10 (11/22)

Chapter 14. Public Order Crime: Sex and Substance Abuse

NO CLASS 11/25 and 11/26

Week 11 (11/29)

Chapter 15. Cyber Crime and Technology

Final Exam on Wednesday, 12/8 from 9:30 am to 11:20 am.

Expansion

A NOTE ABOUT COURSE CONTENT: Since lawyers deal with just about every aspect of the social world, it is important that this class discuss and examine provocative and controversial material. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Keeping in mind that, when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning, and you may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to watch, see, discuss, or listen to. Please note, however, that you will be responsible for any course material you miss if you choose not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about content or climate, feel free to speak with me about it right away.

EXPLORE THE LMC! The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least once a week, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by email: reference@bellevuecollege.edu.

- **Main Library Media Center:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>
- **For the LMC online catalog:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/catalogs.html>
- **For article databases:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html>
- **Legal research tutorial** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/ba200/>

For all of your written work: Submit proofread work **only**. Work not proofread will be returned *once* for a rewrite, expected to be handed in within 48 hours. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- Academic Success Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
- TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>
- Writing Lab @ BCC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>