

**Criminal Justice 112**  
**(formally called Administration of Criminal Justice 271)**

**CRIMINOLOGY**

Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 11:30am to 12:30pm AND MOST WEDNESDAYS, ALL DAY. CHECK THE SCHEDULE POSTED ON MY OFFICE DOOR.

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**NOTE:** This class is taught in a **HYBRID** learning mode. This means that class meets "ONLY" on Tuesdays and Thursdays (**SEE SPECIAL NOTE**) During the remainder of the week you will be assigned special projects and web based assignments. I will explain more in class.

**SPECIAL NOTE: SEE THE "SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS" SHEET FOR DETAILS AS TO WHEN THE CLASS WILL MEET IN THE CLASSROOM AND WHEN IT WILL NOT. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.**

**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.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Criminology Today by Frank Schmalleger, Pearson/Prentice Hall publishers, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

Sense and Nonsense About Crime & Drugs, by Samuel Walker, Wadsworth, publishers

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**

Readings for this course will be assigned from chapters in the texts. Reading assignments will be discussed extensively in class as the course develops. In addition, assignments will be indicated on the website Bulletin Board.

**EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:** There are two ways to earn extra credit points in this class. One way is to earn "Big L" points. Big L's are earned when you respond to a question in class and the Big L bean bag is tossed to you. (this usually means you read the class material and/or have researched new material on the internet or through the library). If you receive the bag take a small piece of paper and print your first and last name on it, slide it under the rubber band on the bag and then toss the bag back to me (preferably when I am looking). The second way to earn extra credit is to respond to one of the extra credit topics I announce in class (a good reason to pay attention). In order to receive credit for the information you have researched here is the format you must follow. Write a paragraph or two describing the material you found and give your opinion of it. Post the paragraph **and** the link or article or other information you found, on the Vista Bulletin Board in the class web site. If the information is relevant to the assignment and done according to format I will respond to you in the class email and give you instructions to "print and bring" the posting to class. At this time you will print a hard copy of your posting **and write your name clearly across the top**. You will then bring the posting to class and turn it in to me. That's it... Each extra credit point you earn is a cumulative grade point. This means that after your exams are averaged the extra credit points are then added to your total score. Yes, this means that it is possible to score only C's on your exams and still earn an A for the class. PLEASE ALSO BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING. I will only give credit to the first three postings for any extra credit assignment and will not give credit for duplicate postings. I will not give credit for postings

which do not follow this format, in detail.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The first exam will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, and will be take place on , the second exam will cover chapters 4, 5, 6,. The third exam will cover chapters 7, 8, and 9.

### **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

The class assignments are three page papers which must be submitted on the schedule indicated on the class website. Please pay special attention to the attachments you utilize when posting the paper. There are special instructions on the website, be sure to read them. You must do seven of the eight papers, they will not be graded but if they are substandard they will be rejected and you will be notified. If you fail to do seven papers or if a paper is rejected and you do not re-submit it within one week after rejection you will receive a zero (0) for 25% of your cumulative score.

**EXAMS:** The first exam will Thursday, October 16th the second exam will be Thursday November 6th and the third exam will be held on Thursday December 4th. Please remember to bring a scantron form and number two pencil to each exam. It is especially important that you construct a study group and incorporate the helpful hints in your exam preparations. Peer collaboration is an essential element of this class and will be discussed extensively prior to the first exam. Each exam is valued at 100 points. THE THREE EXAMS MAKE 75% OF YOUR GRADE, THE CLASS PROJECTS WILL MAKE 25% FOR A TOTAL OF 100%. In addition there will be ample opportunities for extra credit points that will add to your cumulative score. These opportunities will be discussed thoroughly in class during the first day of class, I highly recommend that you be sure to attend not only the first day but every class session during the quarter. If you are not sure about this information please ask me in class.

### **TERM PAPER:**

In addition, a TERM paper will be required which will have a possible value of plus or minus FIVE (5)cumulative points. The format and content of this paper will be discussed in detail as class progresses. THE PAPER WILL BE DUE DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> and must be turned in (hard copy in class) prior to taking the last exam.

Your termpaper generates a score that can either take your cumulative test average up FIVE points or down ten points. That's right, if you fail to do the paper, or, if you do an unsatisfactory job, as much as **TEN** points will be deducted from your cumulative score after all three exams are added up and the total divided by three. On the other hand, if you do a good job as

much as FIVE points could be **added to** your cumulative score. If you want more information regarding this process please raise your hand or see me after class. Do not underestimate the impact of this writing assignment upon your course grade. And remember, any extra credit points or Big L points are also added to your cumulative score.

For the term paper do the following: Find a movie that depicts criminal behavior. Utilize as many theories of criminal behavior as you can to explain the crime that takes place. Be creative, you may even make up a theory of your own if you can justify it, (that means explain it logically). Your paper can be as long as you wish but must be at least five (5) pages, typed and double spaced. I suggest you use the first page or two explaining the entire story line, then explain the criminal behavior you wish to address and describe the theory that explains it. This paper will give you some real life understanding of how theory works and a better feel for it's relevancy to the body of knowledge called Criminology.

Your term paper is scored according to the following criteria: Content (does it cover the subject matter as directed), Structure, (grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.,) AND timeliness (papers will not be accepted after the last day of classroom lecture).

WITHOUT PRIOR "PERSONAL" NOTIFICATION (at least 24 hours prior to the exam) THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS GIVEN. Please do not leave messages regarding exam absences on my voice mail. In case of an emergency call my at office number or email me at the above address.

**One more very valuable suggestion. Pay special attention to the "Helpful Hints" that will appear on the website Bulletin Board, they will prove very helpful in preparing you for the three exams. In addition, construct a group to study with well before the exam time, it will pay great rewards in the final result.**

**GRADING POLICY:**

A	=	100-97%	C+	=	80-77%
A-	=	96-93%	C	=	76-73%
B+	=	92-89%	C-	=	72-69%
B	=	88-85%	D+	=	68-65%
B-	=	84-81%	D	=	64-61%
			<b>F</b>	=	<b>60% OR LESS</b>

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS CLASS PLEASE ASK THEM NOW OR SEE ME AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE