

Criminology - CRIM 232
MacMurray College
Spring 2011

INSTRUCTOR:

Gregg Anderson
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts,
Division of Probation Services
3101 Old Jacksonville Road

Springfield, IL 62704

Office Ph: (217)785-7584
Office FAX: (217)782-0546
Home Ph: (217)483-2849
E-mail: gla832@aol.com or
gregg.anderson@webmail.mac.edu
or ganderson@court.state.il.us

REQUIRED READING:

Siegel, L. (2011). **Criminology: The Core** (third edition),
Wadsworth.

Class handouts as provided by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective is to introduce students to the general field of criminology and its accompanying theories, while developing their critical thinking skills and enhancing their personal perspectives of the field of criminology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The following criteria will be used to measure the student's performance in class.

Case Studies:

Each student will be required to submit three (3) written case studies of serious felony offenses which have occurred between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. High profile cases such as serial killings to obscure and unusual cases are acceptable. Each case study should include a narrative that notes the following information: 1) the nature/type of offense; 2) the identity of the victim(s); 3) the offender(s); 4) location(s) of the offense(s); and, 5) the disposition(s)/sentence(s) of the case(s), if any. You may find information on a particular offense from newspapers, magazines, or the internet.

The case studies do not require references beyond identifying the source of your information, nor is there a particular format required. **They do need to be typed and consistent in format.** Each case study is worth 100 points, with a total of 300 points available.

Testing:

During the semester there will be a total of four (4) quizzes worth 100 points each. The three (3) highest scoring quizzes will be part of your grade, for a total of 300 points available from the quizzes. A final comprehensive exam will comprise 200 points. Arrangements must be made beforehand for making up any missed quiz

Paper:

A research paper is to be completed during the semester that analyzes a particular type of crime. Discussion should include particulars of the crime type such as statistics about the crime type, offender characteristics for that crime type, victim typology, crime scene tendencies, motives, recidivism characteristics, family issues, organic or genetic problems or issues of the crime type, economic impacts of the crime, in effect, anything that would be germane to the issue. The crime type should be one that interests you, such as: white collar crime; serial/mass murder; specific sex offenses; political corruption; organized crime; arson; etc. Your choices are finite but extensive.

Your sources may include journals, text books, books, magazines, internet, etc. However, you must cite a minimum of three (3) different sources. The papers should be a minimum of ten (10) pages double-spaced in length, with no maximum limit. Please remember that quantity does not always equal quality.

Concepts we will be discussing in class and presented in your text book should be addressed in the paper where appropriate. Do economics play a factor? Is there a certain type of victim with more appeal than others for any reason? What about social, biological or genetic factors? Is peer pressure a factor in the crime? How would the various theorists we will be discussing view your identified crime type and the offenders who commit them? Conclude your paper with a personal opinion/conclusion about the nature of the crime type that is based on more than person passion.

The research paper is worth 200 points. Grammar and spelling do count, but content and substance are more important. Papers must be turned in by the date indicated on the Course Schedule below. Late papers will not be accepted. Topic choices will be turned in on the date indicated. Outlines/Drafts of your papers can be reviewed for comment on the date indicated, however, this is not mandatory. Any final draft of the paper submitted prior to the due date can be resubmitted on the due date for grading reconsideration.

Participation:

Meaningful discussion cannot take place without all members of the class being present, therefore, attendance is expected but not required. However, extra credit will be offered at 2 points per class attended. Students unable to attend class will not be awarded extra credit unless the absence is excused in advance by the instructor or the college does so after the fact. There will be 1 point of extra credit offered for excused absences.

GRADING POLICY:

As previously noted, the case studies are worth a total of 300 points, the paper is worth a total of 200 points, three of four quizzes are worth a maximum of 300 points, and the final exam is worth a total of 200 points. The final grade for this course will be determined by the following point breaks:

900 to 1000 = A (90% and above)
800 to 899 = B (80% to 89%)
700 to 799 = C (70% to 79%)
600 to 698 = D (60% to 69%)
Below 600 = Failing the Course

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 11	Introduction & Chapter 1 - Crime and Criminology
January 18	Chapter 2 - The Nature and Extent of Crime
January 25	Chapter 3 - Victims and Victimization, Quiz #1 on Chapters 1 & 2
February 1	Chapter 3 & Chapter 4 - Choice Theory, Research paper topics due
February 8	Chapter 4 & Chapter 5 - Trait Theory, First case study due
February 15	Chapter 5 - Trait Theory
February 22	Chapter 6 - Social Structure Theory, Quiz #2 on Chapters 3, 4 & 5
February 29	Chapter 6 & Chapter 7 - Social Process Theories, Research paper outlines/rough drafts accepted
March 7	Spring Break - No Class
March 14	Chapter 7 & Chapter 8 - Social Conflict & Critical Criminology, Second case study due
March 21	Chapter 9 - Developmental Theories, Quiz #3 on Chapters 6, 7 & 8
March 28	Chapter 9 & Chapter 10 - Violent Crime: Personal & Political
April 4	Chapter 10 - Violent Crimes & Chapter 11 - Property Crimes, Research Papers Due
April 11	Chapter 12 - Enterprise Crimes, Quiz #4 on Chapters 9, 10, & 11, Third case study due
April 28	Chapter 12 - Enterprise Crimes & Chapter 13 - Public Order Crimes
April 25	Chapter 13 - Public Order Crimes & Chapter 14 - The Criminal Justice System
April 30	Final Exam - 5:30pm