

SOC 333
Survey of Criminology (3 units)
MWF 2:30-3:20pm
Spring 2011

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Nicholas Gibson

Office: Saunders Hall 222
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am-1:30pm, Tuesdays 4pm-6pm
Or email/appointment
Phone: (205) 265-1869 (If you leave a message, leave your name and callback number
clearly and slowly)
E-mail: gibsonn@hawaii.edu
Prerequisite: N/A

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Concepts used in crime, law enforcement, criminal justice, and corrections. Types of criminal behavior; costs and effects of control.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will examine the fundamental aspects of criminological theory, and its application to the study and understanding of crime, deviance, crime control and prevention. We will also explore the assumptions embedded within social point-of-views which color our sociological lenses and which we can critically evaluate in order to understand reflexivity. The four mid-terms and the final exam are essay-style answers to prompts, which will be influenced by classroom discussion, videos and readings. This course will involve in-depth small group discussions, along with short lectures and in-class presentations. **All students in this class will be expected to participate in small group work, larger classroom discussions and the presentation of all small group work to the larger class.**

3. LEARNING GOALS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

This course meets the University of Hawaii Diversification Requirements in the Social Sciences (DS) for the Core Competency standards for each of the following areas: Critical Thought, Communication, Civic Engagement, Ethical and Moral Development, Cultural Respect and Tolerance, and Global Awareness

4. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Describe, connect and evaluate racial, religious, political, and social issues relevant to contemporary Criminological study
- Illustrate and discuss through written examinations what roles social bias plays in the understanding and implementation of laws and policies
- Describe concepts of social cohesion and deviance in the context of criminology

- Identify and demonstrate working understanding of criminological theories and their application to crime and social control
- Demonstrate ability to critically analyze, critique and evaluate media coverage of crime, and assess sociological bias in reporting

5. REQUIRED TEXT

Introduction to Criminology: A Text/Reader – Anthony Walsh & Craig Hemmens
2010. 2nd Edition

ISBN: 9781412992367

(This book covers a broad range of introductory criminological themes that this class is designed to cover. The authors balance rephrasing of theory and original text. Videos and independent research will facilitate understanding of the material in the text, and synthesis of empirical knowledge and criminological theory.)

6. GRADING POLICY

Grading Criteria:

Group Presentation:	50 points
Mid-Term 4 x 50 each:	200 points
Final:	50 points
Attendance/Participation:	30 points

Total available points: 330 points

Grading percentiles:

95 – 100%	A	90-94%	A-		
88 – 89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82%	B-
78 – 79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72%	C-
68 – 69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62%	D-
59% or lower		F			

The ability to retain knowledge will be measured in the classroom, and the skills of critical thinking and deeper theoretical synthesis will be assessed in the written exams. The mid-term and final exams will be due in the student portal class inbox by 10pm on the due dates listed in the schedule. Any late exams will be marked down by 10% for every day they are time stamped late. The participation grade includes group work during class time, which will be collected by the instructor at the end of each meeting.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Medical, legal or personal reasons for absences with documentation will not count against the attendance portion of the grade. Participation in class will be documented in part by analysis of group participation by group members, evidence of engaged scholarship.

Missed Exams

Any exam that is not turned in on time will not be counted toward the student's final grade. The exams will be posted on the student portal ten (10) business days before their due date. Notification of an extenuating conflict is required, and a reasonable accommodation can be made.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves over the duration of the session, and will be clarified when the opportunities are presented to the class. Any extra credit opportunity will be accompanied by secondary options, and not turning in extra credit will not negatively impact a course grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is the equivalent of trying to steal grades either through specific actions of plagiarism, or general dishonest academic work. Plagiarism is using specific ideas from someone else without citing the original source. Academic dishonesty will be handled at the class level through a failing grade for the assignment and the class as per the Student Conduct Handbook, as well as referral to academic services for investigation and sanctions.

Grading Disputes

Be sure to print out copies of the receipt of all exams turned in electronically, copies of extra credit work with grades, and any other communication between instructor and student in case of grade recording errors, which will be corrected if they can be proven by the student. If there are any further disputes, academic affairs personnel are always available to support students.

7. SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES

Any student with special needs will be accommodated. Documentation from the office of Students with Disabilities is required.

8. CLASS MEETING ETIQUETTE

- **Cell phones will be turned off during class meeting times, except with prior approval from the instructor.**
- Computers will be used for academic purposes only during meeting times
- Discussion topics will sometimes be controversial. Therefore, we will respect the confidentiality of the classroom, the diversity of the student body, and the importance of engaging in substantive discussions of social inequality and political/societal issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Meeting Dates	Reading	Topics/Assignments
Week 1 Week of: January 10	Section 1	Intro, overview, research methods
Week 2 Week of: January 17 No class 1/17 (MLK day)	Section 2	Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior
Week 3 Week of: January 24	Section 3	Early & Contemporary Criminology
Week 4 Week of: January 31	Section 4	Social Structural Theories Mid-term due 10pm on 2/4
Week 5 Week of: February 7	Section 5	Social Process Theories
Week 6 Week of: February 14	Section 6	Critical Theories: Marxist, Conflict, Feminist
Week 7 Week of: February 21 No class 2/21 (Pres. Day)	Section 7	Psychosocial Theories
Week 8 Week of: February 28	Section 8	Biosocial Approaches Mid-term due 10pm on 3/4
Week 9 Week of: March 7 No class 3/11	Section 9	Developmental Theories
Week 10 Week of: March 14	Section 10	Violent Crimes Mid-term due 10pm on 3/18
Week 11 Week of: March 21	Spring Break – no assignments	

Week 12 Week of: March 28	Section 11	Multiple Murder and Terrorism
Week 13 Week of: April 4	Section 12	Property Crime
Week 14 Week of: April 11	Section 13	Public Order Crime
Week 15 Week of: April 18 No class 4/22 (Good Friday)	Section 14	White Collar/Organized Crime Mid-term due 10pm on 4/16
Week 16 Week of: April 25	Section 15	Victimology/the victim experience
Week 17 Week of May 2 Last class 5/4	Wrap-up & Review	Group Presentations
Finals Week Week of May 9		Final papers due