

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

CRJU - C700-081, Theories of Criminal Behavior

Fall 2003

Instructor: Dee Wood Harper

E-mail: harper@loyno.edu

Office: 123 Stallings (504) 865-2161

Office Hours:

Course Meeting Information:

Sept 5 & 6; Oct 3 & 4, Oct 31 & Nov 1

Fri 06:00 - 10:00PM, Sat 09:00 - 05:00PM

LI 133, Multi-Media Room II

Required Text:

Paternoster, Raymond and Ronet Bachman. 2000. Explaining Criminals and Crime. Los Angeles: Roxbury

Style Manual: Johnson, William A. , Richard P. Rettig, Gregory M. Scott and Stephen M. Garrison. Latest Edition is the 3rd edition. The Sociology Student Writer's Manual. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall

Course Description: This course is an intensive overview of the major etiological theories of crime their origins and with special emphasis on criminal justice applications. Linkages between current paradigms of criminal behavior and current developments in criminal justice policy will be explored. This is a writing-intensive course intended to help provide students with the ability to think and express themselves about the causes of crime in a more focused and scientific manner. There will be lectures over important psychological and sociological concepts, but the main emphasis is placed on the student's developmental learning with paradigms, perspectives, approaches, and models of theory. Special attention is given to the relationships between variables involved in the etiology of crime, such as which variables are causal, intervening, and precipitating, for example. This course requires a working familiarity with computers to write papers and browse the web.

Requirements:

Course Policies: City College policy allows for a reduction in grade for excessive absences in intensively formatted courses. If you anticipate missing nine hours of class time you should not enroll in the course.

No form of plagiarism is tolerated. Submitting, as one's own, any assignment done by another person (or by other people) constitutes academic theft.

Exams: (25% of grade) There is one major comprehensive exam at the end of the course. (4 hours) This examination will be taken on Saturday afternoon of your last class meeting.

Writing and Discussion: (75% of grade) One paper is required in the course (approximately 20 pages doubled-spaced). This paper consists of a review of a major theoretical work in criminological theory (There are about twenty books on theoretical criminology on reserve in the Loyola Library). The paper is a comprehensive overview of a theory in question and a review of at least six journal articles that provide a test of the theory or elements of the theory. All papers must be typewritten or word-processed without errors using style guidelines provided in your writer's manual (pp. 71-99).

There is a set of xeroxed journal articles on reserve in the library that provides discussions and tests of theories in criminology. On Saturday of the third weekend you will provide an oral report of about 15 minutes on one of these articles.

Learning Outcomes:

- To gain the abilities of focused, scientific thinking and expression
- To obtain a familiarity with the motives, causes, and correlates of crime
- To develop an appreciation for criminology and for theory

Grading System:

- A = 95 – 100
- B+ = 90 – 94
- B = 85 – 89
- C+ = 80 – 84

If a student scores 71 or below, they must retake the course.

Calendar/Course Itinerary (subject to change):

First Weekend

Readings: Paternoster and Bachman, Chapters 1-5.
Discussion Topics:

- Foundations of Sociological Criminology.
- The Relevance of Theory
- Neo-Classical Theory
- Neo-positivism: Biological Theories
- Control Theory
- Social Disorganization

Second Weekend

Readings: Paternoster and Bachman. Chapters 6-10

Discussion Topics:

Foundations of Sociological Criminology (continued)

Anomie/Strain Theory

Social Learning Theories

Labeling Theory

Conflict, Radical and Feminist Theories

Theoretical Integration

Third Weekend

Class Reports

Comprehensive Examination