

# **Criminology Psychology 193 Winter 2008**

**Instructor:** Heather Flowe, Ph.D.

**Office/Office Hours:** 2580 Mandler Hall  
Tuesdays, 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

**Course Web:** [www-psy.ucsd.edu/~hflowe](http://www-psy.ucsd.edu/~hflowe)

**TA:** Rebekah Wanic, M.A.

**Office/Office Hours:** 4330 McGill Hall  
Fridays 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

**Required Text:** *Criminology*, Adler et al. (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

## **Course Description**

Criminology as a discipline is concerned with the causes of crime as well as with the criminal justice and correctional systems. Our goal in this course is to scientifically study the making of laws, the breaking of laws, and society's reaction to breaking the laws. Criminologists have adopted methods of study from all the social and behavioral sciences. Criminology involves analyzing crime over time and place, and the characteristics of criminals and their crimes. The course will cover the measurement of crime and the major theories that have been advanced to account for criminal behavior. Questions of interest will include: Is criminal activity a learned behavior? To what extent is criminal behavior genetically determined? Does exposure to media violence increase the probability that a person will become a criminal offender? How do social structure, social processes, and social organization affect criminal propensities? The course will also survey the characteristics of violent offenses, the relationship between drugs and crime, and the effect that different types of penalties have on recidivism. Finally, the course will also cover the psychological effects of incarceration and the death penalty.

## **Class Discussion and Etiquette**

Class discussion is a vital component of this course. I expect and look forward to your participation. Through class discussions, you will further develop your capacity to analyze and think critically about theories of human behavior put forth by social scientists, the media, and by the legal system. Furthermore, I want a classroom that enables and requires mutual learning. All traditions and voices have something to teach us. I anticipate that each of you will have your system of personal beliefs challenged in this class at some point during the quarter. I expect, however, that you will express your beliefs and opinions in a respectful, thoughtful, and mature manner.

## **Get your \$\$\$ Worth. Attend Every Class!**

Please understand that if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what happened. **Please do not ask me or Ms. Wanic, the TA, what you missed.** I strongly urge you to make friends with people in class, because you will need to ask one of your classmates for lecture notes in the event that you miss a class. **You are responsible for finding out from your classmates any announcements that you might have missed. We strongly encourage you to network in this class, as it will be nearly impossible to do well if you miss any of the lectures.**

By the by, the material covered in class will not necessarily be covered in the course textbook. I am here as an additional resource in your learning of concepts and theories in the field of Criminology. Therefore, it is important that you find out what you missed if you are absent from class.

### Assignments and Grading Policy

Course grades will be determined by performance on two midterms and a final examination. Additionally, class attendance and the quality/quantity of your participation in class discussions will also be considered. If you are on the borderline of one grade versus another at the end of the term, having participated thoroughly in the course will ensure you the higher grade.

The midterms (2) and final examinations are each worth a third of your final grade and will consist of multiple choice questions. Subject matter for the exams will be taken from your textbook, class lectures and discussions, additional reading posted on the course webpage, films and any outside assignments. Your presence for all exams is expected. Ms. Wanic, the TA, is in charge of the grade book. You should visit her during office hours to see your exam or if you wish to discuss grading.

The grading scale for this class is posted on the course website. You should not rely on “the curve” for obtaining a high grade in this class, and should rather base your performance on this posted grading scale. If you have difficulty with the material and are not earning the grade that you had hoped for, or if you are on academic probation, please visit us in office hours for assistance in a timely manner (i.e., as soon as you recognize there is a problem!). As much as we want to help you succeed in this course, once you have taken the final, there is nothing that we can do to help you.

**Makeup Policy:** If you miss an exam, you **CANNOT** take it later. Under special circumstances--you have a doctor's excuse for a serious ailment (in other words, not for a hangnail), I will work with you. Otherwise, you can take an exam **EARLY** without penalty if, for instance, on exam day you are going to be out of town.

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** By participating in psychology experiments, you can earn up to 3 percentage points of extra credit. For every hour that you participate, you will receive one percentage point added to your exam average in the course. Please see the *How to Participate in Experiments* handout posted on the course web page.

#### Tentative Schedule of Events:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
1	Jan 8 Jan 10	Welcome and Measurement of Crime Schools of Thought Throughout History	1, 2 3
2	Jan 15 Jan 17	Psychological Explanations I Psychological Explanations II	4
3	Jan 22 Jan 24	Sociological Theories: Social Structural Approach Gangs	5, 6
4	Jan 29 Jan 31	<i>Midterm Review</i> <b>Midterm 1</b>	
5	Feb 5 Feb 7	Sociological Theories: Social Process Approach The Making of a Suicide Bomber	7

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
6	Feb 12	Social Process Approach Continued	8
	Feb 14	Environmental Theory	9
7	Feb 19	Violent Crime	10
	Feb 21	<i>Midterm Review</i>	
8	Feb 26	<b>Midterm II</b>	
	Feb 28	Psychological Effects of Punishment	
9	Mar 4	Psychological Effects of Prison	11, 12, <b>*13</b>
	Mar 6	*Public Order Crime	
10	Mar 11	Death Penalty and Deterrence & Executioner Disengagement	
	Mar 13	<i>Final Exam Review</i>	

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY MAR 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 5:59 p.m.**