

SSC '02

Criminal Justice 201⁴⁰ -- Foundations in Criminology

Chaminade University – Summer Evening 2002

Instructor: Clay W. Valverde, J.D.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the criminal justice system and the social, political, economical environments in which crime flourishes. Students will examine the nature and types of crimes, theories of crime, statistics on crime, criminal law, the victim, the offender, punishment and corrections. There is an emphasis on contemporary criminological research and the functioning and interaction of the various components of the system. Open to non-criminal justice majors.

Course Objective

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- assess the criminal justice system's relationship to society;
- do critical analyses of its strengths and weaknesses;
- evaluate and prioritize theoretical perspectives;
- pursue the development of crime, criminology, and social problems.

Required text and materials

Criminology, Adler, et al. 4th ed. (2000). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.
Internet access for on-line readings and quizzes, email.

Communications

On-line communication with the instructor will be mainly through email at my address of valverdec001@hawaii.rr.com. I expect students to maintain regular weekly contact with me by sending assignments, questions, or comments about the course.

Additional communications and class discussion with your fellow students will be through the CJ201 web board. Please visit the CJ201 web board to familiarize yourself with its operation and post a brief (50-words or less) introduction (Post #1). You will need to choose a permanent username and password to access the web board. There will be weekly (or thereabouts) web board topics on which you will be required to answer a question and possibly respond to other student answers. This requirement is in the hopes of fostering class discussions, and I may change the system as needed. Please note, however, that your communications (or lack thereof) with myself and the other students will count as a significant portion of your grade (See Requirements and grading, below).

Requirements and grading

Web board and Quizzes

Mandatory weekly assignments based on class readings and outside sources, due Saturday each week. Late, incomplete or improperly done work will result in a lower course grade. 20 total points are possible for all quiz and web board work -- a subjective determination of each student's total (out of the 20 pts) will be made by me at the end of the term based on a review of all work. This work is the backbone of the course; the final exam will draw heavily from the quizzes and web board assignments.

Writing assignments

4 writing assignments based on class readings, contemporary events, media sources (print, film, on-line etc.), and your own ideas. 10 points possible for each writing assignment. No late papers accepted. Total: 40 points.

Final exam

Comprehensive exam based on readings, quizzes, and other assignments, to be given at Chaminade main campus during finals week. No make ups. Proctored off-island exams must have prior approval. 40 points possible.

Total possible points: 100

Grading scale: 90+=A, 80+=B, 70+=C, 60+=D, <60=F. Note: A course grade of "F" may result from any plagiarized writing assignment, or work that I deem to be the work of someone other than the student turning it in.

Schedule (tentative)

(Schedule is based on a 10 week term beginning July 1, 2002 and ending September 7, 2002.

Week 1 -- July 1-6

Reading: Adler, Chapters 1 and 3

Web Board Post #1 -- Introduction to class (due July 6)

Week 2 -- July 7-13

Reading: Adler, Chapters 1 and 3 (cont.)

Quiz #1

Web Board Post #2 (due July 13)

Writing Assignment #1 (due July 20)

Week 3 -- July 14-20

Paper #1 Due Saturday July 20!

Reading: Adler Ch. 4-5

Quiz #2

Writing Assignment #2 (due Sat. August 3)

Week 4 -- July 21-27

Reading: Adler Ch. 6-7

Quiz #3

Web Board Post #3 (due July 27)

Week 5 -- July 28 - August 3

Writing Assignment #2 due Saturday, August 3!

Reading: Adler Ch. 8-9

Quiz #4

Writing Assignment #3 (due Sat. August 17)

Week 6 -- August 4-10

Reading: Adler Ch. 10-11

Quiz #5

Web Board Post #4 (due Sat. August 10)

Week 7 -- August 11-17

Paper #3 Due August 17!

Reading: Adler Chapters 12-13

Quiz #6

Web Board Post #5 (assignment has yet to be determined)

Writing Assignment #4 (due August 31)

Week 8 -- August 18-24

Reading: Adler Ch. 14 and 15

Quiz #7

Week 9 -- August 25-31

Paper #4 Due August 31!

Reading: Adler Ch. 2

Quiz #8

Week 10 -- September 1-7

Final Exam at Chaminade main campus -- Saturday, September 8, 2002

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