

F001

Fall 2001

CJZ 15 **Writing** and Researching **About** Crime



Chaminade University of Honolulu

**Department** of Criminology and Criminal justice

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Meeting: **MWF**, 3:00 to 3:50 p.m., **Henry** 121.

This course is designed to introduce students to the process of researching about crime and how to write about that research. It is not designed to replace any other writing course and no other writing course substitutes for this course.

Contact: If you have any questions about anything. If you plan an absence, are sick or otherwise have a concern or issue to bring to my attention. Email me by

clicking here.



Goals: Students will become familiar with a variety of methods for researching criminological issues. They will learn to write about those issues in a variety of ways and base their writings on their findings. They will learn the basic requirements for writing in the criminal justice curriculum and will become familiar with an array of research tools available to students.

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Texts: There are two required texts. Additional readings will be handed out during the semester. The texts are:

1. Messner, S. and Stark, R. (1999). Criminology: An Introduction Using Explorit

(4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Bellevue WA: MicroCase Corp.

2. Johnson, W. Jr., Rettig, R. Scott, G. and Garrison, S. (1999). The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual. Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice Hall.



**Tools:** Purchase a 3.5 inch floppy disk to hold your work. Buy a small file folder to keep your printed materials. I am happy to change a grade if a student can show I have miscalculated their grade. But this must be demonstrated using primary evidence - your work.

**Computer Account:** Students must have an operational computer account before they can participate in this course. Those who do not already have an account at the start of the course must have one by the end of the week.

Also, you will need this account to contact me. Special requests, problems, issues should be handled by email. Although I am happy to meet with students, email can generally handle most issues. Furthermore, it provides a copy of the dialog between myself and students so that there are no questions later on.

**Course Format:** Most work will take place in the classroom although a number of assignments will be scheduled periodically throughout the semester. Students will be working with the teacher and student participation is expected and generously rewarded at the end of the semester. It is always assumed that students will have read through the chapter by the start of class for that week.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken periodically and used in grading. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you are considered absent for that class. Three or more unexcused absences may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Long-term unexcused absence may lead to failure and loss of financial aid. Generally, I do not count absences when one of two conditions are met. These are sickness requiring bed rest (note from the doctor required) and death in the family (note from the undertaker or funeral director required). Notes should include a contact phone number and be on letterhead or other suitable paper. Students must make up all missed work by the next class period.

**Grades:** Grades will be based on accumulated points. The points will represent a percentage of points earned compared to all points possible to earn. There is no extra credit. You will be busy enough. Points will be distributed this way:

- Exams: 120 points
- Weekly Assignments: 5 points per assignment
- Special topic: 20 points
- . Attendance: 10 points

Therefore, 90 percent or more of 155 points equals an "A", 80 to 89 percent of 155 points equals a "B". Grades fall in ten-percent increments until failure (59 percent or less of 155 points).

Exams: There will be three examinations, two mid-terms, each worth 35 points, and a final worth 50 points. These will take place on the computer through the department's testing service on dates to be announced. A password will be required to access the test. This password will be distributed prior to the start of the first test. Since these tests will be available anywhere on computer during the specified time, no excuse will be accepted for missing an exam. Nor will I consider any request for early examinations due to travel plans or other factors such as work or play.

Weekly Assignments: Weekly assignments will be done largely in class although there will be times when work must take place beyond class time. Papers are due either at the end of class or, if outside work is necessary, at the start of the next class meeting.

Here is how these assignments will be scored:

- 5 points - Complete and accurate in all of its parts.
- 4 points - Some errors but generally accurate and almost complete.
- 3 points - Serious errors but remains satisfactory. Barely adequate mastery of the material.
- . 2 points - Serious errors and/or incomplete in major respects.
- 0 points- Little or nothing of value; the information offered is incorrect and/or off the subject.

Special topic: Your text book contains a number of special topics in the appendix and described as "independent projects." Students must choose one and present a written paper discussing their findings. These papers must adhere

to the format as taught in class and as explained during the first week of class. This paper will be due by the end of class on Monday, December 3.

In addition to the topic as outlined in the text, students are expected and will be evaluated on additional research they conduct as a supplement to their findings. This research should be incorporated into the topic and be properly cited and referenced in the text. Only academic journal articles will be credited for a grade. Newspaper and magazine articles are considered supplementary materials but are otherwise not included in the overall evaluation. The final evaluation of your paper will follow the 5-point plan outlined in the previous section.

Note: Since circumstances may change during the semester, the instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus to meet those circumstances. If a major change takes place, students will be presented with a new syllabus or the change can be noted on the old syllabus.

### Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<b>Topic/event</b>
1. (8/27-8/31)	Introduction
2. (9/3 - 9/7)	(Ch. 1) Crime rates and geography
3. (9/10 - 9/14)	(Ch. 2) Victimization surveys
4. (9/17 - 9/21)	(Ch. 3) Self-report surveys
5. (9/24 - 9/28)	(Ch. 4) Crime and public opinion
6. (10/1 - 10/5)	(Ch. 5) Fear of crime
7. (10/8 - 10/12)	Monday - Holiday  Wednesday - review  Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> exam
8. (10/15 - 10/19)	(Ch. 6) Motor vehicle theft
9. (10/22 - 10/26)	(Ch. 7) Social psychology
10. (10/29 - 11/2)	(Ch. 8) Social disorganization
11. (11/5 - 11/9)	(Ch. 9) Anomie and routine activities
12. (11/12 - 11/16)	Monday - Holiday  Wednesday - review  Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> exam
13. (11/19 - 11/23)	(Ch. 10) Substance abuse

14. (11/26 - 11/30)	(Ch. 11) Violence and the Old West
15. (12/3 - 12/7)	(Ch. 12) <b>Mass-media criminology</b> Special Topics due Monday
TBA	Final Exam