

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Criminal Justice

CJ 382 - Criminology

Spring 2020

TR: 09:25 am – 10:40 am. SSB 16

Instructor: O. Oko Elechi, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 9:00 am – 9:20 am/Tuesdays 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Wednesdays: 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

or by appointment

**Required Text:**

Siegel, L.J. (2018). *Criminology: Theories, Patterns and Typologies* (13<sup>th</sup> Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

**Recommended Texts:**

Jacoby, J.E. (2012). *Classics of Criminology* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc.

Williams, III, F. P. & McShane, M. D. (2013). *Criminological Theory* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the Semester.

**Catalog Course Description: (3 Credit hours).**

Explanation of crime and its context; extensive coverage of past and present theories; a survey of crime prevention and control strategies.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

Upon successful completion of the course, students who take this course will:

- develop appreciation for the different perspectives provided that explain crime and its causes
- appreciate the different elements of criminological enterprise and what the field of criminology is about
- be able to differentiate between crime and deviance
- have a good understanding of the ethical issues involved in the definition and response to crime and criminality

- have a good understanding of the major theories of crime and the social and economic forces that underpin them
- demonstrate knowledge of the main theories of crime, types of offenses and offenders, and victimology.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO):**

Upon completion of the undergraduate program in criminal justice, the student should demonstrate understanding of the:

- Crime issues, trends, and basic legal principles in America
- The social, economic and political forces that influence the definition and response to crime in America
- The history, development and operations of the criminal justice system

**Course Evaluation Methods**

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes of the course.

**Exams.** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material. The examinations consist of Multiple Choice, True/False and Short Essay questions drawn from the lectures, documentary films, guest lectures and the recommended texts.

**Exercises** – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material.

**Projects** – Research projects designed to measure ability to apply presented course material. Students are required to form group of 2 persons and select one of the listed topics below for review. The recommended topics and the dates they are to be presented in class are also listed below. Each group is required to prepare and deliver one informal discussion on their presentation. Each student should present a three page outline and summary of their contribution to the project.

**Class participation** – daily attendance and participation in class discussions and in class exercises.

**Grading Matrix**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Value (points or percentages)</b>		<b>Total</b>
First Quarter Exam.	100 points	20%	100
Second Quarter Exam.	100 points	20%	100
Final Exam.	100 points	20%	100
Group Project/Presentation	100 points	20%	100
Class Attendance/Participation	100 points	20%	100
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>500</b>

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 500 – 450 points (100 – 90%)
- B = 449 - 400 points (89 – 80%)
- C = 399 – 350 points (79 – 70%)
- D = 349 – 300 points (69 – 60%)
- F = 299 points or below (59 – 0%)

### **Grade Appeals:**

Any student who believes that s/he has been graded unfairly, even after talking with me about the grade, may appeal that grade by following University procedures as explained in the Student Handbook. Please keep records of all graded assignments and make all appeals in writing with the proper documentation. It is the student's responsibility to prove that s/he has been graded unfairly.

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

You earn grades for class attendance and participation in all class activities and discussions. To earn grades for participation, you must do your readings and show you understand what was presented in the class readings.

### **Special Needs and Accommodations:**

Students with special needs/disabilities of any type who require special accommodation in the classroom and during instruction and/or testing should notify the instructor during their first full week of class. Students should also have written confirmation by qualified experts of the disability on file with the Office of Academic Affairs and the ADA office on MVSU campus. For help with papers, please use your University Writing Center often.

### **Academic Integrity:**

All acts of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, internet papers, paraphrasing internet papers, presenting someone else's work as your own, failing to meet academic and professional requirements, will result in an automatic "F". The University's academic honesty and plagiarism policies are enforced in this course.

**Tentative Course Outline:** (The general plan of action is as follows: But please note that this is tentative).

1. January 14/16 Introduction, administration and overview of concepts.
2. January 21/23 Crime and Criminology, Siegel, Ch.1
3. January 28/30 The Nature and Extent of Crime, Siegel, Ch.2
4. February 4/6 Victims and Victimization, Siegel, Ch.3
5. February 11 Review  
**February 13 FIRST QUARTER EXAMINATION – 100 POINTS**

6. February 18/20 Rational Choice Theory, Siegel, Ch.4
7. February 25/27 Trait Theories, Siegel, Ch. 5
8. March 3 **MID-TERM EXAMINATION – 100 POINTS**
8. March 5 Social Structure Theories, Siegel, Ch. 6
9. **March 9 – 13 Spring Break**
10. **March 17-19** Social Process Theories, Siegel, Ch. 7
11. March 24/26 Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice, Siegel, Ch.8
12. March 31 Developmental Theories/Interpersonal Violence, Siegel, Chs. 9/10
13. April 2 Political Crime & Terrorism/Property Crime, Siegel, Chs. 11/12
14. April 7/9 Enterprise Crime, Siegel, Chs.13
15. April 14/16 Public Order Crime, Siegel Ch.14
16. April 21/23 Crimes of the New Millennium, Siegel, Ch.15
17. **April 28/30 General Review**
18. May 4 – 8 **Final Examinations Scheduled**

### **GROUP PROJECT/PRESENTATION – 100 POINTS**

**Students are required to form groups of 2 persons to undertake one of the projects listed below. Each group is to submit to me on the day of their presentation an essay of between 5 and 8 pages long. Your paper must be typewritten using 1.5 line spacing, and must be properly referenced using the APA referencing style. Your report should read like a very well written journal article. If your composition skills are weak, consult a book on academic writing and/or discuss your paper with me.**

The following are suggested outlines for your essay:

- a. Introduction (Problem statement)
- b. Literature Review (Review of extant literature on the subject).
- c. Research Design (Methods applied to obtain materials for the study)
- d. Research Findings
- e. Discussion of Research Findings
- f. Implications of Study/Research Findings for policy/solving of real life problem.

The following are good sources for data for your term paper: (The University Library will be your best place to

start your inquiry. Do not also forget that I remain your other source for guidance, and I am available to assist you when you call on me. To complete a good research paper, you must give yourself time. Start now to put your materials and thoughts together. It is not possible to write a good research paper within 24 hours).

- a. Refereed Academic/ Professional Journals
- b. Books published by Academic Presses
- c. Magazines or Newspapers that are highly regarded
- d. The Mainstream Popular Press
- e. Internet sources (etc).

## **EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR THE PROJECT ASSIGNMENT**

The following are the criteria I will base my evaluation of your Term Paper. The relevance of the content to the subject matter, and how you organize, present ideas, apply the relevant theoretical frame-work, creatively interject your opinions and your English usage. In addition to evaluating the different elements of the paper, a holistic view on how these features are brought together to form a total work is important.

A. For a paper to score an A it must meet the following criteria. The paper comprehensively addresses the subject matter. The thesis, arguments and all supporting evidence show a clear understanding of the issues. The paper clearly, effectively and insightfully develops and conveys a point of view. Its organization and focus is also very clear, coherent, and ideas smoothly progress from one to the other, and also demonstrating excellent critical thinking and supported with appropriate examples. There are no major errors in vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling, citation, punctuation and paragraphing. It must meet the APA format and present a complete Bibliography in a separate page.

B. A paper in the B grade range must meet the following criteria:

Show significant mastery of the subject matter; however, showing occasional errors in thought and quality; the paper is clearly and effectively developed and presented, demonstrating reasonable critical thinking, coherence in thought, and progression of ideas; occasional mistakes which do not impede the meaning and clarity of the statement in grammar, word selection, sentence structure, spelling, paragraphing. Appropriate evidences are provided to support paper thesis, arguments and opinions. The References must be complete and the APA writing format followed.

C. A paper in the C or lower range has the following weaknesses:

The paper shows some understanding of the subject matter however with significant errors that compromises the quality of the paper. The theories selected for analysis do not fit or are misapplied. One or more of the important elements of the paper is missing. The paper in significant respects is unfocused and or disjointed and incoherent. There are several grammatical, sentence structure and spelling mistakes. The citations and references are either lacking and or not properly done

**PRESENTATION DATES AND SUGGESTED TOPICS/PROJECTS**

- |   | <b>Presenters</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. March 26   |                   |
| Is Crime Beneficial to Society?   | 1.                |
| or  | 2.                |
| Is Racial Profiling an Acceptable Law Enforcement Strategy?   |                   |
| 2. March 26   |                   |
| Is Criminal Behavior Determined Biologically  | 1.                |
| Or  | 2.                |
| Should Juvenile Courts be Abolished?  |                   |
| 3. March 28   |                   |
| Is a Person's Body Type Clearly Linked to Criminal Behavior   | 1.                |
| Or  | 2.                |
| Should Private "For-Profit" Corporations Be Allowed to Run U.S. Prisons?                                  |                   |
| 4. March 28   | <b>1.</b>         |
| Does the United States Have a Right to Torture Suspected Terrorists?                                      | <b>2.</b>         |
| Or  |                   |
| Should Marijuana Be Legalized?  |                   |
| 5. April 2  |                   |
| Should Judges be Elected Rather than Appointed?   |                   |
| April 2   |                   |
| Can States Ban Physician Aid-in-Dying for Terminally ill Patients?  |                   |
| April 4   |                   |
| Should Serious Sex Offenders be Castrated?  |                   |
| April 4   |                   |
| Is Exposure to Pornography Related to Increased Rates of Rape?  |                   |
| April 4   |                   |
| Does an Imprisoned Individual have a Constitutional Right to Access the State's Evidence for DNA Testing? |                   |

**Course Procedures**

**Submission of Assignments:**

All assignments should be submitted to the Professor in class on the due date.

#### ADA Syllabus Statement (Fall 2019)

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Services for Students with Disability Office to obtain this service. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, physical, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or chronic health disorders. Students who are uncertain if their condition/disability is qualified should contact the SSD Office.

Mrs. Kathy Brownlow/ ADA Coordinator

Social Science Building Office 105

Phone/e-mail: 662-254-3443, kbrownlow@mvsu.edu.