

CJ 5318: Seminar in Criminal Justice Theory

Sul Ross State University - Fall 2019

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Class hours : Online
Office hours : Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM and by appointment.

Required Text(s)

Kubrin, Charis E. & Thomas Stucky (2013). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Sociological Perspective*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Additional readings (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard. Regarding scientific journal articles, Byrian Wildenthal Memorial Library of SRSU has an extensive database infrastructure. You can get detailed information and advising from libraries website <https://library.sulross.edu/#>

Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of the University and reach the articles on the additional reading list.

Syllabus is subject to updates and changes, always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.

Course Description

This seminar presents an overview of the criminal justice theories from a sociological perspective, exposing you to most of the major thinking and research in the field. It will focus on a mix of classical and contemporary criminological theories with foundational and contemporary texts from quantitative and qualitative approaches. It will help you to develop expertise in criminal justice and understand how its central tenets are informed by broader sociological principles and concepts, such as power, race, gender, and class. This seminar is organized around five themes: justice, police, courts, corrections, and crime control. You will have the chance to understand the relationship between social structures and the criminal justice system through theoretical and empirical discussions. Particular attention will be paid to current challenges to the system.

Course Learning Objectives

This seminar, like other graduate seminars, will help you make the transition from student to independent researcher/scholar. At the end of this seminar, you will be able to:

- Evaluate contemporary criminological theories and assess empirical research on theory,
- Describe basic features of the American criminal justice system, legal sanctions, and methods of social control;
- Explore different philosophical perspectives on justice and formal and informal decision making;
- Understand police organizations, how cases are processed through the court system, sentencing decisions and the various forms of criminal punishment;

- Critically evaluate criminal justice policies and their consequences;
- Become smart consumers of news reports, political rhetoric, and public discussion about crime, punishment, and the law.
- Communicate effectively in written English as exemplified by proper use of APA citation format, following writing guidelines and writing clearly and concisely.

Class Attendance/Participation

Given that this is a fully online course; you cannot attend class in a traditional sense. However, students are expected to log into the class at the earliest opportunity to check the class website every day for announcements. Weekly reaction papers and quizzes are a required part of class participation.

Reaction Papers (10 Points Each)

You will write a reaction paper every week. Each paper must be 1 page and 1.5-spaced in 12-point Calibri font. Reaction paper will be related to the reading of the week. When there is more than one reading assignment, then you should read all required readings but write reaction paper on one of them. A reaction paper is not a summary; rather, it should include your perspective, ideas, and critique about the reading. The due dates for the reaction papers will be Sunday 11:00 pm each week.

Weekly Quizzes (10 Points Each)

You will take a quiz for every week to measure the knowledge of the week's required readings. The questions will be posted Friday 1:00 pm and due date will be Sunday 11:00 pm every week.

Examination (200 Points)

There will be a midterm exam which will cover the assigned chapters and other relevant material covered in the course up to the date of the examination. The exam will have multiple-choice and/or true-false questions. The midterm exam will be worth 200 points. No make-up test will be given, unless an uncontrollable emergency or illness arises (written proof required).

Final Paper (200 Points)

You will write a final paper on any of the subjects covered in this seminar. You will submit a written proposal by the end of the 4th week outlining your plan and intended subject. You will then continue writing your paper after my approval.

The paper should;

- a) be 10 to 15 pages (not including cover page and list of references)
- b) be typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- c) include at least five scholarly citations (not website articles, wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, and etc.),
- d) be written according to APA formatting and citation style.

A plagiarism detection software (SafeAssign) is used in this course. SafeAssign will detect and report all instances of plagiarism including where the student copied and pasted directly from a source. Students will receive a grade of "0" in these instances, and possibly fail the course. Your weekly reaction papers and final paper will be submitted through SafeAssign. A detailed instruction for using this software will be uploaded on BlackBoard.

Academic Integrity

Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the “Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct.” Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found in the University website.

Sul Ross State University and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context.

Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, and falsifying academic records. In addition, academic dishonesty can include both actions and omissions to act in regards to academic exercises and activities.

Cheating is defined here as:

the obtaining of information (electronic or otherwise) during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, notes, or other sources of information prior to or during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, the removal of faculty examination materials, the alteration of documents or records, or actions identifiable as occurring with the intent to defraud or use under false pretenses.

Collusion is defined here as:

helping other students engage in acts of academic dishonesty, whether the student involved obtains any direct academic advantage from these acts.

Plagiarism is defined here as:

the submission of the ideas, words, or artistic productions of another, without giving due credit or when attempting to falsely represent them as one’s own.

APA style

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA a number of resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation the course academic honesty standards. See www.citationmachine.net and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> for help with APA.

Student Support Services and Blackboard Help Desk

Sul Ross State University has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Student Support Services <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105. For Blackboard help visit <https://www.sulross.edu/bb> or call 432-837-8523 (M-F 09:00 am-06:00 pm). You can get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should

correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website

Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA)

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu .

Late Assignment Submission Policy

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university.

Grading

There will be 1 Midterm exam and 11 weekly quizzes throughout the semester, with questions drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on the Blackboard. The Midterm will worth 200 points. There will be no makeup exams. Every week there will be a quiz for the related chapter(s). Each quiz will worth 10 points. The total points will be 110 for all quizzes. Weekly reaction papers will be 10 points each. The total points for reactions papers will be 120. Your final paper will worth 200 points.

1 Midterm Exam	200 points
11 Weekly Quizzes	110 points (10 points each)
12 Reaction Papers	120 points (10 points each)
1 Final Paper	200 points
Total	630 points

Final Grading Scale

A 630 - 567

B 566 - 504

C 503 - 441

D 440 - 378

F 377 & below

Weekly Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	August 26-30	Introduction Course syllabus (BlackBoard)	Kubrin & Stucky: Part 1 Introduction and Chapter 1
2	September 2-6	Foundational Issues of Justice	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 2 & 3 Quiz # 1 and Reaction paper # 1
3	September 9-13	Policing	Kubrin & Stucky: Part 2 Introduction and Chapters 5 & 6 Quiz # 2 and Reaction paper # 2
4	September 16-20	Policing ***Final Paper Proposal due***	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 7 & 9 Quiz # 3 and Reaction paper # 3
5	September 23-27	Policing	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 10 & 11 Quiz # 4 and Reaction paper # 4
6	September 30 - October 4	The Courts	Kubrin & Stucky: Part 3 Introduction and Chapters 13 & 15 Quiz # 5 and Reaction paper # 5
7	October 7-11	The Courts	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 16 & 17 Quiz # 6 and Reaction paper # 6
8	October 14-18	The Courts	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 18 & 19 Quiz # 7 and Reaction paper # 7
9	October 21-25	***Midterm Exam*** Corrections	Kubrin & Stucky: Part 4 Introduction and Chapter 20 (Not included to the Midterm Exam)
10	October 28 - November 1	Corrections	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 21 & 22 Quiz # 8 and Reaction paper # 8
11	November 4-8	Corrections	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 23 & 24 Quiz # 9 and Reaction paper # 9
12	November 11-15	Crime Control in the 21 st Century	Kubrin & Stucky: Part 5 Introduction and Chapters 25 & 26 Quiz # 10 and Reaction paper # 10
13	November 18-22	Crime Control in the 21 st Century	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapters 27 & 28 Quiz # 11 and Reaction paper # 11
14	November 25-29	Thanksgiving Day Holiday Crime Control in the 21 st Century	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapter 29 Reaction paper # 12
15	December 2-6 December 4 th December 5 th December 6 th	Crime Control in the 21 st Century Last class day before finals Dead Day Final Examinations	Kubrin & Stucky: Chapter 30
16	December 9-11 December 11 th	Final Examinations ***Final Paper due***	

End of Course Evaluations

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.