**California University of Pennsylvania**

**Department of Justice, Law & Society**

**Justice Studies Division**

**Spring 2010**

**Dr. Keith A. Wilmot**

**Office: Azorsky 117**

**Office Hours:**

**MWF: 8:00 am – 9:00 am**

**T/Th: 8:00 am – 9:30 am**

**Or, by Appointment**

**Office phone: 724-938-5865 or,**

**724–938–4424 (main office)**

**Fax: 724-938-4265**

**wilmot@cup.edu**

**A. PROTOCOL**

Course Name: Criminological Theories

Course Number: JUS 496 - 02

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: JUS 101, JUS 103, and JUS 375. Seniors only (University Catalog)

Class Hours: MWF: 10:00 am – 10:50 am

Location: Watkins Hall B-6

**B. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

In this course, students will:

* become familiar with the interrelationship of the concepts crime, law, and criminology.
* focus on the nature, extent, treatment and causation of crime in America.
* explore the nature and theories of victimization.
* study various criminological theories, patterns, and typologies which seek to explain the criminal law process, the reasons why people tend to commit various types of crimes, and the methods used to treat or control criminal behavior.
* critically analyze and synthesize the schools of thought of crime causation.
* develop an understanding of how criminal law defines crime and the subsequent relationship that evolves over time between crime and criminal behavior within the American criminal justice system.

**C. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the study of crimes, criminals, causes of criminal behavior and victimization issues. Students explore how the classical, psychological, sociological, economic, biological and political theories of crime explain criminal behavior, and the impact of these theories on the work of the criminal justice system. Prerequisites: JUS 101, JUS 103 and JUS 375. (3 credits) Seniors only (University Catalog).

**D. OUTLINE OF THE COURSE**

**Weeks 1 thru 4:**

Chapter One – Crime, Criminology, and the Criminal Law

Chapter Two – The Nature and Extent of Crime

Chapter Four – Choice Theories

Chapter Five - Trait Theories

Review

**EXAM 1 (February 22nd - tentative)**

**Weeks 5 thru 8:**

Chapter Three – Victims and Victimization

Chapter Six - Social Structure Theories

Chapter Seven - Social Process Theories: Learning, Control, and Reaction

Review

**EXAM 2 (March 26th - tentative)**

**Weeks 9 thru 13:**

Chapter Thirteen – Enterprise Crime: White-Collar and Organized Crime

Chapter Eight – Social Conflict Theories: Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice

Chapter Ten – Violent Crime

Review

**EXAM 3 (April 12th - tentative)**

Chapter Nine – Developmental Theories: Life Course and Latent Trait

Chapter Eleven - Political Crime and Terrorism

**April 28th: Finish chapter material and review for the final exam**

**FINAL EXAM** date will conform to Cal U’s final exam schedule during the week of May 3rd-May 7th.

**Important Dates**:

January 18th: Martin Luther King Day: No Class

March 8th – 12th: Spring Break

April 2nd – 4th: Easter Break

April 30th – Reading Day: No Class

**E. TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

The class will be presented predominately in a lecture and discussion format. Student interaction is greatly encouraged. Presentations and discussion questions will be in PowerPoint format which will be available on the following websites: Cal U Blackboard and [www.keithwilmot.com](http://www.keithwilmot.com/). This way you can either refresh your notes in case of an excused absence. The speed in which we cover the material will be determined by the overall class comprehension of the major issues within each chapter; therefore, the schedule is somewhat flexible. As a result, the exam dates are tentative (except the final exam date which is determined by the university). The instructor reserves the right to make any changes to this syllabus with appropriate notification in advance to all students, both in class and on blackboard.

**F. TEXT**

*Criminology*, 10th edition. Larry J. Siegel. Wadsworth; 2008.

**G. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

There will be four exams worth 100 points per exam. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. The substance of the questions will come from class lectures, PowerPoint presentations, video reviews, and the text. Twenty-five to thirty percent of the grade will come from the essay portion of the test for the first three exams and forty percent for the final exam. Each exam is a bifurcated process. The essay question for each exam will be given to the students two to three class sessions prior to the designated exam and will be due on the actual exam date when the comprehensive portion of the exam will be given (multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer). In other words, the essay portion of the exam will already be completed by the designated exam date. Review terms will be handed out and placed on blackboard prior to each test. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of unforeseen emergency circumstances. The instructor must be notified immediately of these circumstances and may request documentation of these circumstances. The instructor reserves the right to either deny or re-schedule the time and date of the make-up exam. Any student that has a conflict with a test date should see the instructor *prior* to the exam. Extra credit – none.

***Essay criteria***

Each essay will not be a topic of the student’s choosing, but will address the question that the instructor has selected for each section of the course which relates specifically to those theories and scenarios that have been discussed in class. The idea is to pose critical thinking in addition to writing. These questions will be given to the students in class and posted on blackboard - two to three class sessions prior to the exam date. The format for the essays will be handed out prior to each essay; however, the length will vary from 4 - 5 pages for the first few exams and 10 pages for the final essay. Citations and references will adhere to APA standards; however, the text is the only source to be used. The essays will not be accepted late or delivered by email – the exam date is the due date. Both the essay and comprehensive sections of the exam will be completed or an “incomplete” will be given. There will be a significant penalty for late essays (the maximum penalty would be losing all the essay points for that particular exam).

Grading will be determined by the following grading scale. Extra credit – none.

**Total Point Grade Scale**

100 1st exam 360-400 = A

100 2nd exam 320-359 = B

100 3rd exam 280-319 = C

100 4th exam 240-279 = D

400 Total Points 239 or less = F

**H. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Department of Justice, Law & Society does not discriminate on the basis of an individual’s disability as required by the American with Disabilities Act. Students who require special accommodations due to a disability must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) each semester to receive accommodations. A student with a disability will present the OSD Accommodation Approval Notice to faculty when requesting accommodations that involve the faculty. Students are expected to adhere to OSD procedures for self-identifying, providing documentation and requesting accommodations in a timely manner. The OSD is located in the Azorsky Building, room 105; phone: 724-938-5781; and fax: 724-938-4599.

**I. CLASS POLICIES**

**Attendance, Classroom Participation and Behavior:**

Attendance is encouraged and students are expected to attend class regularly. Non-attendance will definitely affect the student’s final grade. In addition, participation in class discussion is essential to this class, therefore, unexcused absences may also affect a student’s grade. Even though this is a lecture-based course, students will often be asked to engage in discussion of the subject matter.  To address classroom behavior, students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to engage in class discussion. In respect to classmates and the instructor, cell phones will be turned off during class, there will be no text messaging, and if a student feels that it is necessary to take a call then the student shall leave and not return while the lecture is in progress (quite simply, there will be no coming and going during class to take cell phone calls – deal with it). You can use your laptop to take notes however; I may ask to see your notes at the end of class. In other words, if the laptop is not for note taking, leave it at home or in your backpack.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:**

University regulations regarding academic misconduct, as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct or University policy will be strictly enforced. Any student caught cheating will receive an F for the course.