**CRIJ 3380 Criminal Justice Theory & Practice**  
Spring 2024  
Dr. George J. Day  
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice; Department of Government

**Office:** LAN Room 133  
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**Class Hours & Location:** Ferguson 471 / MWF @ 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

**Office Hours:**
- Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- Friday: by appointment only

Office hours are available face-to-face or by Zoom at the following link: [https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/97138538584?pwd=NTlkcnhNWmEvN3lBVvIEdHl1Tzk1dz09](https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/97138538584?pwd=NTlkcnhNWmEvN3lBVvIEdHl1Tzk1dz09)

*When logging into the Zoom meeting, you may be placed in a virtual waiting room if I meet with another student. I will be notified that you are waiting and will admit you when it is your turn to meet with me.*

**Required textbook:**

**Course Protection and Intellectual Property**
My personal work contained in this syllabus, the course calendar, and all handouts and assignments created by me are my intellectual property and are protected by law. You do not have the authorization to duplicate any part of the work without my permission.

**Course Description:**
History, development and philosophy of law enforcement; introduction to criminal justice agencies. Required for all criminal justice majors and minors.

**Criminal Justice Theory and Practice (3 credit hours)** is an upper-level course that meets for 150 minutes per week (typically Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) for 15 weeks with 2-hour exams hosted on Brightspace at the midterm and during finals week. All exams are in essay format in which the student must communicate their knowledge of the material and demonstrate assimilation of the lectures, and readings. Students are required to submit weekly summaries/analyses of assigned readings. For each classroom “hour,” the student is expected to spend a minimum of 3 hours in preparation for upcoming classes and in completing assigned work.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purposes and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system, and the student will be able to critically analyze the criminal justice system and its aims and outcomes.
- The student will demonstrate a fundamental understanding of human behavior from a historical, criminological, and sociological perspective that influence the development of criminological theory and the application of theory to justice administration.

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1 When logging into the Zoom meeting, you may be placed in a virtual waiting room if I meet with another student. I will be notified that you are waiting and will admit you when it is your turn to meet with me.
The student will demonstrate an understanding of legal and/or social science research and will apply professional standards of writing and research to criminal justice issues.

The student will demonstrate an awareness of multicultural and ethical issues in criminal justice and will use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote positive organizational and professional trust.

**Course Learning Outcomes.** By completing this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the different foundational assumptions of theory and how those assumptions are applied to different theoretical perspectives in criminology.
- Discuss the application of criminological theory to criminal justice practice.

**Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences).

**Incomplete course work:** the submission of assignments or exams after they are due will not be permitted without approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: military deployment, religious holidays/observances, court appearances, jury duty, family emergencies, personal or immediate family illness, or participation in student athletics or other university-approved activity.

Students who miss assignments for reasons other than institutional Absences will need to provide acceptable documentation of the absence. Acceptable documentation includes but is not limited to notices from doctors/medical providers on official stationery that include the date(s) of illness; published obituaries that include the date of funeral services; a copy of military orders; or a copy of jury duty summons or other judicial document supporting a court appearance. If you become ill, visit a medical professional and obtain a work excuse (many doctors and physician assistances will ask you if you need one, the correct answer is “yes”).

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2 Immediate family is defined for this purpose as a student’s parent or grandparents (by blood or marriage), spouses, children, siblings.

3 Note that documentation related to medical or mental health issues do not need to provide details of specific diagnoses (in fact, I would prefer that they do not), they need mere need to verify that you are or were under a doctor’s care and the dates of the absence.

4 I operate under a principle of “trust but verify”; a good philosophy to adopt when you work in the criminal justice field.
Grading Policy

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

- **“A”** 360-400 pts: Term paper 50 pts
- **“B”** 320-359 pts: Exam #1 100 pts
- **“C”** 280-319 pts: Exam #2 100 pts
- **“D”** 240-279 pts: Exam #3 (final) 150 pts
- **“F”** 0-239 pts

Required Course Work:

- **Term paper**: Students will produce a term paper project during the semester, which is due on May 4th. There is no required draft, but you are encouraged to meet with me during office hours within the first couple of weeks after spring break if you are not confident in your writing. Details for the term paper can be found on D2L/Brightspace.
- **Exams**: There will be two exams during the semester on Feb. 12, Mar. 25, and a comprehensive final exam on May 6 (final). All exams will be essay in format and students are required to bring a blue book to class on the day of the exams.

A note on assignment feedback: For some assignments, I will attach a file containing feedback such as corrections, comments, and suggested edits/revisions. These files cannot be accessed from D2L’s gradebook, rather they are accessed through the dropbox tab instead.

Conduct: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn and participate in the course. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

Rules of the Classroom

- While the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects each individual’s freedom of expression, freedom of speech is NOT an absolute right. Students who express themselves in a way that belittles, insults, bullies, or otherwise attempts to make another person feel like they are less human than another will be held accountable for their inappropriate conduct. There will be consequences for being a bully, insulting or belittling another, or being mean and hateful. Students violating this policy will be given one opportunity to apologize publicly. Those that refuse to apologize or continue to disrespect, bully, or harass others in the class will be removed from the course with a grade of F.
- Grades are not given; they are earned. I do not offer or entertain requests for extra credit. I do not round grades. Do not ask; you may assume the answer will be “no.”
- The tentative class schedule is a general guide. Coverage of the material may be accelerated, decelerated, rearranged, augmented, diminished, or otherwise modified when the professor believes such change would be to the benefit of the class.

This syllabus will act as the final word in the event of a discrepancy, error, or misunderstanding. Make sure you read and understand it completely—and make sure you keep a copy for reference during the semester.

Academic Integrity

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5 A proper apology includes (at a minimum), (1) a recognition of the harmful act and the harm caused by that act and (2) a commitment to not repeat the harmful behavior in the future. ‘Apologies’ that are used as microaggressions are unacceptable.
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Academic Integrity and the Use of AI
All submitted work, including assignments, papers, discussion posts, and exams, must be the original work of the individual student unless explicitly stated otherwise. The use of AI technology, such as ChatGPT, is not permitted (see Policy Number 10.4, Article VI [vi]). While AI can be a useful and helpful tool, it is not an acceptable substitute for real scholarship.

Academic Integrity and Background Investigations
Students who wish to work for a state or federal criminal justice agency should keep in mind that background investigators frequently talk to people who know an applicant but are not on that applicant’s reference list (such as professors). If I determine that a student has violated this academic integrity policy and that determination is confirmed through a due process hearing conducted by the Dean of Student Affairs, that student’s lack of integrity will be the first thing I tell an investigator about them.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- jobCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Withheld Grades Policy:
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf
### Class Schedule – subject to change at instructor’s discretion; All assignments are due by midnight on the last day of a unit unless otherwise indicated on D2L/Brightspace (all times CST)

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<tr>
<th>Unit/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Jan 19-27</td>
<td><strong>What is theory?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Classical and Neoclassical Theories</td>
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<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Jan 29-Feb 3</td>
<td><strong>Positivism</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Biological Theory</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Feb. 5-10</td>
<td><strong>Psychological Theories of Crime</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Feb. 12-17</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1 – Monday, Feb. 12th</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Chicago School</td>
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<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Feb. 19-24</td>
<td><strong>Rational Choice &amp; Routine Activities</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Feb. 26-Mar 2</td>
<td><strong>Anomie and Strain Theory</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Mar. 4-9</td>
<td><strong>Social Learning Theories</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Mar. 18-23</td>
<td><strong>Social Control Theories</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Mar. 25-27</td>
<td><strong>Exam #2 - Monday, Mar. 25th</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Apr. 1-6</td>
<td><strong>Social Reaction (Labeling) Theory</strong>&lt;br&gt;Conflict &amp; Radical Criminology</td>
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<td>Unit 10</td>
<td>Apr 8-13</td>
<td><strong>Feminist Criminology</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Peacemaking Criminology</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 11</td>
<td>Apr 15-20</td>
<td><strong>Integrated Theory</strong></td>
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<td>Unit 12</td>
<td>Apr 22-May 4</td>
<td><strong>Life Course Theory</strong>&lt;br&gt;Term paper due 11:59 pm, May 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, May 6&lt;br&gt;10:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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*Indicates assignments that cannot be accessed by students without an approved topic.*