

San José State University  
Justice Studies 153 – 01 (Course Code 49892)  
Crime and Justice Across the Life Course

Dr. Hebert

Fall 2020

Monday and Wednesday 4:30 – 5:45 in ZOOM

Instructor: Dr. Hebert  
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**Please make every effort to join the class before the start time. I may be looking at the camera, but that doesn't mean that I perceive someone in the waiting room while I'm talking or thinking.**

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday via ZOOM 9:00 – 10:00 AM

**Co-Prerequisite:** JS 100W

**Justice Studies Area:** JS 153 is an elective in Justice Studies Area A.

**Note:** To be accepted for credit towards a degree in Justice Studies, a grade of “C” or better in this course is required.

**Catalog Description:** Explores how crime and justice are experienced by individuals over time. The nature and extent of offending and victimization at various ages across the life course is examined. A critical consideration of the criminal career paradigm is also provided.

**Section Specific Description and Student Learning Objectives:** Popular conceptions of “criminals” tend towards broad caricatures of criminal types. To name a few; the “troubled teenage” delinquent; the skid row addict; the mobster, the good-hearted prostitute, and the “professional thief.” While media portrayals (both fiction and non-fiction) and folklore concerning “criminals” often contain a kernel of truth, there is a strong bias towards attributing their criminal activities to a stable personality trait or psychological defect of one form or another while neglecting or ignoring the role of the environment and life-experiences in the onset, persistence, and desistance from a criminal career. To correct this misconception, readings with in-depth descriptions of individual criminal careers are part of the course.

**Required Readings:** At the time of writing, there are two required monographs for this course.

**Monographs:**

- 1) *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* 1973 Becker, Howard The Free Press. (or the 1963 edition)
- 2) *Great Pretenders: Pursuits and Careers of Persistent Thieves* 1996 Shover, Neal. Westview Press

**Other Readings:** Will be assigned on CANVAS.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are evaluated on the basis of four types of material. Following a brief description of each, the course weighting and other grading policies follow.

**Assignment Descriptions**

- 1) **Quizzes:** Quizzes will consist primarily of short-answers but may include multiple choice as well. Quizzes consist of material assigned or presented in class back to the previous quiz. Expect to spend between 20 and 40 minutes on each quiz.
- 2) **Final Exams:** The Final exam has the same format as the quizzes, but is longer and takes place at the time scheduled by the university.
- 3) **“Outsiders” paper:** Instructions distributed on CANVAS.
- 4) **Term Paper:** Instructions distributed on CANVAS.
- 5) **Participation:** Based on active contributions in ZOOM meetings or discussions. Participation credit will be given only if the total of the other material is equal to or greater than 70%.

**Assignment Weights:** I am aware that the weights sum to 110%. That is by design,

|                            |         |       |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Quizzes                    | 8 X 5%  | = 40% |
| Final Exam                 | 1 X 20% | = 20% |
| Outsiders Paper            | 1 X 20% | = 20% |
| Term Paper: Two components |         |       |
| Draft                      | 1X 5%   | = 5%  |
| Final                      | 1 X 15% | = 15% |
| Participation              | 1 X 10% | = 10% |

I do not use the built-in grading tool so ignore any scores on that show up on CANVAS. Instead, I will post Quiz % scores in Announcements. Follow the instructions below under “Posting ID” to determine your score.

**Posting ID:** Quiz and Exam scores are posted in Announcements. Grades will be posted using a synthetic number called a “Posting ID.” To create your posting ID number, multiply the first five digits

of your SJSU student ID number by the last four digits of your SJSU student ID number. The last four digits of the product is the posting ID number.

EXAMPLE: SJSU ID number is 004199408

First five digits are: 00419

Last four digits are: 9408

Multiply = 3941952

The last four digits, 1952, is the Posting ID number.

### Letter Grades:

All assessment materials are graded on a percentage basis, and correspond to the following letter grades. I usually apply a curve to exams and posted scores reflect any curving (I only curve up, never down). If a curve is applied, approximately 20 to 25 percent of the class will receive an A- or better on that assignment / exam.

| Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence |               |   |     |    |     |    |     |   |     |    |     |
|--|---------------|---|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|
| A+                                     | 96%           | A | 93% | A- | 90% | B+ | 86% | B | 83% | B- | 80% |
| C+                                     | 76%           | C | 73% | C- | 70% | D+ | 66% | D | 63% | D- | 60% |
| F                                      | Less Than 60% |   |     |    |     |    |     |   |     |    |     |

**Late Test and Assignment Policy:** No to full credit depending on circumstance. It is your responsibility to notify me of your need to take a make-up exam or quiz and to arrange a time that accommodates my schedule. Except under extraordinary circumstances, if an exam has not been taken within two weeks or a quiz within one week, of its administration to the class, you will forfeit that quiz/exam and receive a zero.

The possible combinations of circumstance are damn near infinite and thus an attempt to assign specific penalty weights a truly Herculean task. Instead, the following are the factors I consider, along with examples of good, OK, and bad excuses.

### Late Test and Assignment Penalty Matrix

| Dimension      | Good   | OK  | Bad  |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| Notification:  | Notification delivered in class at least one class meeting prior to absence  | Note in mailbox / e-mail day of exam.   | Five weeks after assignment due date.  |
| Reason:        | Work-related travel.<br>Getting married, personal illness, serious illness of a close relative, death of a close relative. | Too much coursework/job stress.<br>Relationship troubles, ceremonial participation. | Hung over, forgot, getting married more than once, weekly participation in ceremonies of death or other. |
| What Missed:   |  | Quizzes and Mid-Term Exam.  | Assignments and Final Exam.  |
| Documentation: | Newspaper article, Dr./Clinic appointment, receipt for automotive repair, court summons                                    | Note from mom.  | Insultingly bad forgery.   |
| Made up by:    | Next Class Meeting or Prior to Due Date.   | Two Class Meetings  | Final Exam Week.   |

|             |                                     |  |  |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Attendance: | I can match your name to your face. | Pretty sure that you are, or were, in one of my classes. | Couldn't pick you out of a lineup for a million bucks. |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|

**Communication / Interaction:** Online only. No choice in the matter. You may have noticed that I struck out my office phone number above. Faculty are strongly discouraged from even coming on campus this semester, so I wouldn't be able to return calls.

### **Mandatory Statements:**

These things have reproduced more rapidly than bacteria in a petri dish. But in a spate of sanity, we can now link rather than reproduce the statements which are found here:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>  
(Verified August 17, 2020)

My remarks on selected statements follow.

### **Academic Integrity:**

In the long run academic dishonesty hurts only you. Academic dishonesty can also cause pain in the short run, see [Academic Senate Policy F15-7](#)

### **Workload and Credit Hour Requirements:**

This statement is required by Federal regulation. And, unsurprisingly, is close to incomprehensible unless schooled in educratspeak. It translates as this: This is a three credit course so you should spend  $3 \times 3 = 9$  hours / week on the course. Three of those hours are spent in ZOOM meetings ( $1 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 = 2 \frac{1}{2}$ ), which we fictionalize to 3 hours, so you should spend 6 hours / week outside of class reading, studying, etc. for this course.

### **Religious Accommodation:**

[Included under protest as appears to be a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> (Equal Protection) Clause.]  
Note: I will continue to use my long-standing and far more liberal notification requirement specified above.

# JS 153

## Fall 2020 Schedule

| Date       | Readings / Class Meeting   | Due Date    |
|------------|--|-------------|
| August 19  |  |             |
| August 24  |  |             |
| August 26  |  |             |
| August. 31 | Outsiders, Chapter 1   |             |
| Sept. 2    | Outsiders, Chapter 2   |             |
| Sept. 4    |  | Quiz Out12  |
| Sept. 7    | LABOR DAY, No meeting  |             |
| Sept. 9    | Outsiders, Chapter 3   |             |
| Sept. 14   | Outsiders, Chapter 4   |             |
| Sept. 16   | Outsiders, Chapter 5   |             |
| Sept. 18   |  | Quiz Out345 |
| Sept. 21   | Outsiders, Chapter 6   |             |
| Sept. 23   | Outsiders, Chapter 7   |             |
| Sept. 25   |  | Quiz Out67  |
| Sept. 28   | Outsiders, Chapter 8   |             |
| Sept. 30   | Outsiders, Chapter 9   |             |
| Oct. 2     |  | Quiz Out89  |
| Oct. 5     | Desistance from Crime over the Life Course.  |             |
| Oct. 7     | (cont.)  |             |
| Oct. 9     |  |             |
| Oct. 12    | Life-Course Desisters' Trajectories Of Crime Among Delinquent Boys Followed To Age 70. |             |
| Oct. 14    | (cont.)  |             |
| Oct. 16    |  | QuizLIFE    |
| Oct. 19    | Great Pretenders, Preface and Chapter 1 "Pathways of Persistent Thieves"               |             |

| Date    | Readings / Class Meeting  | Due Date                    |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| Oct. 21 | (cont.)   |                             |
| Oct. 23 |   |                             |
| Oct. 26 | Great Pretenders, Chapter 2 "Origins, Options, and Preparation"   |                             |
| Oct. 28 | (cont.)   |                             |
| Oct. 30 |   | Quiz Great12                |
| Nov. 2  | Great Pretenders, Chapter 3 "Changing Criminal Opportunities and the Unskilled."  |                             |
| Nov. 4  | (cont.)   |                             |
| Nov. 6  |   |                             |
| Nov. 9  | Great Pretenders, Chapter 4 "Identity, Lifestyle, and Character"  | Term Paper Draft Due @ 4:30 |
| Nov. 11 | VETERANS DAY. No Class Meeting  |                             |
| Nov. 13 |   |                             |
| Nov. 16 | Chapter 4 (cont.)   |                             |
| Nov. 18 | (cont.)   |                             |
| Nov. 20 |   | Quiz Great34                |
| Nov. 23 | Great Pretenders, Chapter 5 "Career Changes and Termination"  |                             |
| Nov. 25 | NI DAY! No Class Meeting  |                             |
| Nov. 27 |   |                             |
| Nov. 30 | Chapter 5 (cont.)   |                             |
| Dec. 2  | Great Pretenders, Chapter 6 "Threats, Decisions, and Confinement."  |                             |
| Dec. 4  | Great Pretenders, Chapter 7 "Crime Control and Persistent Thieves "   |                             |
| Dec. 7  | Last Day of Classes: Review, etc.   | Quiz Great567               |
| Dec. 9  | FINAL EXAM 2:45 – 5:00<br>This time and date is prescribed by the University. If another course has scheduled the final exam during this time, ask them for an accommodation or if they won't, to contact me about final exam scheduling. |                             |
|         |   |                             |