

Southeast Missouri State University
 Course Syllabus
 CJ615
 Theory and Criminal Justice
 Department of Criminal Justice

- I. Catalog description and credit hours of course: Overview of research on the correlates and causes of criminal behavior. Focus on the significance of current knowledge for crime control and prevention (3).
- II. Prerequisites: Undergraduate coursework in sociology and social or behavioral psychology, UI 309 (Crime & Human Behavior) or equivalent preferred, or permission of the instructor; graduate standing.
- III. Purposes and objectives of the course:
 - A. To develop an understanding of the current state of knowledge with respect to the research and theory of the causes and correlates of criminal behavior.
 - B. To be able to integrate research findings from a multidisciplinary perspective.
 - C. To apply theoretical knowledge in order to be able to make informed decisions concerning crime control and criminal justice/social policy
- IV. Expectations of students:
 - A. Read assigned material and participate in lecture-discussion format
 - B. Participation in bulletin board discussions online.
 - C. Development of a position paper with respect to crime control and social policy.
- V. Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	3	Introduction	Siegel Ch-3, Wilson Ch 2
2	3	Deterrence and choice	Siegel Ch 2, Wilson 14-15
3	3	" "	Classics 7-9, 34
4	3	" "	
5	3	Biological explanations	Siegel Ch 6, Wilson 3-4, Classics 4
6	3	Psychological explanations	Siegel Ch 6, Classics 16
7	3	Midterm	
8	3	Structural explanations	Siegel Ch 7, Classics 12, 2 1,24,25,27
9	3	Structural explanations	Wilson 10
10	3	Social Process	Siegel Ch. 8, Classics 26,30-33
11	3	Wilson 6-7	

12	3	Conflict; Economics	Siegel Ch 9, Wilson 8, Classics 13,22
13	3	Typologies	Siegel Ch 11-14
14	3	Other policy issues	Wilson 11-13
15	3	Presentation of Papers	
16	3	Final	
		Total: 45 Hours	

VI. Textbooks:

- A. Siegel, L (1998). *Criminology*, West Wadsworth Publishing Co.
- B. Jacoby, J. *Classics of Criminology*, Moore Publishing Co.
- C. Wilson & Petersilia, (1995). *Crime*, ICS Press.

VII. Basis for student evaluation: there will be a midterm and final examination, each counting 25% of the grade. Each student will develop a research paper, concerning crime control and criminal justice and social policies. This paper will count 35% of the grade. Each student will also present three criminological research studies during the course of the semester, and participate in bulletin board discussions on the internet. These activities will count 15% of the grade.