SOCL 4461-1
Criminology

Professor: Dr. Lee
Class Meeting Time and Place: Spring 2005, T - TH 9:10 - 10:30 am, 116 Stubbs Hall
Office: 106C Stubbs Hall
Email: Mlee@lsu.edu
Office hours: T, TH, 10:30-11:30, and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, see me before class, after class, or send an email.

Course Description and Learning Objectives
This course provides an in-depth introduction to the field of criminology. To accomplish this, we will undertake several tasks.
1.) Define the major concepts employed in the field of criminology, including crime/deviance, victims/offenders, fear of crime/perceived risk of victimization, informal and formal social control, motivation, instrumental and expressive acts, etc.
2.) Identify the major types of crime, including Part I Index violent and property crimes (homicide, robbery, rape, assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson), white collar crime/crimes of privilege, organized crime, vice crime/crimes against the moral order.
3.) Identify and critique the main sources of crime data (how we actually count crimes and determine the prevalence of crime), including official statistics, victimization data, and self-report data.
4.) Examine the prevalence of criminal offending and criminal victimization across sexes, racial and ethnic groups, social classes, and age categories.
5.) Examine variation in the incidence of crime over time and across geographical/social units such as neighborhoods, cities, nations, and across the rural/urban continuum.
6.) Review and analyze the major micro - level and macro - level theories developed to explain 4 and 5 above.

This is generally an advanced introduction to the field of Criminology. Upon completion of this course, you should have a relatively strong grasp of the fundamentals of each of these major topics.

Course Materials

*The book is a standard text in the field and is required for the class. It is available at the University Bookstore in the student union. It should also be available at off-campus book providers if you prefer to patronize them.
Classroom Format and Suggesting Learning Strategy

The classroom format for this course consists primarily of lectures. Classroom discussion and participation are strongly encouraged, and ample time for questions will be provided. We will also have unannounced quizzes regularly, and on occasion may watch some videos on relevant topics (depending on the availability of audio-visual resources). Students are expected to come to class having read the relevant material for that day, and be prepared to contribute to class discussions. Note that this is also a highly recommendable learning tactic. Your mastery and retention of class material will be significantly enhanced if you 1) read the material and take good notes on it before you come to class 2) come to class and take good notes, and 3) after class, spend even a few minutes reviewing the material most recently covered. This strategy will prepare you for the examinations much more efficiently than cramming the material the evening before the test.

Tests

There will be three tests, consisting of multiple choice and short essay questions. Each test is worth 30% of your final grade. Tests that are missed due to un-excused absences cannot be made up. Excused absences typically consist of your own death, that of an immediate family member, your own serious illness, or a serious illness of a family member. See the student handbook for further definitions of excusable absences.

Quizzes

You can expect unannounced quizzes regularly. The substantive content of the quizzes will be information that was covered in the previous class, or information drawn from the assigned reading. It is a good idea to review your notes from the previous class before the lecture starts. Quizzes comprise 10% of your final grade. Quizzes are typically short. However, in the event that it becomes apparent that students are not doing the assigned reading before coming to class, more extensive quizzes may be implemented. Quizzes that are missed due to un-excused absence cannot be made up.

Attendance and Other Issues

It is generally expected that students attend class and be punctual. If you do not like to attend class, it is probably a good idea to find another class to take. In addition, when attending class it is not acceptable to bring people who are not officially enrolled in class with you, such as children, spouses, parents, friends, cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents, etc... Pets are also not allowed in the classroom. If you are not officially enrolled in the class, you may not attend.

In addition, cell phones, beepers, and other electronic devices that make noise or have the potential to distract me or your classmates must be turned off during class and should be put out of sight. The only exception to this is emergency personnel, such as EMT’s, fire or police professionals, etc... Students who fall into this category should notify me at the beginning of the semester. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from class, and multiple infractions may
result in referral to the dean of students. I abhor tardiness, and chronic tardiness will not be tolerated.

**Makeup Policy**

If you miss a test, proper documentation of a legitimate excuse must be provided. Legitimate excuses are outlined in the student handbook, and are generally related to death (your own or an immediate family member), or **serious illness** (your own). In addition, in order to qualify for a makeup exam you must notify me within 24 hours after the beginning of the test period. Failure to do so may disqualify you from taking a makeup. Makeup exams are given the day of the final exam, directly after the final exam. These typically take the form of an essay exam. It is your responsibility to arrange this with me before hand.

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

- A=91-100
- B=81-90
- C=71-80
- D=61-70
- F=0-60

**Extra Credit**

There are no extra credit points available for this class.

**Reading and Test Schedule**

Introductory Matter, Chapter 1 - Crime and Criminology
Chapter 2 - Criminal Law and its Processes
Chapter 3 - Nature and Extent of Crime
Chapter 4 - Victims and Victimization
Chapter 5 - Choice Theory

**Test # 1 Tentative Date, February 24th**

Chapter 6 - Trait Theories
Chapter 7 - Social Structural Theories
Chapter 8 - Social Process Theories
Chapter 9 - Conflict Theory
Chapter 10 - Developmental Theories {life course and latent trait}

**Test # 2 Tentative Date, April 7th**

Chapter 11 - Violent Crime
Chapter 12 - Property Crime
Chapter 13 - Enterprise Crime {white collar, cybercrime, and organized crime}
Chapter 14 - Public Order Crimes

**Test # 3 (Final Examination) Wednesday, May 11th, 12:30 - 2:30**
Overview of Grading Scheme
1) 3 tests worth 30% of your final grade each, for a total of 90% of the final grade
2) Unannounced quizzes, worth 10% of the final grade

Academic Misconduct/Dishonesty
LSU treats academic misconduct and dishonesty very seriously. It is incumbent upon you to become familiar with University policies and procedures. You can expect that if you are caught cheating on an examination or a quiz, you will receive an F.