

Sociology 3371: Sociology of the Criminal Justice System

Professor: Dr. Chauvin

Office: 137 Stubbs Hall

Email: cdufre3@lsu.edu

Office Hours: _____, or by appointment

**I do ask that you set up at time with me for office hours even during my stated hours. I typically have multiple students wanting to see me and would like to schedule accordingly.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCL 3371 Sociology of the Criminal Justice System (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. This course focuses on the criminal justice system and its organizational components for advanced undergraduate students, junior-and senior-level. This course constitutes the advanced portion of an undergraduate program leading to the bachelor's degree. A student with fewer than 60 hours of credit may enroll in this 3000-level course if they meet the enrollment requirements of the Humanities and Social Sciences College whose Department of Sociology offers the course.

The primary goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of the criminal justice system's functioning and response to crime in society. It is important to note that the general theme of this course involves the delicate balance between community interests and individual rights that criminal justice decision-making requires. We will explore this theme by examining the criminal justice process in some detail, focusing on how the system is structured to respond to crime. This requires an understanding of the core elements of the criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections.

CONTENT & TRIGGER ADVISORY

Several of the materials, used in class and assigned, contain mature themes with coarse language and adult content - viewer discretion is advised. To a degree, this is the point of using these materials to better understand the idiosyncratic criminal justice system and the larger social world - learning can be an uncomfortable process. If you have specific triggers, please let me know and I will note the assignments accordingly. However, this will not release you from the knowledge needed to complete the course content. Please see the course outline for details on when subjects will be presented.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To *describe* basic features of the American criminal justice system, legal sanctions, and methods of social control;
- To *understand* police organizations, how cases are processed through the court system, sentencing decisions, and the various forms of criminal punishment;
- To *critically evaluate* criminal justice policies and their consequences;
- To *become* smart consumers of news reports, political rhetoric, and public discussion about crime, punishment, and the law.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Rennison, Callie Marie, and Mary Dodge. 2018. *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity, and Change*. 2nd Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (This text has an accompanying student resource website that you may find helpful- <https://edge.sagepub.com/rennison2e>)

COURSE WEBSITE

This course will make use of Moodle, which is accessed via the LSU homepage under “myLSU.” Lecture material, assignments, quizzes, and grades will be posted on this site. Please check Moodle regularly.

In addition, I will occasionally send out emails to the class using Moodle. It is IMPERATIVE that you regularly check your email linked to your Moodle account. (By default, this is your @lsu.edu email address.) I will not accept excuses that you “did not receive an email”; Moodle tells me if all emails are sent successfully. I will also not accept the excuse that “you did not see the email.” It is your responsibility to check your email often. If you have your LSU email forwarded to another email account, be sure messages are not being sent to the “junk” folder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Formal attendance will not be taken in class as it is your responsibility to be present. HOWEVER, regular class attendance and good note-taking skills will greatly improve your odds of academic success. In addition, I reserve the right to administer quizzes and extra credit opportunities in class without prior notice. Students not present **will not** receive credit for extra credit opportunities, even with a valid excuse. Students who miss class are responsible for all announcements, class discussions, class notes, and changes made to the course outline during class meetings.

I **WILL NOT** post my power point slides on Moodle. You must come to class to see them. If you are not able to attend class on a particular day, **YOU** are responsible for getting notes from a classmate and it is up to **YOU** to find that classmate. I will not distribute my own lecture notes to students and I will not reiterate information provided in class via email. I am, however, available to discuss any course content that you need further clarification on, whether you were in class or not. I just ask that you come with specific questions regarding the content and not ask for me to simply recall the lecture.

I STRONGLY encourage you to make an appointment if you have questions about the course material, your standing in the course, or other related matters. **Waiting until the end of the semester to voice problems is unacceptable.** If you have issues with the course in any way, you need to see me ASAP. I WILL NOT ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FOR CURVES, EXTRA CREDIT, or THE LIKE. If you didn’t do the work during the semester, why should I allow you to do “extra” work at the end of the semester?

Finally, it is important for you to respect your fellow students and me by arriving on time, not talking during lectures, and staying until the end of class. It is distracting when people are holding conversations while I am trying to speak. If you do so, I will ask you to leave the lecture. Also, please make sure your cell phones are **TURNED OFF** for the duration of the lecture and if you are using a laptop computer **YOUR VOLUME IS TURNED OFF AND YOU ARE USING IT FOR NOTE TAKING PURPOSES ONLY.** I reserve the right to

revoke the use of laptops and other electronic devices in class if I feel they are being misused or distracting for other students and/or myself.

EXAMS

Your course grade will be based on three (3) exams made up of any combination of answer types including but not limited to multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions drawn from lecture, videos, readings and any other material presented in class or assigned (basically, everything is fair game). The exams will be taken in class and are worth 75% of your final grade. The first two exams will be held during regular class time. The final exam is scheduled for a date and time specified by the Office of the University Registrar. All exams will be held in our regular classroom, unless otherwise notified.

A #2 pencil, small scantron, and photo ID are required for each exam.

Tardiness is inexcusable on exam days. Students are required to be ON TIME. **No new exams will be administered after the first student has completed his/her exam and has left the classroom.** If you do arrive late, you will have to take a make-up essay exam or oral exam.

DO NOT MISS EXAMS. All make-up exams will be administered at my discretion and at a time and place of my choosing. If you also miss the scheduled make-up exam, you **will receive a zero** for your exam grade.

YOU MUST TAKE YOUR FINAL WITH YOUR CLASS SECTION AND ON THE DATE/TIME POSTED BY THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE. IF YOU MISS YOUR FINAL EXAM, YOU MUST NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY. I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DENY YOU A MAKE-UP EXAM. IF I DO ALLOW YOU A MAKE-UP FINAL EXAM, 20% WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR EXAM AND I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER YOUR MAKE-UP EXAM IN ESSAY OR VERBAL FORMAT.

ASSIGNMENTS

Your course grade will also be based on a number of assignments completed throughout the semester. In total, the assignments will be worth 25% of your grade. Assignments must be turned in via Moodle and Turnitin. You must turn in your assignment by the posted deadline or your score will be reduced accordingly: **20 percent will be deducted** from your score **immediately** and until noon. Any assignment turned in after noon, will see a reduction in an additional 25% and each day (noon the next day) that passes thereafter, *including* weekends, until you have no more points to be deducted from your score.

If you have difficulty using turnitin and cannot upload your assignment, you **MUST** email a copy of your assignment AND a screen shot of the problem to me **BEFORE** the posted deadline to receive full credit. Otherwise, your score will be reduced as stated above. (If you do not send a screenshot, even if turned in on time, your score will be reduced by 20%.)

GRADING

Your grade will be based on three (3) exams taken throughout the semester and various assignments and quizzes associated with each chapter or assigned readings. Each exam will have equal weight (25%) for a total of 75% of your final grade. The assignments and quizzes will also be weighted equally and combined will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Grading Scale:

100 – 97 = A+; 96 – 93 = A; 92 – 90 = A-
89 – 97 = B+; 86 – 83 = B; 82 – 80 = B-
79 – 77 = C+; 76 – 73 = C; 72 – 70 = C-
69 – 67 = D+; 66 – 63 = D; 62 – 60 = D-
59 – 0 = F

3 Exams- 25% each = 75%
Assignments/Quizzes = 25%
Total 100%

**** NO ADDITIONAL GRADED WORK WILL BE ALLOWED OR ASSIGNED TO HELP BRING UP YOUR GRADE IN THIS COURSE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RECOGNIZE WHAT GRADE YOU NEED/WANT IN THIS COURSE AND WORK TO ACHIEVE THAT GRADE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER. I WILL NOT ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL WORK, ESPECIALLY AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. DO NOT ASK. I WILL NOT ANSWER YOUR EMAILS FOR SUCH REQUESTS. ****

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All Louisiana State University students are responsible for observing the highest standards of academic and personal integrity. **The penalties for academic misconduct are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.** “ ‘Academic Misconduct’ shall mean cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and all other actions which are described in Section 8.1.C. or any act or other form of academic dishonesty or omission designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student.” All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. The LSU Code of Student Conduct is available at <http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct>.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

In an effort to ensure full participation in all activities, programs, and services, the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Louisiana State University is committed to providing the appropriate auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services also serves as a source of disability-related information for the university. The Office of Disability Services is located in Room 115 Johnston Hall. Students with a disability (physical disability, learning disability) who require documented accommodations should speak with me as soon as possible. Students who require special testing conditions or accommodations must make arrangements through the Office of Disability Services in 115 Johnston Hall (578-5919).

****** Please Note- My name is Chantel DUFRENE in the ODS system******

**** This syllabus is a general guideline and is subject to change at my discretion if necessary. ****