GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS

Index Number: CJUS 411
Course Title: Theories of Crime and Deviance
Credit Hours: 3.0
Trimester: Fall 2006
Class Room: Kankakee Education Center – room 310
Day/Time: Monday: 5:30pm – 8:20pm
Instructor: Christina Sintic, M.A.
Office: Kankakee Education Center – 1st Floor
Office Hours: Wed: 5pm – 8pm, Fri: 9am – 11am
Phone: 815-537-1356
Email: csintic@comcast.net

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Reviews the historical and contemporary theories on crime and deviance. Analyses concepts and patterns of crime and deviant behavior and society’s response to them. Examines the law, offenders, victims, and forms of crime and deviance in the criminal justice systems. Formulates an integrated perspective that takes into account societal pressures and research about crime, rehabilitation, and recidivism.

PREREQUISITES:
None

COURSE RATIONALE:
This is a required course in the criminal justice. The main focus will be the understanding and application of criminal justice theory from a variety of approaches, including but not limited to classical, biological/biosocial, social, psychological,
organizational, environmental, and economic. The following topics, as they relate to theory and theoretical perspective development, will be discussed: historical relevance, societal response to crime, and the shaping of public policy.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

This course is intended for criminal justice majors and minors, as well as any student interested in the development, application, and research of crime based theory.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Students who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom must contact a GSU representative in the Office of Extended Learning at the Kankakee Education Center (main floor) or call the main campus at (708) 534-4099. Students will be required to provide documentation of any disability when an accommodation is requested.

PLAGAIRISM:

The university policy on academic honesty appears in the appendix of the Governors State University Catalog. There is absolutely no room in this class for dishonesty and/or plagiarism of any kind. I will personally seek out the most sever punishment for any student caught cheating, plagiarizing others’ work (this includes the work of your peers as well as professional publications), or being dishonest or unethical as it pertains to the requirements and expectations of this course.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the basis of scientific research as a whole by focusing on the requirements for causation.

2. Identify the different theoretical approaches in the field of criminal justice research and theory development.

3. Understand and explain the importance of the historical context of criminal justice theoretical development.

4. Apply the theories learned in class to a variety of legally and socially defined “crimes” in an attempt to explain crime and deviance.

5. Discuss the impact criminal justice theory has on public policy and vise versa.
6. Understand and discuss major theoretical perspectives in the field of criminal justice, as well as identify influential theorists and the propositions of their theoretical argument.

7. Conduct research in order to further understand the relationship between theoretical development and practical application.

8. Speak and write intelligently on the subject of theory by practicing with writing assignments and presentations.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITIES:
Lecture, individual and group exercises.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be prompt for all class sessions. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class.

Students are expected to participate in classroom assignments and discussion.

Students are expected to complete assigned readings in their text (or otherwise) and be prepared to discuss these readings.

Take home assignments and the mid term exam are due at the start of class. Only the final paper will be due at the end of class.

For all writing exercises, the following format must be used: double spaced, 1” margins for the entire page, and 12 point Times font. The page requirement for each exercise is listed on the Tentative Schedule.

Every assignment must have the name of the student/s, date, and title on either the first page (top left side) or cover page.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Readings as assigned in class – these readings will be provided to the student one week before the reading is due to be discussed in class.
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (14 classes @ 5 points per class)</td>
<td>70 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (10 assignments @ 10 points each)</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
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<td>Prospectus Presentation</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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<td>Final Presentation</td>
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Grading policy is as follows:

A = 450 – 405 points  
B = 404 – 360 points  
C = 359 – 315 points  
D = 314 – 270 points  
F = 269 points and below

Extra credit will be offered throughout the course of this semester. Five opportunities will be presented to the students, each worth 20 points each.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students are expected to make arrangements to see the instructor if they need assistance with the course. Please feel free to contact me via phone or email and I will be happy to meet with you.

Note: The instructor retains the right to amend this syllabus at any time.