



Comparative Criminology
CRIM 537 Section # 001 Fall 2016
August 22, 2016 – December 13, 2016

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Class Meetings: Online
Office Hours: Daily by email
Phone: TBD

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Course Description: Every society has crime and criminal justice, which is a conflict resolution mechanism. The purpose of this course is to go beyond the culturally provincial view of crime and criminal justice. Most of the crime issues are not just unique to one country or culture. We share problems with other countries but the way different societies respond to the same problem may be different, it is a choice based on cultural, economic, historical, and political factors. Here, we can benefit from the insights of other cultures i.e. from comparative approach to the study of crime and criminal justice. You find yourself with an opportunity to explore a fascinating and challenging topic – let's take advantage of this, and make it a great semester for your fellow students and your professor.

Course Objectives: The successful student will:

- 1) Understand and appreciate value of comparing criminal justice systems and crime issues.
- 2) Learn about the major sources of international crime statistics.
- 3) Study similarities and dissimilarities between institutions and practices of law enforcement, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice in different countries.
- 4) Examine in detail the role and contemporary development of prisons in the U.S. and overseas.
- 5) Have an opportunity for independent work – create a presentation or write a paper.

Materials You Are Required to Read Prior to Each Class Period (see schedule for details):

Dammer, Henry R. and Jay S. Albanese. 2013. *"Comparative Criminal Justice Systems."* 5th Edition. ISBN-10:128506786X

Christie, Nils. 2000. *"Crime Control as Industry."* 3rd Edition. ISBN-10: 0415234875

Supplemental readings that will be posted on the Blackboard course management page.

Class Format:

- 1) I will post my lectures as powerpoint files and readings as .pdf files on the Blackboard.
- 2) Study guides will be posted in advance prior to each exam.
- 3) Students have a lot of autonomy to pace themselves through the readings but are expected to take online quizzes, 2 exams, and complete other tasks assigned by professor.

Student Evaluation:

Your final grade for the course will be figured according to the following method:

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Online Quizzes	25%
Research Paper / Presentation	25%

I. Exams:

- 1) There will be two closed book exams consisting of primarily multiple choice questions.
- 2) Roughly a half of the questions will cover the assigned readings and another half will cover my lectures which I have posted on the Blackboard. Questions are going to be very straightforward and easy to those who read the material. Study guides will be provided in advance.
- 3) Exams will be available on the Blackboard from 9:00am to 11:45pm on **September 27** and **November 10**. Once you log in – you will have **90 minutes** to finish, and only **one attempt**.

II. Online Quizzes: There will be 9 quizzes posted on the Blackboard. Online quizzes need to be finished by 11:45pm on the day they appear on the syllabus (see class schedule for details) and I will make them available on Blackboard at least 48 hours in advance.

III. Research Paper / Presentation: You will prepare a research paper or a presentation on a topic of your choosing (within the field of comparative criminology). The goal of this assignment is to allow you to engage in independent research and to demonstrate your knowledge of the chosen topic to the class and the professor. Choose a topic that is **fun** or **relevant** for your professional life. Both the presentation and the paper should have no less than 10 academic sources (i.e. cite 10 articles from peer-reviewed academic journals). If you choose to create a presentation the substance and tone of the presentation have to be academic and constructive. Submit a topic, a brief outline of the research paper / presentation no later than November 1st so I can approve it. Review of scholarly literature on a particular issue is a great option (say you cover the research findings on international drug trade). I will provide additional guidelines for this assignment later in the semester and I reserve the right to weight the paper / presentation differently in terms of grading to ensure equal reward for equal student effort. If you do not **email me that assignment as an attachment** by 12 pm on December 9 you lose 25% of the grade.

Tips for Success: *following these steps will allow you to pass the class successfully.*

- 1) Read the assigned material prior to taking the exam.
- 2) Be able to explain the key ideas and concepts in the readings.
- 3) Fill in the study guide, provided in advance by the professor, to prepare for the exam.
- 4) Do not miss exams.

Student Disabilities Statement: All individuals diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, you may be entitled to certain accommodations within this class. If you are diagnosed with a disability, please call 745-5004 or stop by Student Disability Services (SDS), DUC A200. All students with the necessary supporting documentation will be provided appropriate accommodations as determined by the SDS office. It is entirely your responsibility to contact SDS and concurrently supply me with your accommodation plan, which will inform me exactly what accommodations you are entitled to. You will only receive accommodations once you provide me with an SDS accommodation plan. Any previously recorded grades will not be changed.