

CJ-655

PERSPECTIVES IN CRIMINOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to CJ-655, Perspectives in Criminology. This course focuses on issues of race and ethnicity, gender and social class. It emphasizes the criminogenic effects of the physical and social features of urban neighborhoods.

Several themes are addresses. The course illustrates that there is a need to understand the social causes of crime in order to reduce crime. Consider this rationale: One of the most important social problems is crime and the least one understood.

This course includes discussion on public opinion, the news media, and the crime problem. Also of interest, is information on political crime and crime control in a democratic society.

The course includes up-to-date crime and criminal justice statistics and also presents the latest research on crime and criminal justice issues.

Discussion on new crime topics including harm reduction and illegal drug use, workplace violence, police crime-reporting scandals, and restorative justice are presented.

Enjoy the learning!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This objectives of this course are to provide the student a comprehensive body of information and an examination and analysis of theories, views and key issues of Perspectives in Criminology.

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- ◆ Review social perspectives regarding crime and criminality.
- ◆ Explain the biological, psychological and sociological explanations of crime and criminality.

OBJECTIVES (continued)

- ◆ Examine criminal behaviors.
- ◆ Examine crime control and prevention.

LEARNING RESOURCES

This course utilizes a textbook and a Study Guide. The textbook is the primary source for the course. This Study Guide is prepared in conjunction with the textbook. The Study Guide is designed to guide and direct your learning activities to an understanding of the theories, concepts, principles and practices presented in the textbook. If you have any questions or need assistance, there will always be someone available to help you.

THE TEXTBOOK

The required textbook for this course is Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, Second Edition, Steven Barkan, Prentice Hall, 2001.

The textbook is reader friendly, conveniently organized and current. The text presents comprehensive information on perspectives in criminology.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND FORMAT

- ◆ **The Preface:** Presents the introductory comments, purpose and views of the book by the authors of the text.
- ◆ **Supplements:** Identifies the available Instructor's Manual and test and a world-wide web guide available to students.
- ◆ **Acknowledgments:** Recognition is given to the individuals and organizations who helped make the book a reality.
- ◆ **About the Author:** A brief biography of the author and an invitation welcoming comments from students and faculty.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND FORMAT (continued)

- ◆ **Chapter Outline:** Each Chapter presents an outline of the topics that will be discussed.
- ◆ **Crime in the News:** Each Chapter presents vignettes that demonstrate the text's relevance to real-life events and issues.
- ◆ **Charts, Tables, Exhibits, Graphs and Photographs:** The authors have included a generous offering of visual aids, making concepts easier to comprehend.

CHAPTER ENDINGS

Additional information that will help you enlarge your understanding of concepts discussed in the Chapters.

- ◆ **Summaries:** Each Chapter concludes with an excellent summary of the key areas covered in the text. These summaries will provide a quick review and will reinforce what you have read and learned. These summaries can be particularly helpful in referring back to Chapter information and also helpful when preparing for exams.
- ◆ **Key Terms:** A list of key words, phrases, abbreviations, and acronyms that are used in the Chapter.
- ◆ **Study Questions:** These questions challenge your memory, make you think about what you have studied and measure your understanding of the material presented in the Chapter.
- ◆ **Internet Exercises:** Each Chapter includes a series of Internet Exercises that are designed to help you discover the wealth of information available. You can enlarge your learning on issues presented in every Chapter by checking out these sites.

MEMORY CHALLENGE

(NO RESPONSE REQUIRED)

Memory Challenge. No Response Required. True & False.

1. The text points out that sociological criminology is *not* a structural criminology. (False)
2. Above all else, the sociological perspective stresses that people are social beings more than individuals. (True)
3. Research methodology originating in psychology provides the basis for most criminological research. (False)
4. Perhaps the first positivistic criminologist was the French sociologist Emile Durkheim. (False)
5. At one point in its history, Robert K. Merton's anomie theory fell out of favor and in its place rose a new control theory of criminal behavior that emphasized the criminogenic effects of weak bonds to social institutions. (True)
6. Consensus and conflict views of crime, law and society are independent and have no relationship to analogous perspectives in the larger field of sociology. (False)
7. Conflict theory is virtually the opposite of consensus theory. (True)
8. A random sample allows for generalization of research results to the total population. (True)
9. Random-digit dialing requires a separate procedure in order to yield random samples of respondents. (False)
10. One problem of experiments is that they are not generalizable. (True)
11. Even if all three criteria for causality are satisfied, the explanation offered for why A affects B still has to make sense. (True)