

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO USE W-DESIGNATION

LSC # 234  
Action \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER SHEET: Request for Approval to Use W-Designation**

TYPE I. PROFESSOR COMMITMENT

- (X) Professor Jennifer L. Gossett Phone 357-5608
- (X) Writing Workshop? (If not at IUP, where? when?) Summer 2003
- (X) Proposal for one W-course (see instructions below)
- (X) Agree to forward syllabi for subsequently offered W-courses?

TYPE II. DEPARTMENT COURSE

- ( ) Department Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Course Number/Title \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Statement concerning departmental responsibility
- ( ) Proposal for this W-course (see instructions below)

TYPE III. SPECIFIC COURSE AND SPECIFIC PROFESSOR(S)

- ( ) Professor(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Course Number/Title \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Proposal for this W-course (see instructions below)

SIGNATURES:

Professor(s) *Jennifer L. Gossett*

Department Chairperson *Jennifer Gossett*

College Dean *A. Ann* 10-31-03

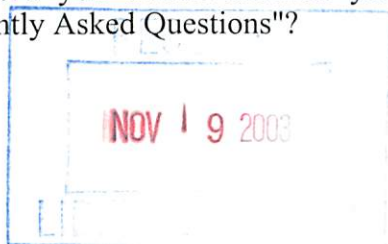
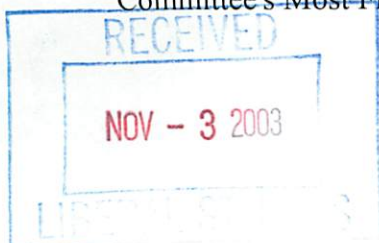
Director of Liberal Studies *Theresa Soehn* 11-20-03

COMPONENTS OF A PROPOSAL FOR A WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSE:

- I. "Writing Summary"--one or two pages explaining how writing is used in the course. First, explain any distinctive characteristics of the content or students which would help the Liberal Studies Committee understand your summary. Second, list and explain the types of writing activities; be especially careful to explain (1) what each writing activity is intended to accomplish as well as the (2) amount of writing, (3) frequency and number of assignments, and (4) whether there are opportunities for revision. If the activity is to be graded, indicate (5) evaluation standards and (6) percentage contribution to the student's final grade.
- II. Copy of the course syllabus.
- III. Two or three samples of assignment sheets, instructions, or criteria concerning writing that are given to students. Limit: 4 pages. (Single copies of longer items, if essential to the proposal, may be submitted to be passed among LSC members and returned to you.)

**Please number all pages.** Provide one copy to Liberal Studies Committee.

**Before you submit:** Have you double-checked your proposal against "The Liberal Studies Committee's Most Frequently Asked Questions"?



## **Writing Summary**

The purpose of this application is to request writing intensive/Type I approval for myself. The attached materials represent examples of my commitment to the incorporation of writing into my teaching. The summary charts, the syllabi, and the writing activity examples are proposed for Criminology 400 Theoretical Criminology. This course is offered every semester and required for criminology majors and minors. The class size is limited to twenty students who have amassed some knowledge about the field which enables an emphasis on writing to complement their class experiences.

Three types of writing occur in this proposed class:

### **1. Writing for Evaluation**

There are two examinations and a final proposed for this class. The exams are essay format with ten possible questions presented in each exam. The students must choose five out of the ten to answer. The essay questions include comparisons of specific theories, applying a theory to a given case study, showing knowledge of discussed theories, and integrating theories with criminal justice policies. The ten possible essay questions will be given to the student before the exam so they can prepare them ahead of time. Students will have one hour to respond to the essays. In evaluating their answers, the organization, content, knowledge, and clarity in writing are included in their grade calculations. Writing for evaluation incorporates 24 percent of the final grade.

### **2. Writing to Stimulate Thought and Summarize Information**

Three out-of-class writing assignments are proposed to assist the student in applying and integrating theories to explain current events related to criminology. Weekly writing assignments require the student to use theories discussed that week to reflect and express their opinions of the theory in explaining criminal behavior. The weekly assignments vary so that one week the student writes specifically about their opinions of the questioned theories, while the following week the student must search for a newspaper article to use in applying one theory to the content of the article she or he chose. These assignments will be graded to assist students in writing improvement, editing, and comprehending criminological theories. A pre and post criminological thought papers allow students on the first day of class and the last to compare their views on why people commit crimes. This allows the student to examine their beliefs in relation to theoretical perspective and to examine improvements in their writing over the semester. This assignment will not be graded. The last assignment under this category of writing is a five page literature review of a criminological theory. The student must choose a theory and review existing research articles that test the explanatory power of the theory, discuss the theory's strengths and weakness, and provide their overall opinions of the theory. Thirty-nine percent of their final grade includes writing to stimulate their thought and summarize class material.

### **3. Writing to Integrate Learning and Professionalism**

Students will summarize and integrate class material in writing applications specific to criminology. The students will partner with another student to present a critical theory within criminology. The students will provide their peers a handout that will be used as a study guide

for the theory in question. This allows the student to learn, as well as teach others about specific theories within the radical criminological theoretical perspective. The handout will be evaluated in reference to content, writing clarity, and thoroughness. The students will also complete an abstract that is required for acceptance to national conferences. Students will propose a research project that tests a theory of their choice. The abstract will be graded upon justification of proposed research, organization, writing clarity, and creativity. Twelve percent of their grade comes from these assignments.

## Summary Chart for Writing Assignments\*

| <b>A. Writing Assignments</b>                         |                         |                         |                        |  |   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Assignment Title</b>                               | <b># of Assignments</b> | <b># of total pages</b> | <b>Graded (Yes/No)</b> | <b>Opportunity for Revision (Yes/No)</b> | <b>Written Assignment represents what % of final course grade</b> |
| Exams   | 3                       | 9                       | yes                    | no                                       | 24  |
| Weekly Applications of Opinions/Newspaper Articles    | 6                       | 6                       | yes                    | no                                       | 14  |
| Presentation Handout                                  | 1                       | 1                       | yes                    | no                                       | 5   |
| Pre and Post Criminological Theory Writing Assignment | 2                       | 1                       | no                     | no                                       | 0   |
| Call for Papers Assignment                            | 1                       | 1                       | yes                    | yes                                      | 7   |
| Literature Review Paper                               | 1                       | 5                       | yes                    | yes                                      | 24  |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>14</b>               | <b>23</b>               | <b>NA</b>              | <b>NA</b>                                | <b>74</b>   |

| <b>B. Examinations (Complete only if you intend to use essay exams/short answers as part of the required number of pages of writing.)</b> |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Exams</b>  | <b>Approx.% of exam that is essay or short answer</b> | <b>Anticipated # of pages for essay or short answer, or approx. word count</b> | <b>Exam constitutes what % of final course grade</b> |
| 1.  | 100   | 3  | 7  |
| 2.  | 100   | 3  | 7  |
| 3.  | 100   | 3  | 10   |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>100</b>  | <b>9</b>   | <b>24</b>  |

\*Total writing assignments should contain at least 5000 words (approximately 15-20 typed pages) in two or more separate assignments; written assignments should be a major part of the final grade— at least 50% or more.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY**  
**CRIM 400: Theoretical Criminology**

**Instructor:** Jennifer Gossett  
**Phone:** 724-357-5608  
**Mailbox:** McElhaney G-1

**Office:** Sutton 414  
**Email:** jgossett@iup.edu  
**Office hours:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A review and critical analysis of the major criminological theories beginning with the classical school; psychological, sociological, economic, biological, and political theories of crime and its causes will be included (IUP Catalog description).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will be provided an opportunity to gain a historical understanding of the origins and development of theories of crime and justice systems.
2. Students will be provided an opportunity to develop awareness of how socio-demographic characteristics impact the development of theories of crime and justice systems as well as policy.
3. Students will learn basic theoretical assumptions and dominant perspectives in criminology.
4. Students will be provided an opportunity to further develop their skills in writing and critical thinking.

**TEXTBOOKS/READINGS**

**Required Textbooks:**

Curran, Daniel J and Claire M. Renzetti. 2001. Theories of Crime. (2ed). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Schwartz, Martin D. and Suzanne E. Hatty. 2003. Controversies in Critical Criminology. Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing Co.

**Additional Readings:**

Any additional readings will be placed on reserve in the library and available through electronic reserves.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are expected at each class meeting. Everyone starts with fifty points for attendance and participation.

**Attendance:** Attendance is measured by attending class, being on time, and staying for the entire class period. I take attendance at each class meeting. You are responsible for obtaining lecture notes, assignments or information discussed during your absence. Deductions for attendance occur after three unexcused, missed classes. Each missed

class thereafter receives a four point per absence deduction. You must provide verification for excused absences that result from illness, personal emergency, or military/athletic leave.

**Participation:** Participation is measured by being focused on course material (i.e. not reading a newspaper during class), being engaged in discussion, verbally participating in class discussions, participating in class activities, and meeting assignment due dates. Everyone's opinions will be respected, even if they are not agreed upon.\* Participation deductions occur when the above measures are not being met. Deductions can range from one to ten points for each incident, based upon participation throughout the semester.

\* See IUP Civility Statement on page 4

### **Writing Assignments**

There are a variety of writing tasks assigned for this course. Some flexibility is given in these assignments to allow for current events, class dynamics, and adaptability to situations. Further elaboration on each assignment will be given well in advance of its due date. Every assignment requires proper sentence structure, free of grammatical and spelling errors, use of appropriate verb tense, and clear and concise content. Assignments are graded on all of the above aspects together and separately dependent upon the task. NO emailed assignments are accepted unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments receive a ten percent deduction for each day it is late.

**Pre and Post Criminological Thinking:** This assignment is completed at the beginning of class and at the end of the semester. You are required to state your opinions to the question "why do people commit crimes in the U.S.?" Your response is based on your experiences, knowledge, beliefs, and opinions. The assignments must be typed and no more than one page double-spaced in length. You must keep the pre-assignment because it is required to submit with the post task at the end of the semester. See due dates on the tentative course schedule.

**Scavenger Hunt:** You will be required to find answers to questions related to theory and research in criminology by using the Internet. Responses must be typed and in complete sentences, unless otherwise stated. This assignment is worth 25 points. See due dates on the tentative course schedule.

**Call for Papers/Conference Abstract:** "Call for papers" requires you to prepare an abstract for a possible research project that could be presented at a criminology conference under the heading of criminological theory. Specific details will be given in class for this assignment. The abstract must be typed and within a maximum of two double-spaced pages in length. You will receive the abstract back with expectations that changes can be made and the assignment reviewed again. This assignment is worth 30 points. See due dates on the tentative course schedule.

**Critical Criminological Theory Presentation and Handout:** Students are required to pair-up with another student to present a criminological theory to the class. The presentation theory chapters are in the optional textbook on reserve in the library, if not purchased or loaned. You are required to present the origins, the premise, components, relationship to other theories, its applicability through example, and its strengths and weaknesses. Twenty to thirty minutes are allotted for each presentation. This portion of the assignment is worth 30 points. You are also required to provide students with a minimum of a one-page handout with key theoretical points. The handout is worth 20 points. The handout grade reflects the key points of the theory, thoroughness, and free of writing and grammatical errors. The presenters should assume some of their audience have not read or know anything about the theory in question. Specific details will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 50 points. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in the second week of class. The theories of choice include:

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Left Realism  | Cultural            |
| Peacemaking   | Restorative Justice |
| Postmodernism | Deviant Bodies      |
| Masculinity   | State Crimes        |
| Constitutive  | Hate Crimes         |

**Literature Review Paper:** You will choose one theory to complete a five page literature review. The review will summarize the key points of the theory, discuss major research themes, convey strengths and weaknesses of the theory, provide future research areas and your opinions of the applicability of the theory. This assignment must be type and double-spaced with the inclusion of at least five academic references. Further elaboration of this assignment will be given in class. This assignment allows for one rewrite. The literature review is worth one hundred points. See due date on the tentative course schedule.

**Weekly Assignments:** Each week you are required to respond to the discussed theories. Each week will be switched in opinion writing of the theory and applying the theory to a current event (i.e. newspaper/magazine/news case). One week you will provide your opinions of the theory and the following week you are required to apply the theory to a current event. You must attach the newspaper article to your response. You must discuss how the theory could or could not explain or apply to the case. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on Monday in which you respond to the previous week theory. This allows you the weekend to process your thoughts about the theory(ies). Six of the assignments will be randomly graded for writing and application of the theory and worth ten points each. The other five weekly assignments will be marked for completion and reflected in your participation grade (i.e. choosing not to complete the weekly assignments will lead to deductions in your participation grade).

### **Exams**

There are three schedule exams for this course. The exams encompass essay questions with choice in the questions answered. For example you will have a list of ten questions and you have to respond to five. Exam one and two are worth thirty points. Make-up

exams will be given for excused and appropriate situations for missing an exam. Make up exams include absences known prior to the scheduled exam (i.e. you cannot take an exam early to avoid a make up test). The make-up exam encompasses two assigned essay questions. The final exam is worth forty points.

**Final grades will be calculated based upon the following:**

|                              |     |                          |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Attendance and Participation |     | 50 points                |
| Writing Assignments          |     | 265 points               |
| Pre and Post                 | 0   |                          |
| Scavenger Hunt               | 25  |                          |
| Call for Papers              | 30  |                          |
| Presentation and Handout     | 50  |                          |
| Literature Review            | 100 |                          |
| Weekly Assignments           | 60  |                          |
| Exams                        |     | 100 points               |
| Exam 1                       | 30  |                          |
| Exam 2                       | 30  |                          |
| Final                        | 40  |                          |
| <b>Total</b>                 |     | <b><u>415 points</u></b> |

**Grading Scale**

- 415-374 A
- 373-332 B
- 331-291 C
- 290-249 D
- below 249 is an F

**Class Conduct**

**Classroom Civility:** This class will be conducted within a learning environment that allows people to exchange ideas and listening to one another with consideration and respect. This class will engage the premises of civility as described in your IUP Undergraduate Catalog, which can be retrieved at <http://www.iup.edu/registrar/catalog/> under compliance and affirmative action.

**Academic Integrity:** I do not expect this to be an issue, but it must be clear to every student that any act of academic dishonesty will be handled within the policies and procedures outlined in the IUP Undergraduate Catalog. The IUP Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures can be viewed at <http://www.iup.edu/registrar/catalog/> under academic policies.



### Tentative Course Outline

|        |  |                            |
|--------|--|----------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction to class<br>Discussion of writing   |                            |
| Week 2 | What is theory?<br><b>Pre-Criminology Theory Assignment due at beginning of class</b><br><b>Distribution of Scavenger Hunt Assignment</b><br>Classical/Positivist<br>Marxism | Chp. 1<br>Chp. 1           |
| Week 3 | Physical/Body Types<br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Heredity<br>Hormones/Diet<br><b>Scavenger Hunt Assignment Due</b>   | Chp. 2<br>Chp. 2<br>Chp. 2 |
| Week 4 | IQ<br><b>Newspaper weekly assignment due</b><br>Personality<br>Mental Illness  | Chp. 3<br>Chp. 3<br>Chp. 3 |
| Week 5 | Drugs/Alcohol<br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Exam Review<br><b>Essay Exam 1</b>  | Chp. 3                     |
| Week 6 | Chicago School<br><b>Newspaper weekly assignment due</b><br>Social Diorganization/Anomie<br>Subculture   | Chp. 4<br>Chp. 4<br>Chp. 4 |
| Week 7 | Opportunity<br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Strain<br>Sutherland/Akers<br><b>Mid-term Grades</b>  | Chp. 4<br>Chp. 4<br>Chp. 5 |
| Week 8 | Control<br><b>Newspaper weekly assignment due</b><br>General/Neutralization<br>Labeling<br><b>Call for Papers Abstract due</b>   | Chp. 5<br>Chp. 5<br>Chp. 5 |

|         |   |                  |
|---------|---|------------------|
| Week 9  | Radical<br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Marxism<br>Monopoly  | Chp. 6<br>Chp. 6 |
| Week 10 | Left Realism (chapter 3)<br><b>Newspaper weekly assignment due</b><br><b>Call for Papers Abstract Rewrite due</b><br>Peacemaking (chapter 7)<br>Postmodern (chapter 4)    |                  |
| Week 11 | <b>Essay Exam 2</b><br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Feminism<br>Masculinity (chapter 11)<br><b>Literature Review Due</b>                                       | Chp. 7           |
| Week 12 | Constitutive (chapter 5)<br><b>Newspaper weekly assignment due</b><br>Cultural (chapter 6)  |                  |
| Week 13 | Restorative Justice (chapter 8)<br><b>Opinion weekly assignment due</b><br>Deviant Bodies (chapter 10)<br>State Crime (chapter 9)<br><b>Literature Review rewrite due</b> |                  |
| Week 14 | Hate Crimes (chapter 11)<br>Future Theory, Research and Policy Issues<br><b>Post-Criminological Thinking assignment due</b>   |                  |
| Finals  | <b>Take home Final Exams Due</b>  |                  |

## Crim 400 Literature Review

This assignment requires you to gain a greater knowledge of one theory of your choice. You may choose any theory we have discussed in class; this includes your presentation theory. Once you have chosen a theory, you are required to find at least five peer-reviewed journal articles that have analyzed this theory (i.e. tested the theory to see if it explains the crime in question). If you search the IUP Library website for databases, the ones most helpful to you in finding these articles are Criminal Justice Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, PsychInfo and Criminal Justice Periodicals. The first three can be accessed from home, but the newest database, Criminal Justice Periodicals, is only available on campus. You may need to also search other criminological textbooks to gain a greater understanding of the theory beyond your textbook and class notes (if you use other texts they must be referenced).

### Structure of the Literature Review and Grading Scheme:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Introduction (one paragraph)  | <i>10 points</i> |
| - discuss the chosen theory and explain why using that theory   |                  |
| - explain the outline of the paper  |                  |
| - provide the goal or purpose of the paper  |                  |
| Summarize theory (2-3 paragraphs....no more than one page)  | <i>10 points</i> |
| - discuss the key points of the theory  |                  |
| - discuss the founder of the theory   |                  |
| - give the social context of the theory   |                  |
| - assume your audience has some knowledge of criminological theories  |                  |
| Research (at least one paragraph for each study)  | <i>30 points</i> |
| - discuss each study you found that examined the theory in question   |                  |
| - provide the research question, their hypothesis, the sample used, methods, results and the importance of the study.   |                  |
| Strengths and Weaknesses (one paragraph for strengths and one for weaknesses)   | <i>10 points</i> |
| - discuss three strengths and three weaknesses of the theory (i.e. what does the theory explain and what does it not, research issues, what it includes and what it does not, etc.) |                  |
| - strengths and weaknesses can be found in textbooks and in research articles   |                  |
| Opinions (one or two paragraphs)  | <i>10 points</i> |
| - use "I" in this paragraph to discuss your knowledgeable and professional opinions of the theory to explain criminal behavior and your concerns for future use of the theory       |                  |
| Conclusion (one paragraph)  | <i>10 points</i> |
| - restate the goal/purpose of the paper   |                  |
| - provide statements that summarize the theory or your thoughts on the theory   |                  |

Writing factors to keep in mind:

1. Paragraphs have at least three sentences as a minimum.
2. NO extra spaces between paragraphs.
3. Indent paragraphs five spaces.
4. Make sure to spell and grammar check and READ OVER THE PAPER.
5. The first page of the paper should include the title and then start the text.
6. References are on a separate sheet.
7. You may use any referencing style as long as you are consistent (e.g. look at the back of the textbook and mimic their referencing style.)
8. This is an individual project!!!!
9. Your audience is the professor.
10. Keep quotes to a minimum, meaning no more than three.

Paper Mechanics:

*20 points*

1. Four full typed pages as a minimum. If in question, make sure you have five typed pages excluding references.
2. Paper typed in 12 inch font, double spaced with NO extra spaces between paragraphs. Paragraphs are indented five spaces so there is no need for extra spaces.
3. Cover/Title page that includes  
Title for the paper,  
Your name,  
Crim 400 Fall 2003  
Date
4. Stapled in left-hand corner of paper. NO folders or paperclips.
5. This assignment is worth 100 points.

## CALL FOR PAPERS ASSIGNMENT CRIM 400

This assignment requires you to develop an abstract for a proposed research project. A Call For Papers is a required task for acceptance to present your research at an annual conference (i.e. American Society of Criminologists or Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences). You will design a research project testing one or more of the criminological theories we have discussed in class this semester. You may choose any crime or delinquent act to include in your study. You may choose from any population (e.g. juveniles, adults, gangs, homeless, mentally ill, rural communities) to examine your research question. The session you are submitting your abstract is entitled Theoretical Criminology. The requirements for the project are listed below:

1. You must have a title for your abstract that is centered and typed in capital letters at the top of the paper. The title cannot include the terms research paper, proposal, or assignment. You must be creative and design an actual title for your project. If you visit the following sites you can see specific examples of titles for actual abstracts for presentation at ASC in November.  
**(<http://www.asc41.com/www/2003/cmsindx.htm>, click on **Alphabetical Track and Theme Index**, click on a theory category of interest to you, click a session that is of interest to you, if you click on a paper title the abstract will display)**
2. Your name should be centered, double-spaced, in regular type under the title.
3. Double-spaced down from your name, type ABSTRACT in all caps at the left margin.
4. Start the text on the next line under ABSTRACT.
5. The abstract should be 300-500 words in length. If you use Microsoft Word, highlight the text, click tools, click word count and you will get the number of words in the text. You are not required to use references, but if you do use them, you must cite them and included a reference page.

These questions must be addressed in the abstract:

- Introduction ---- you should begin with some general information about the crime of interest, theory, etc.
- Research question that includes theory and a crime
  - Why is this research project important?
  - Why are you using that specific theory?
  - Why that specific crime?
- Research method used ----- survey, interviews, observations, etc.
- Sample ----- who are you going to study and why?
  - How will you gain access to the sample?
- Hypothesis ----- what do you hope to find?
- Conclusion --- tie everything back together in general and/or specific statements

The abstract must be typed, single or double-spaced, and stapled in left-hand corner if more than one page. You will be given one opportunity to make corrections to the abstract. The assignment is worth 30 points.