

Human Trafficking

This sample syllabus is set up for a face-to-face class that meets twice a week. The syllabus outlines the topics covered each day, as well as discussion questions and class resource activities from the book that can be completed with each corresponding topic, either in class or as a homework assignment. It is assumed that the instructor will supplement additional information about each topic through readings or lectures.

This syllabus may be easily transformed for a flipped classroom or an asynchronous online course. For a flipped classroom, have students complete all readings and listen to any lectures prior to coming to class. During class, spend time completing the appropriate chapter resource activity and discussion questions, in addition to answering any questions about the topic. For an online classroom, students may complete the chapter resource activities or discussion questions as a submitted assignment or a class discussion board post.

Course Information

Course Description

This course will focus on a particular issue being dealt with by the criminal justice system today. Students will critically examine the issue and related research and theories. The social context of the issue will be explored as well as possible actions to address the problem. Course is repeatable for credit. Human trafficking is a complex, global phenomenon that has remained largely hidden and is, as a result, often misunderstood. This course will allow students to gain a better understanding of human trafficking, including current theory and research on the topic. This course will cover the extent and nature of the problem; including demand, prevalence, experiences of survivors, types of trafficking, and methods of traffickers. The course will also examine international, federal, and state legislation and other efforts to prevent and respond to trafficking victimization.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize the main theories in human trafficking that offer various ways of understanding why and how human trafficking occurs.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the research methods used in human trafficking and be able to evaluate these sources.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of different definitions of human trafficking as represented in international and domestic law.
4. Be able to explain how the major criminal justice institutions respond to human trafficking.
5. Recognize and be able to discuss risk factors associated with various forms of human trafficking.
6. Recognize and be able to discuss the various forms of human trafficking.
7. Ability to critically apply and analyze course concepts to “real life” situations, services, and policy.

Human Trafficking Course Schedule

CEHT = Hupp Williamson, S. (2024). *Criminology Explains Human Trafficking* (Vol. 3). University of California Press.
Supplemental readings may be posted on the course webpage.

Week 1	Topic	Assignments
Wednesday	Introduction to Course	• Review syllabus • “Introduction” (CEHT pages 1-5)
Week 2	What is human trafficking?	
Monday	Definitions of Trafficking	• “Defining Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 6-7) • “Human Trafficking versus Related Concepts” (CEHT pages 11-13) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 32)
Wednesday	Laws on Trafficking	• “Early Laws on Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 7-8) • “Modern Laws on Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 9-11) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Resource #2 (CEHT page 32)
Week 3	Where does trafficking happen?	
Monday	Data on Trafficking	• “Researching Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 18-21) • “Data on Human Trafficking Today” (CEHT pages 21-25) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Resource #3 (CEHT page 32)
Wednesday	Spaces of Trafficking	• “Social Disorganization Theory” (CEHT pages 71-75) • “Spatial Patterns of Trafficking” (CEHT pages 76-80) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 97) or CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 97)
Week 4	Why does trafficking happen?	
Monday	Causes of Trafficking	• “Causes of Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 13-18) • “Gender Inequality” (CEHT pages 125-126) • “Intersectional Inequality” (CEHT pages 130-132) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Resource #1 (CEHT page 32)

Week 4	Topic	Assignments
Wednesday	Globalization and Trafficking	• “Globalization, Strain, and Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 82-83) • “Institutional Anomie, Migration, and Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 88-89) • “Globalization, Inequality, and Trafficking” (CEHT pages 117-119) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Resource #2 (CEHT page 133)
Week 5	Who is a victim of trafficking?	
Monday	Media Portrayals of Trafficking	• “Cultural Criminology” (CEHT pages 113-117) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 32) or CEHT Chapter 6 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 134)
Wednesday	Victims of Trafficking	• “Victimization Theories” (CEHT pages 50-57) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Discussion Question #4 (CEHT page 58)
Week 6	Who are the traffickers?	
Monday	Perpetrators of Trafficking	• “Risks and Rewards in Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 44-46) • “Targets, Guardians, and Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 47-50) • “Psychology and Traffickers” (CEHT pages 60-62) • “Traffickers’ Techniques of Neutralization” (CEHT pages 105-107) • CEHT Chapter 5 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 112)
Wednesday	Perpetrators of Trafficking	• “Organized Crime and Trafficking” (CEHT pages 90-93) • “Gangs and Trafficking” (CEHT pages 93-96) • “Women as Perpetrators” (CEHT pages 126-128) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Resource #2 (CEHT page 97)
Week 7		
Monday	Review for midterm	• Review for the midterm exam
Wednesday	Midterm exam	• Midterm exam
Week 8		
Monday	Spring break	• No Class
Wednesday	Spring break	• No Class

Week 9	What are the types of trafficking?	
Monday	Sex Trafficking	• “General Strain Theory and Commercial Sexual Exploitation” (CEHT pages 86-87) • “Life Course and Developmental Theories” (CEHT pages 135-139) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Resource #1 (CEHT page 57) or CEHT Chapter 7 Resource #1 (CEHT page 143)
Wednesday	Sex Work and Trafficking	• “Prostitution Policies and Sex Trafficking” (CEHT pages 40-43) • “The Crusade against Sex Work” (CEHT pages 109-110) • “Sporting Events and Moral Panics” (CEHT pages 110-111) • “Raids, Rescues, and Carceral Responses” (CEHT pages 132-133) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 57)
Week 10	What are the types of trafficking?	
Monday	Labor Trafficking	• “Corporations and Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains” (CEHT pages 36-40) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Resource #2 (CEHT page 57) or CEHT Chapter 2 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 58)
Wednesday	Organ Trafficking	• “Poverty and Organ Trafficking” (CEHT page 84) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #3 (CEHT page 97)
Week 11	What are the types of trafficking?	
Monday	Child Trafficking	• “The Promise of a Better Life and Intercountry Adoption Trafficking” (CEHT pages 84-86)
Wednesday	Child Sex Trafficking	• “Family Environments and Parental Relationships” (CEHT pages 99-100) • “Familial Trafficking” (CEHT pages 101-103) • “Peer Influences” (CEHT pages 103-104) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 112)
Week 12	How do we respond to trafficking?	
Monday	The 3Ps of Trafficking	• “Responding to Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 25-31) • “A Problem for the Criminal Justice System?” (CEHT pages 119-124) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 134)

Week 12	How do we respond to trafficking?	
Wednesday	Prosecution	• “Deterrence, Sentencing, and Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 34-36) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Resource #3 (CEHT page 57)
Week 13	How do we respond to trafficking?	
Monday	Protection	• “Trauma and Trafficking Victims” (CEHT pages 62-67) • “Responding to Trafficking Survivors” (CEHT pages 67-69) • “Queer Criminology” (CEHT pages 128-130) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Resource #4 (CEHT page 32) or CEHT Chapter 3 Resource #1 (CEHT page 69) or CEHT Chapter 3 Resource #2 (CEHT page 69)
Wednesday	Prevention	• “Parents and Schools as Protective Factors” (CEHT pages 100-101) • “Social-Ecological Theory” (CEHT pages 139-143) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Resource #1 (CEHT page 111) or CEHT Chapter 6 Resource #1 (CEHT pages 133) or CEHT Chapter 7 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 144)
Week 14		
Monday	Class Presentations	• Individual or group research paper presentations on human trafficking topic
Wednesday	Class Presentations	• Individual or group research paper presentations on human trafficking topic
Week 15		
Monday	Review for final	• Review for the final exam
Wednesday	Final exam	• Final exam

Criminological Theory

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Course Information

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the major historical developments in criminological theory, with an emphasis on basic assumptions, concepts, and propositions of criminological theories of crime.

Throughout the course, in addition to learning about foundational criminological theories, you will be reading a text about how theory is used to explain the specific crime of human trafficking. As the semester goes on, this will allow you to see how one topic, in this case human trafficking, can be understood from multiple perspectives and causes depending on the criminological theory being applied. Theory will be used to understand different forms of trafficking, victims versus offenders, the role of migration and globalization, domestic and international law, anti-trafficking efforts, and more. Through use of discussion questions, activities, and policy boxes, you will come away with a deeper understanding of theory as it applies to the crime of human trafficking, including how various levels of analysis from the local to the global are often linked.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize and understand the main theories in criminology that offer various ways of understanding why and how crime occurs.
2. Be able to explain how criminal justice institutions have interpreted and applied theories of crime.
3. Recognize and be able to discuss strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical perspectives.
4. Recognize and be able to discuss the policy implications that stem from various criminology theories.
5. Ability to critically apply and analyze course concepts to “real life” situations, services, and policy.

Criminological Theory Course Schedule

CEHT = Hupp Williamson, S. (2024). *Criminology Explains Human Trafficking* (Vol. 3). University of California Press.

Supplemental readings may be posted on the course webpage.

Week 1	Topic	Assignments
Monday	Introduction to the course	
Wednesday	Introduction to theory	• “Defining, Researching, and Responding to Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 6-32) • Complete CEHT Chapter 1 Resource #1 (CEHT page 32)
Early Perspectives on Crime		
Week 2		
Monday	Classical theory	• “Classical Criminology and Deterrence” (CEHT pages 33-43) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 57)
Wednesday	Rational choice theory	• “Rational Choice Theory” (CEHT pages 43-46) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 58)
Week 3		
Monday	Routine activities theory	• “Routine Activities Theory” (CEHT pages 46-50) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Resource #2 (CEHT page 57)
Wednesday	Victimization theories	• “Victimization Theories” (CEHT pages 50-57) • Complete CEHT Chapter 2 Resource #1 (CEHT page 57)
Week 4		
Monday	MLK Day	• No Class
Wednesday	Psychological theories	• “Psychological Theories” (CEHT pages 59-69) • Complete CEHT Chapter 3 Resource #2 (CEHT page 69) • Complete CEHT Chapter 3 Discussion Question #4 (CEHT page 70)

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Social Structure Theories		
Week 5	Topic	Assignments
Monday	Social disorganization theory	• “Social Disorganization Theory” (CEHT pages 71-75) and “Spatial Patterns of Trafficking” (CEHT pages 76-80) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 97)
Wednesday	Strain and general strain theory	• “Anomie and Strain Theories” (CEHT pages 81-87) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #3 (CEHT page 97)
Week 6		
Monday	Institutional anomie theory	• “Institutional Anomie, Migration, and Human Trafficking” (CEHT pages 87-89) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Resource #1 (CEHT page 97)
Wednesday	Subcultural theory	• “Subcultural Theory” (CEHT pages 89-96) • Complete CEHT Chapter 4 Discussion Question #4 (CEHT page 97)
Week 7		
Monday	Review for midterm	• Review for the midterm exam
Wednesday	Midterm exam	• Midterm exam
Week 8		
Monday	Spring break	• No Class
Wednesday	Spring break	• No Class
Social Process Theories		
Week 9		
Monday	Social control theory	• “Social Control Theory” (CEHT pages 98-101) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Resource #1 (CEHT page 111)
Wednesday	Learning theories	• “Learning Theories” (CEHT pages 101-104) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 112)
Week 10		
Monday	Techniques of neutralization	• “Learning Theories” (CEHT pages 104-107) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 112)
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Wednesday	Labeling theory	• “Labeling Theories” (CEHT pages 107-111) • Complete CEHT Chapter 5 Resource #2 (CEHT page 112)
Critical Theories		
Week 11		
Monday	Cultural criminology	• “Cultural Criminology” (CEHT pages 113-117) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Discussion Question #1 (CEHT page 134)
Wednesday	Conflict theories	• “Conflict Theories” (CEHT pages 117-119) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Resource #2 (CEHT page 133)
Week 12		
Monday	Conflict theories cont.	• “A Problem for the Criminal Justice System?” (CEHT pages 119-124) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 134)
Wednesday	Feminist theories	• “Gender Inequality” (CEHT pages 125-126) and “Women as Perpetrators” (CEHT 126-128)
Week 13		
Monday	Queer theories	• “Queer Criminology” (CEHT pages 128-130) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 134)
Wednesday	Critical race theory	• “Critical Race Theory” (CEHT pages 130-133) • Complete CEHT Chapter 6 Resource #1 (CEHT page 133)
Integrationist Theories		
Week 14		
Monday	Life course theories	• “Life Course and Developmental Theories” (CEHT pages 135-139) • Complete CEHT Chapter 7 Resource #1 (CEHT page 143)
Wednesday	Social ecological theory	• “Social-Ecological Theory” (CEHT pages 139-143) • Complete CEHT Chapter 7 Discussion Question #2 (CEHT page 144)
Week 15		
Monday	Review for final	• Review for the final exam
Wednesday	Final exam	• Final exam