

General Education Course Proposal

Proposed Course: ECON 146 ECONOMICS OF CRIME Units 3
Prefix No. Title

Department: ECONOMICS School: SOCIAL SCIENCES

GE Category (Indicate one category only):

Foundation: A1___; A2___; A3___; B4___
 Breadth: B1___; B2___; C1___; C2___; D___; E___
 Integration: B___; C___; D X; International/Multicultural___

Existing Course___; Revised Course___; New Course X

Course Included in Current GE Program NO

New courses require the Undergraduate Course Proposal form in addition to this form.

Revised courses require the Undergraduate Course Change Request in addition to this form.

Proposed catalog description: Limit course description to 40 words using succinct phrases. Include prerequisites, limitations, lecture/lab hours. Indicate former course number, e.g., (Former Biol 105)

ECONOMIC THEORY OF CHOICE AND RATIONALITY APPLIED TO ANALYSIS OF CRIME FOCUSING ON WHITE-COLLAR AND CORPORATE CRIME. EXAMINES COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CRIME AND CRIME CONTROL POLICIES. ECONOMICS OF PARTICIPATION IN CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION, AND PUNISHMENT. GENERAL EDUCATION, BREADTH, AREA D.



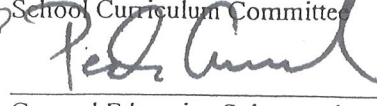
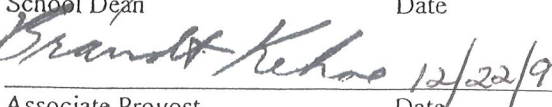
Enrollment limit per section: 35

Expected number of sections per semester – Year 1 1; Year 3 2-3

Attachments:

1. A statement presenting the ways in which this course meets the Specifications provided in the appropriate section of the General Education Policy as well as in the Policies for Inclusion and Evaluation of General Education Courses.
2. A statement of elements common to all sections of this course, identifying content, objectives, required student activities, grading policy, representative texts, and an approximate schedule for the course. Required student activities include such things as papers, research projects, homework, laboratory and/or studio performance, recitations, participation, attendance, and exams.
3. A typical syllabus for a particular offering of the course.
4. Any special cost factors associated with this course.

Approval for Inclusion in General Education

	<u>9/21/98</u>	<u>J Schervani</u>	<u>10/6/98</u>
Department Chair	Date	School Curriculum Committee	Date
	<u>10-6-98</u>		<u>12/15/98</u>
School Dean	Date	General Education Subcommittee	Date
	<u>12/22/98</u>		
Associate Provost	Date		

ATTACHMENT 2

**GENERAL COURSE SYLLABUS:
A statement of Elements Common to All Sections of Course**

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FRESNO**

ECONOMICS 146: ECONOMICS OF CRIME

3 Semester Units

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economic theory of choice and rationality applied to analysis of crime focusing on white-collar and corporate crime. Examines costs and benefits of crime and crime control policies. Economics of participation in crime, law enforcement, prosecution, and punishment. General Education, BREADTH, Area D.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Common Objectives:

1. Students will examine the social and economic costs of crime in our society.
2. Students will analyze the interactions of criminal behavior within the context of given social, political and economic institutions.
3. Students will master a set of economic concepts and analytical tools that can be applied to crime and to a variety of social problems and public policies.
4. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply economic principles and methodologies to criminal behavior.
5. Students will identify and access a variety of data sources to support their analyses.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing

GRADING POLICY

The instructor will determine the relative weights of the assignments and tests, as well as the weights assigned for matters of attendance and class participation. Specific course syllabi will state these weights clearly.

All instructors will keep accurate and timely records of grades received. Grades will be based on an A-F scale, with the instructor to determine whether a curve will establish the grades, or pre-set points, or some other basis. The syllabi will reflect clearly the method by which semester grades will be determined. CR/NC grades may be administered when such grading method has been authorized through University procedures.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance policy is to be determined by the instructor. Attendance policy and all penalties relating to missed classes will be clearly stated on specific course syllabi.

TEXTS AND READINGS

Specific texts will be determined by the course instructor. Such determination may include consultation with the Department Chair and/or the appropriate Departmental Committee.

Readings and assignments will be designed to commit students to no more than an average of two hours of independent preparation for each hour of formal lecture.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Texts:

As of this date, there are very few texts available for a course on the economics of crime. None of these texts focus on crime in the United States or on U.S. crime policy. There are several authoritative texts on the more general subject of law and economics, and the applicable chapters from these texts could be used as a core text for a course in economics of crime.

Representative texts are to be used in this course. Such texts might include, but will not be limited to the following:

Erling Eide. *Economics of Crime: Deterrence and the Rational Offender. Contributions to Economic Analysis.* North Holland, 1994.

Roger L. Miller, Daniel K. Benjamin and Douglass C. North. *Economics of Public Issues.* Harper Collins, 1996.

Samuel L. Myers and Margaret C. Simms, eds. *The Economics of Race and Crime.* Transaction Books, 1988.

Jeffrey Reiman. *The Rich Get Richer and The Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice*. Allyn and Bacon, 1998.

Materials

Journal of Law and Economics

U.S. Department of Justice, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*

U.S. Department of Justice, *Uniform Crime Reports*

SUMMARY OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Common Content:

The course may follow a schematic outline, which may include the following:

- 1) Definitions of crime
 - a) property crime
 - b) violent crime
 - c) white collar crime
 - d) corporate crime
- 2) Crime and the economy
 - a) underground economy
 - b) crime and economic institutions
- 3) Economic and social costs of crime
 - a) valuation strategies
 - b) lost wages
 - c) valuation of human life
- 4) Economics of crime prevention
 - a) principles of benefit-cost analysis
 - b) "optimal" levels of crime
 - c) costs and benefits of enforcement
 - d) allocation of the crime prevention budget
- 5) Economic models of participation in crime
 - a) rationality
 - b) expected benefits vs. expected penalties
 - c) alternatives to crime
 - d) empirical studies

ALLOCATION OF COURSE TIME AND EMPHASIS

Items 1 - 2, approximately 4 weeks
Item 3, approximately 5 weeks
Item 4, approximately 3 weeks
Item 5, approximately 3 weeks

COURSE CALENDAR: EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITING REQUIREMENT

The instructor will determine the frequency and nature of exams and all other assignments. The course outline will clearly reflect the relative weights of each assignment and the grading criteria and grading scale.

Frequency of exams and assignments: There will be a minimum of three in-class exams including the final exam administered according to the Final Exam Schedule.

Writing: Exams will include in-class writing of either essays or short-answer questions. Such writing will constitute a significant portion of all in-class exams. A minimum of 4,000 words of writing will be required for this course.

Quizzes, homework, etc.: Additional exams, quizzes, graded out-of-class assignments may be assigned by the instructor.

Exam dates: Approximate dates for all exams will be included in the specific syllabus.

Writing assignments: A brief description of any writing assignment, paper or other such assignment will be included in the specific syllabus.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The specific course outline will clearly state policies regarding make-up exams, late papers, missed assignments, etc.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All students with disabilities will receive every reasonable accommodation to facilitate their learning and evaluation. They will be instructed to discuss their needs with the instructor during the first week of class.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, CLASS CONDUCT

All instructors will either directly refer students to University policy in the *Catalog* and Schedule of Courses or state University policy regarding such matters in their course syllabi.

FEEES

There will be no student fees for this course.

ATTACHMENT 3

COURSE OUTLINE

Economics 146
Economics of Crime
California State University, Fresno
Fall 2000

Course Description:

Economic theory of choice and rationality applied to analysis of crime focusing on white-collar and corporate crime. Examines costs and benefits of crime and control policies. Economics of participation in crime, law enforcement, prosecution, and punishment. General Education, BREADTH, Area D.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will examine the social and economic costs of crime in our society.
2. Students will analyze the interactions of criminal behavior within the context of given social, political and economic institutions.
3. Students will master a set of economic concepts and analytical tools that can be applied to crime and to a variety of social problems and public policies.
4. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply economic principles and methodologies to criminal behavior.
5. Students will identify and access a variety of data sources to support their analyses.

Required Texts:

- 1) Erling Eide. *Economics of Crime: Deterrence and the Rational Offender. Contributions to Economic Analysis.* North Holland, 1994.
- 2) Jeffrey Reiman. *The Rich Get Richer and The Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice.* Allyn and Bacon, 1998.

Additional required readings will be available at the Madden Library's Reserve Desk.

Scheduling: All reading assignments are subject to revision during the course of the semester. Exam dates will be set with a minimum of 10 days notice. The final exam is determined by the University's final exam schedule.

Exams: There will be three exams, two during the course of the semester, and one during the final exam period. These exams will be primarily essay format with some short-answer and definitions.

Writing Assignment: Each student will write an economic analysis of a government policy on crime or crime prevention (e.g. capital punishment, drug legalization). This policy analysis will focus on the costs and benefits of the current policy and relevant policy options. Topics must be approved in advance. Students will be required to:

1. Submit a proposal which will include an outline of topics, a working bibliography, and a statement of how research will be conducted. (due in the 4th week of the semester)
2. A rough draft, which will be graded and which will be the basis of the final draft. (due 4 weeks prior to the final)
3. A final draft, presented in standard research paper format with complete references, quotations, tables and graphics presented and a bibliography. (due 1 week prior to the final)

Grading Weights:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Writing assignment	25%
Attendance and class participation	15%

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities should identify themselves both to the University's Disabled Student Services Office and to the instructor in order to accommodate any special learning or examination procedures.

Cheating, plagiarism, and class conduct: All students must read the relevant sections of the University Catalog and the Schedule of Courses regarding University policy on these matters.

Course schedule:

- 1) Definitions of crime
 - a) property crime and violent crime (Eide, chapters 1-2)
 - b) white collar crime (Croall, chapter 1)
 - c) corporate crime (Jamieson, chapters 1-3)
- 2) Crime and the economy
 - a) underground economy (Fagan)
 - b) crime and economic institutions (Jamieson, chapter 5, DiIulio)
- 3) Economic and social costs of crime
 - a) valuation strategies (Klaus)
 - b) lost wages (Miller, Cohen and Rossman)
 - c) valuation of human life (Viscusi)
- 4) Economics of crime prevention (Eide, various chapters)
 - a) principles of benefit-cost analysis
 - b) "optimal" levels of crime
 - c) costs and benefits of enforcement
 - d) allocation of the crime prevention budget
- 5) Economic models of participation in crime
 - a) the rational criminal (Becker)
 - b) expected benefits vs. expected penalties (Reuter)
 - c) alternatives to crime (Freeman)
 - d) empirical studies (Erllich review article, others as assigned)

Reading list:

- Becker, Gary. "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach." *Journal of Political Economy*, March/April 1968, 73:169-217.
- Croall, Hazel. *White Collar Crime: Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Open University Press. 1992.
- DiIulio, John J. Jr. *Broken Bottles: Liquor, Disorder and Crime in Wisconsin*. Wisconsin Policy Research Institute. 1995.

- Erlich, Isaac. "Crime, Punishment, and the Market for Offenses." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter, 1996, 10:43-67.
- Fagan, Jeff. "Drug Selling and Licit Income in Distressed Neighborhoods: The Economic Lives of Street-Level Drug Users and Dealers." In Harrell and Peterson, eds., *Drugs, Crime and Social Isolation*. Urban Institute Press. 1992.
- Freeman, Richard B. "Crime and Unemployment of Disadvantaged Youths." In *Urban Labor Markets and Job Opportunities*. Urban Institute Press. 1993.
- Jamieson, Katherine. *The Organization of Corporate Crime: Dynamics of Antitrust Violation*. Sage Publications. 1994.
- Klaus, Patsy. "*The Costs of Crime to Victims*." U.S. Department of Justice. 1994.
- Miller, Ted, Mark Cohen and Shelli Rossman. "Victim Costs of Violent Crime and Resulting Injuries." *Health Affairs*, Winter 1993, 12:186-197.
- Reuter, Peter, et al. *Money from Crime: A Study of the Economics of Drug Dealing in Washington, D.C.* RAND Corporation. 1990.