



SOCI 154 - Sociology of Crime Course Outline

Approval Date: 03/11/2021

Effective Date: 08/13/2021

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000625892

Discipline(s) Sociology

Division Social Sciences

Subject Area Sociology

Subject Code SOCI

Course Number 154

Course Title Sociology of Crime

TOP Code/SAM Code 2208.00 - Sociology / E - Non-Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Updating catalog description, SLOs & textbooks

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment 50

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction On-Campus
Hybrid
Entirely Online

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description In this course, students will engage in the sociological analysis of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. Students will also explore the history and social construction of crime and criminality, and examine the methods used to control criminal behavior.

Schedule Description

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s): *None*

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended

- Completion of English 90 or equivalent.

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the components and processes of the criminal justice system.
- Describe a variety of crimes using typologies and legal definitions.
- Explain the causes of, and responses to, crime by applying criminological and sociological theories.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Recognize the difference between criminal and deviant acts.
- Describe the role of theory in the study of crime, and explain the concept of "the social construction of crime".
- Explain the uses and limitations of sources of crime data.
- Identify the social dimensions of crime, including key demographic factors such as age, gender, race-ethnicity and social class.
- Identify the impact of criminological research on the creation of social policy, especially as it relates to prevention and punishment.
- Identify the major theorists and explain their perspectives about crime and criminals.
- Identify the contributions of psychology, sociology, and the physical sciences in the understanding of crime and criminals.
- Compare and contrast the different types of crime, the people who commit them, and the control strategies used to address them.
- Describe the relationship between a society's explanation for the causes of crime and the types of laws, processes and strategies developed to control it.
- Analyze how race, gender, sexual orientation, age, and class affect arrest, charging, conviction, and sentencing outcomes.
- Explain how the components of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) operate to identify, enforce, sanction, and punish criminal acts.
- Describe the research and sociological relevance of victim and victimization data.
- Analyze crime rates and variations of criminality as they exist historically and cross-culturally and propose explanations for these variations.
- N.

3. Course Content

- Definition of crime and criminology
- Patterns of crime
- The beginning of criminal law through folkways and customs

- D. Research methods and theory development
- E. Classical and neoclassical thought
- F. Biological roots of criminal behavior
- G. Psychological and psychiatric foundations
- H. Sociological theories
- I. The social construction of crime
- J. The history of criminal law
- K. Social conflict and crime
- L. Types of crime; violent, property
- M. Drug abuse and crime
- N. Technology and crime
- O. The white collar criminal
- P. Political crime
- Q. The efficacy of criminal causation theory in explaining, predicting and preventing crime
- R. Social research and crime data
- S. The relationship between criminal causation theory and the criminal justice system response
- T. Law enforcement
- U. The courts
- V. The prisons
- W. Criminology and social policy
- X. Victims and victimization
- Y. The competing perspectives of due process and crime control
- Z. The medicalization of criminal behavior
- AA.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity:

Discussion:

Lecture:

Projects:

Online Adaptation: Activity, Directed Study, Discussion, Group Work, Lecture

Explain how the online adaptation of the methods of instruction aligns with the course

outcomes: The coordination of lectures and group work along with activities, discussion, and independent research will help students understand and identify the components of the criminal justice system, and various types of crime. They will use criminological theories to examine and explain criminal behavior and the policies designed to address it.

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- Multiple choice, short answer and essay formats.

Quizzes -- Quizzes upon completion of each unit.

Papers -- Analysis of crime in "The Godfather". Use examples from the film to explain concepts such as: organized crime, rigid hierarchy, ethnic succession theory, and racketeering.

Oral Presentation -- Argue for/against the legalization of prostitution.

Projects --

Group Projects --

Class Work --

Home Work --

Final Exam --

Mid Term --

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Read the assigned chapters of the textbook

Read the handout materials provided by the instructor

For example:

Visit the American Society of Criminology and report on an article.

Refer the students to an article on white collar crime and then ask them to be ready to discuss which of the points Sutherland emphasized in 1939 would still be considered important today.

B. Writing Assignments

For example:

How do the biological theories of crime support or contradict the current efforts of the criminal justice system to control criminal behavior?

How would you explain the fact that persons of lower socioeconomic status and persons of color are over-represented in the jails and prisons?

After reading and discussing the assigned materials, present a written argument in support of the proposition that the disproportionate involvement of men in crime is more culturally than biologically based.

C. Other Assignments

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7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Higgins, George E. and C.D. Marcum

Title: Criminological Theory

Publisher: Wolters Kluwer

Date of Publication: 2016

Edition:

Book #2:

Author: Hagen, Frank E.

Title: Introduction to Criminology

Publisher: Sage

Date of Publication: 2020

Edition: 10

B. Other required materials/supplies.

- Criminal Law (free eBook) ISBN 9781946135087
<https://open.lib.umn.edu/criminallaw/>