



**Departmental Syllabus
Criminology
SO23103**

I. Course Catalog Description:

This course is designed to be a general introduction into criminal behavior using an interdisciplinary approach. The student will be introduced to the sociological patterns of crime and criminals with an emphasis on classical and contemporary theories. Further attention will be given to the detailed analysis of the causes, affects, and prevention of criminal behavior.

II. Course Rationale:

Because criminal behavior is one of the underlying aspects of a solid understanding of criminal justice, it is imperative that students of the discipline be introduced to criminology. One of the most important social problems is crime and it is the least understood. The interdisciplinary approach to understanding why criminals act in a deviant manner provides a solid foundation for the criminal justice student to better deal with the individuals they will come into contact with.

III. Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Provide the student with an informed understanding regarding the causes of crime and deviance in society and society's responses to criminal and deviant behavior. **(Program Learning Outcome 5) (Communication Fluency)**
2. Develop an informed understanding related to how societal and legal changes have affected crime causation and how these factors have been interconnected throughout society's history. **(Program Learning Outcome 3) (Communication Fluency)**
3. Explain the main crimes of the justice system through criminological eyes (theory based) **(Program Learning Outcome 5) (Communication Fluency) (Critical Thinking)**

IV. Course Prerequisites

None

V. Course Credits

Three

VI. Required Texts and Materials

Criminology, 11th Edition; Larry Siegel

VII. Unit and Instructional Objectives

I. Introduction: What is criminology?

Rationale: The following content is critical to understanding the origins of criminology, how it is defined, and the objectives often associated with it so that the student can have a strong foundation on which to build further understanding.

Student Level Outcomes: The student will be able to:

A. Criminology Defined

1. Explain how the body of knowledge regarding crime is a social phenomenon. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
2. Describe the development of criminal law and its use to define crime. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
3. Be able to explain the cause of law violations. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
4. Discuss the methods used to control criminal behavior. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
5. Describe criminology as an interdisciplinary science. **(CLO 2)**

B. Criminology and Criminal Justice

1. Describe how criminology explains the origin, extent, and nature of crime in society, and that criminal justice refers to the study of the agencies of social control – police, courts, and corrections. **(CLO 1 & CLO 3)**

C. Criminology and Deviance

1. Explain how deviant behavior is behavior that departs from social norms. **(CLO 2)**
2. Explain how not all crimes are deviant and not all deviant acts are illegal. **(CLO 1)**

D. Becoming Deviant

1. Explain how criminologists study the process by which deviant acts are criminalized and how criminal acts are decriminalized and/or legalized. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

E. History of Criminology

1. Describe how during the Middle Ages (1200-1600), superstition and fear of satanic possession dominated thinking. **(CLO 1)**
2. Explain how this also affected convictions and punishments. **(CLO 1)**
3. Describe how the impact of this early thinking helped frame our ideas of contemporary punishment. **(CLO 1)**

II. Theories of Crime Causation

Rationale: The essence of criminology is theory. Understanding theory, how to apply it, and how it helps in enacting legislation as well as creating preventive criminal behavior programs is essential.

Student Level Outcomes: The student will be able to:

A. Classical School

1. Be able to explain that human beings are fundamentally rational, and most human behavior is the result of free will coupled with rational choice. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
2. Pain and pleasure are the two central determinants of human behavior. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
3. Punishment, a necessary evil, is sometimes required to deter law violators and to serve as an example to others who would also violate the law. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
4. Distinguish between Beccaria's free will assumptions and Bentham's hedonistic calculus. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
5. Explain that to reduce crime under these principles, the pain of the crime commission must outweigh the pleasure to be derived from criminal activity. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

- B. Neoclassical School
 1. Discuss how positivism is based on hard determinism, the belief that crime results from forces beyond one's control, and rejects the idea of free will. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 2. Explain how neoclassical criminology focuses on the importance of character, the dynamics of character development, and the rational choices that people make when faced with opportunities for crime. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 3. Distinguish between routine activities theory and situational choice theory as rational choice. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

- C. Biological School
 1. Identify the fundamental assumptions made by biological theories of crime causation. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 2. Explain the relationship between human aggression and biological determinants. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 3. Describe the research linking genetics and crime. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 4. Explain the contributions of sociobiology to the study of criminality. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

- D. Psychological and Psychiatric Schools
 1. Identify the major principles of psychological perspectives as they relate to criminal behavior. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 2. List and describe some early psychological and psychiatric theories that purported to explain criminality. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

- E. Social Structure School
 1. Explain the major principles of sociological theories and be able to identify three key sociological explanations for crime. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 2. Explain how the organization and structure of society may contribute to criminality, and explain what sociologists mean by the term social structure. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 3. Identify modern-day crime control policies that reflect the social structure approach. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

- F. Social Process School
 1. Recognize how the process of social interaction contributes to criminal behavior. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 2. Identify and distinguish among a number of social process perspectives. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 3. Identify current social policy initiatives that reflect the social process approach. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**
 4. Critique social process theories of criminality. **(CLO 1 & CLO 2)**

III. Crime Typologies

Rationale: In studying criminology, it is also imperative to show the student how theories affect laws that are applied to the various crimes committed. Specifically, it will be explained to the student the importance and the relevance of the vast criminological theories and how they work in relation to all crimes.

Student Level Outcomes: The student will be able to:

- A. Violent Crime Typologies
 1. Explain the general nature of typologies and describe various

- typologies of violent crime. **(CLO 3)**
 2. Identify the key issues in explaining patterns of homicide. **(CLO 3)**
 3. Identify the key issues in explaining as well as preventing the crimes of rape and child sexual abuse. **(CLO 3)**
 4. List the different kinds of robbery and describe the criminal careers of robbers. **(CLO 3)**
 5. Identify various kinds of assault, and describe what is known about intimate partner violence. **(CLO 3)**
 6. Define *workplace violence* and tell what is known about the offense. **(CLO 3)**
 7. Explain the major patterns of stalking and identify the different types of stalkers. **(CLO 3)**
- B. Crimes Against Property
1. Identify the major forms of property crime and explain the distinction between professional criminals and other kinds of property offenders. **(CLO 3)**
 2. Describe the prevalence of and list the types of larceny-theft. **(CLO 3)**
 3. Describe the prevalence of burglary and list the types of burglars and their motivations. **(CLO 3)**
 4. Explain the activities of stolen property receivers and describe how stolen goods are distributed. **(CLO 3)**
 5. Define arson and describe the activities of fire setters. **(CLO 3)**
- C. White-Collar and Organized Crime
1. Meaningfully discuss white-collar crime and its conceptualization. **(CLO 3)**
 2. Describe the nature of organized crime and be able to list some significant organized criminal groups operating today. **(CLO 3)**
 3. Be able to recommend some policies for the control of organized crime. **(CLO 3)**
- D. Public Order and Drug Crimes
1. Provide an overview of the history of drugs, drug abuse, and drug control legislation in the United States. **(CLO 3)**
 2. Define dangerous drugs, identify the types of psychoactive substances that are controlled by law, and describe their characteristics and effects. **(CLO 3)**
 3. Describe drug trafficking and government efforts to curtail it. **(CLO 3)**
 4. Explain the relationship between drug trafficking, drug use, and other forms of crime. **(CLO 3)**
 5. Identify the pros and cons of various drug-control strategies. **(CLO 3)**
 6. Define prostitution and describe various kinds of prostitutes and their clients. **(CLO 3)**
- E. Technology and Crime
1. Describe the link between technological advances and crime, and explain how technology can be used by both criminals and law enforcement. **(CLO 3)**
 2. Describe how technology can provide criminal opportunity, and use computer crime as an illustration. **(CLO 3)**
 3. Provide a profile of computer criminals, including a history of hacking and a description of cyberspace. **(CLO 3)**
 4. Be able to define identity theft, describe how identities can be stolen, and explain what can be done to reduce the crime's negative impact on its victims. **(CLO 3)**

5. Describe some of today's technologies that are being used to fight crime. **(CLO 3)**
6. Identify some of the personal freedoms that are threatened by today's need for advanced security, and explain the nature of that threat. **(CLO 3)**

VIII. Basis for Final Grade

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes throughout the course of the semester. Quizzes will consist of identifications (events, people, places, etc.), which will be found in class lectures and/or the text. Each quiz will be worth a total of 25 points.

Exams: There will be two semester exams and a final exam. Exams will be worth 100 points. Exams may consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and essays.

Comprehensive Essay: The student will write a course completion essay. The student will write the *Course Completion Essay*. This is a comprehensive essay where the student will compare and analyze theories of crime throughout the history of the criminal justice system.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Quizzes	75
Exams	300
	375

Grading Scale (%)	
90-100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F