

SOCI-154: SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME

Effective Term

Fall 2021

CC Approval

03/05/2021

AS Approval

03/09/2021

BOT Approval

03/11/2021

COCI Approval

06/28/2022

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Sociology (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

SOCI - Sociology

Course Number

154

Department

Sociology

Division

Social Sciences (SOCS)

Full Course Title

Sociology of Crime

Short Title

Sociology of Crime

CB03 TOP Code

2208.00 - Sociology

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Update Prerequisites.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course 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.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Advisory Prerequisite(s)

Eligibility for ENGL-C1000 or appropriate placement.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Describe the components and processes of the criminal justice system.
2.	Describe a variety of crimes using typologies and legal definitions.
3.	Explain the causes of, and responses to, crime by applying criminological and sociological theories.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Recognize the difference between criminal and deviant acts.
2.	Describe the role of the theory in the study of crime and explain the concept of "the social construction of crime".
3.	Explain the uses and limitations of sources of crime data.
4.	Identify the social dimensions of crime, including key demographic factors, age and crime, gender and crime, race and crime, and social class and crime.
5.	Identify the impact of criminological research on the creation of social policy, especially as it relates to prevention and punishment.
6.	Identify the major theorists and explain their perspectives about crime and criminals.
7.	Identify the contributions of psychology, sociology, and the physical sciences in the understanding of crime and criminals.
8.	Compare and contrast the different types of crime, the people who commit them, and the control strategies used to address them.
9.	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.
10.	Analyze how race, gender, sexual orientation, age, and class affect arrest, charging, conviction, and sentencing outcomes.
11.	Explain how the components of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) operate to identify, enforce, sanction, and punish criminal acts.
12.	Describe the research and sociological relevance of victim and victimization data.
13.	Analyze crime rates and variations of criminality as they exist historically and cross-culturally and propose explanations for these variations.

Course Content

1. Definition of crime and criminology
2. Patterns of crime
3. The beginning of criminal law through folkways and customs
4. Research methods and theory development
5. Classical and neoclassical thought
6. Biological roots of criminal behavior
7. Psychological and psychiatric foundations
8. Sociological theories
9. The social construction of crime
10. The history of criminal law
11. Social conflict and crime
12. Types of crime; violent, property
13. Drug abuse and crime
14. Technology and crime
15. The white collar criminal
16. Political crime
17. The efficacy of criminal causation theory in explaining, predicting and preventing crime
18. Social research and crime data
19. The relationship between criminal causation theory and the criminal justice system response
20. Law enforcement
21. The courts
22. The prisons
23. Criminology and social policy
24. Victims and victimization
25. The competing perspectives of due process and crime control
26. The medicalization of criminal behavior

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Discussion	
Lecture	
Other	Projects

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Directed Study	
Discussion	
Group Work	
Individualized Instruction	
Journal	
Lecture	

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Multiple choice, short answer and essay formats. Final Exam Midterm
Quizzes	Quizzes upon completion of each unit.
Essays/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 Presentations	Argue for/against the legalization of prostitution.
Projects	
Class Participation	
Homework	

Assignments

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.

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.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Higgins, George E. and C.D. Marcum

Title

Criminological Theory

Publisher

Wolters Kluwer

Year

2016

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Hagen, Frank E.

Title

Introduction to Criminology

Edition/Version

10th

Publisher

Sage

Year

2020

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

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

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

Needs DEI statement.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000333748

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No