

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: SOC 204 (IAI CRJ 912)

Course Title: Criminology

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 45.0401

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Contemporary analysis of crime and delinquency from sociological perspective: causation, distribution, and prevention are examined through American socio-economic-political structure and American criminal justice system.

General Course Objectives

Provide an in-depth understanding of crime and the criminal justice system, and critically engage with theories of crime causation through the study of the typologies, social contexts, distribution, and extent of crime.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation will include a combination of subjective and objective assessments. Includes a minimum of 6 quizzes/exams to include a final. Course will also include a minimum of 3 activities and/or applications and at least 15 pages of writing.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Criminology: The Core, 7th edition, by Larry Siegel. 978-1337557719

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- **Critical Thinking and Information Literacy:** Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- **Reasoning and Inquiry:** Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.
- **Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Part 1: Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology. Introduction to Criminology: definition and classification of criminal laws and respective crimes; concepts of crime, law, and criminology; difference between crime and deviancy	1. Identify the structure and functions of criminal laws. 2. Differentiate between crime and deviance. 3. Outline the criminal justice process.	3	0	0
Major Sources of the Statistical Interpretation of Crime and Its Variance by Socio-economic-status Variables	1. Explain the various forms of crime data. 2. Analyze recent trends in the crime rate. 3. List factors that influence crime rates. 4. Identify gendered patterns in crime.	3	0	0
Victims and Victimization: analysis of the victim's role in the criminal justice process; comparison of theories of victimization; "cycle of violence" concept	1. Explain the victim's role in the criminal justice system. 2. Discuss problems faced by victims. 3. Explain the "cycle of violence". 4. Assess the ecology of victimization risk. 5. Compare theories of victimization.	3	0	0
Part 2: Theories of Crime Causation. Rational Choice Theory: analysis of criminal activity as a rational choice; analysis of crime prevention strategies	1. Describe the development and key concepts of rational choice theory. 2. Interpret evidence showing that crime is rational. 3. Discuss the elements of situational crime prevention. 4. Analyze the elements of general deterrence. 5. Discuss the basic concepts of specific deterrence.	3	0	0
Trait Theory: development of trait theory and contemporary critiques of theory	1. Discuss the development of trait theory. 2. Differentiate between the biochemical conditions alleged to produce criminal behavior. 3. Describe the link between genetics and crime according to trait theory. 4. Discuss the controversy surrounding the link between intelligence and crime. 5. Explain contemporary critiques of trait theory.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Social Structure Theory: analysis of the relationship between social structure and criminal activity	1. Explain the association between social structure and crime.	3	0	0
Social Process Theory: analysis of crime as a learned behavior and relationship between crime and social institutions	1. Explain the concepts of social process and socialization. 2. Discuss effect of family relationships on criminal activity. 3. Describe how the educational setting influences criminal activity. 4. Discuss the link between peers and delinquency. 5. Link social process theory to crime prevention efforts.	3	0	0
Critical Criminology: analysis of crime as a political concept designed to protect those in power and of restorative justice as an alternative approach to crime control	1. Explain the core ideas of critical criminology. 2. Link globalization to criminality. 3. Define the concept of state-organized crime. 4. Discuss how restorative justice is related to peacemaking criminology.	3	0	0
Developmental Theory: analysis of Life Course, Trajectory, and Propensity theories and the public policy implications of developmental theory	1. Articulate the basic principles and describe the similarities and differences between the three developmental theories (Life Course, Trajectory, and Propensity). 2. Explain the concept of "problem behavior syndrome". 3. Discuss the public policy implications of developmental theory.	3	0	0
Part 3: Crime Typologies. Violent Crime: discussion of the different crimes falling under this category (rape, murder and homicide, assault and battery, robbery, hate crimes, workplace violence, and stalking) and analysis of the various causes of violent crime	1. Differentiate among the various causes of violent crime. 2. Define rape and discuss issues involving rape and the law. 3. Distinguish between the different types of murder. 4. Explain the nature and patterns of robbery. 5. Discuss newly emerging forms of violence.	3	0	0
Political Crime and Terrorism: analysis of nature of political crime and terrorism	1. Define the term "political crime" and list the components of state political crime. 2. Assess the causes of political crime. 3. Distinguish among terrorists, insurgents, guerrillas, and revolutionaries. 4. Enumerate the various forms of terrorism.	3	0	0
Economic Crime: analysis of different categories of economic crimes, including white-collar, blue-collar, and green-collar crimes	1. Describe the various forms of blue-collar crime. 2. Articulate the various forms of white-collar crime. 3. Explain the term "Ponzi scheme". 4. Describe the various forms of green-collar crime. 5. Discuss efforts to control white-collar and green-collar crime.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Public Order Crimes: analysis of the nature of public order crimes (including sex-related offenses, prostitution, paraphilia, pornography, and substance abuse) and the concept of social harm	1. Interpret what is meant by the term "social harm". 2. Discuss the activities of moral crusaders. 3. Describe the various forms of outlawed deviant sexuality. 4. State arguments for and against legalizing prostitution. 5. Discuss the causes of substance abuse.	3	0	0
Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime: evolution of cybercrime and transnational organized crime, discussion of efforts to control cybercrime	1. Trace the evolution of cybercrime and transnational organized crime. 2. Evaluate how the internet can facilitate the sale of illegal materials. 3. Discuss efforts to control cybercrime. 4. Articulate the activities of transnational organized crime.	3	0	0
Overall Review of Course Content and Final Examination	1. Identify the major course topics and make connections between major issues in Criminology and their applications in real life.	3	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0