

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-24

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: SOCI 2009
Course Title: Sociological Perspectives on Crime
Prerequisite(s): None
Catalog Description: This themed course emphasizes a broad, sociological understanding of the study of crime, with a focus on applying sociological and criminological theories to explore how society defines, organizes, and responds to crime and punishment.

Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: none
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A.** Explore similarities and differences between criminology and sociology.
- B.** Understand social and behavioral science knowledge, theories, and research perspectives, as well as quantitative and qualitative methods, case studies, and observational accounts, to comprehend the nature and dynamics of crime statistics, criminal behavior, and incarceration.
- C.** Understand news media as a source of information for the public concerning crime as well as propagating crime myths.
- D.** Explore geographical and demographic differences in crime rates.
- E.** Explore crime and punishment through an intersectional lens emphasizing social location differences in criminal behavior and incarceration rates within the United States.
- F.** Understand the difference between street crime vs. white-collar crime victimization.
- G.** Understand the difference between structural theories emphasizing the distribution of social and economic power vs. individual approaches focused on push and pull factors to explain crime.
- H.** Explore possible solutions to prevent and respond to crime using a public health approach.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A.** Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1.** Differentiate between criminological and sociological perspectives on crime and punishment.
 - 2.** Differentiate between various data collection strategies related to crime and incarceration rates.
 - 3.** Critically examine news media as a source of information for the public concerning crime as well as propagating crime myths
 - 4.** Compare and contrast geographical and demographic differences in crime rates at the local, state, and nation level to assess whether crime rates are rising or falling.
 - 5.** Critically examine crime and punishment through an intersectional, historical approach to in the, including social class, age, race, sex, and gender differences in criminal behavior and incarceration rates within the United States.
 - 6.** Compare and contrast street crime (“crime in the streets”) vs. white-collar crime (“crime in the suites”) victimization.
 - 7.** Differentiate between structural theories emphasizing the distribution of social and - economic power (e.g., social disorganization theory) vs. individual approaches focused

on push and pull factors to explain crime (e.g., social control theory; differential association; neutralization and drift theory).

8. Evaluate possible solutions to prevent and respond to crime (i.e., social policies) using a public health approach.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes**
1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret, and analyze data
 2. GELO #6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Understanding Crime and Victimization**
1. Criminology and the Sociological Perspective
 2. Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem
- B. Explaining Crime**
1. The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior
 2. Victims and Victimization
 3. Classical and Neoclassical Perspectives
 4. Biological & Psychological explanations of crime
 5. Sociological Theories: *Emphasis on Social Structure*
 6. Sociological Theories: *Emphasis on Social Process*
 7. Sociological Theories: *Critical Perspectives*
- C. Criminal Behaviors**
1. Violent Crime: Homicide, Assault, and Robbery
 2. Violence Against Women
 3. White-Collar and Organized Crime
- D. Controlling and Preventing Crime**
1. Dilemmas of Crime Control in a Democratic Society
 2. Prosecution and Punishment
 3. Conclusion: How Can We Reduce Crime?

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):**
1. Barkan, Steven E., *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding* 7th Ed., Pearson Publications, 2018. ISBN: 9780134548609.
- B. Other Resources:**
1. Readings/Worksheets supplied by instructor
 2. YouTube repository, newspapers, blogs, movies

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:**
1. Instructor's presentations
 2. Individual and Class engaged learning
 3. Guest speaker
 4. Multi-media presentations

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:**

1. Examinations
 2. Written Assignments
 3. Quizzes
 4. Individual and Group presentations
- B. SCC GRADING SCALE**
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|----|--------|----|-------|---|------------|
| A+ | 95-100 | C+ | 75-79 | F | 59 or less |
| A | 90-94 | C | 70-74 | | |
| B+ | 85-89 | D+ | 65-69 | | |
| B | 80-84 | D | 60-64 | | |

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A.** None