South Central College

SOC 106 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description
This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system in the United States, including the foundations, role, structure, and realities of the police, courts, and corrections. Sociological perspectives are applied to an analysis of crime and victimization, ethics, and the concept of justice. Students will also learn about current issues facing the criminal justice system. (Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer) (MNTC Goal Areas 5 & 9; History and Social Sciences, Ethical and Civic Responsibility)

Total Credits 4
Total Hours 64

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits/Hours
Lecture 4 / 64

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Course Competencies

1. Explain the history and foundations of policing in the United States
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the international influence on police development in the U.S.
   Summarize the regional variations in police development in the U.S.
   Explain the chronological history of policing in the U.S.

2. Explain the history and foundations of the court / legal system in the United States
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the international influences on the legal system of the U.S.
1. Summarize the regional variations in the development of the legal system in the U.S.
2. Summarize the chronology of development of the legal system in the U.S.

3. **3. Explain the history and foundations of corrections in the United States**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the historical context and chronology of correctional development in the United States
   Summarize the regional variations in correctional development in the U.S.

4. **4. Critique the structure of the police in the United States**
   Learning Objectives
   Analyze police fragmentation and evaluate alternatives
   Model departmental organization
   Analyze, critique, and offer alternatives to traditional police duties

5. **5. Critique the structure of the courts in the United States**
   Learning Objectives
   Model the layers of the court system in the U.S. and compare and contrast the system with global alternatives
   Analyze and critique the appeals process
   Evaluate alternatives to the sequential tasks of the court system

6. **6. Critique the structure of corrections programs in the United States**
   Learning Objectives
   Critically critique corrections strategies in the U.S.
   Evaluate correctional fragmentation

7. **7. Evaluate the research methods used to study the criminal justice system**
   Learning Objectives
   Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of surveys
   Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ethnographies
   Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of statistical analysis of crime data

8. **8. Quantify and qualify the effects of various dimensions of human diversity (race, culture, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.) on criminal justice system outcomes**
   Learning Objectives
   Evaluate the effects of race on criminal justice outcomes
   Evaluate the effects of gender on criminal justice outcomes
   Evaluate the effects of social class on criminal justice outcomes

9. **9. Analyze the ethical implications of disparate criminal justice outcomes**
   Learning Objectives
   Identify ethical questions facing the criminal justice system
   Analyze and propose solutions to aforementioned ethical quandaries
   Evaluate the ethical and social implications of proposed solutions

10. **10. Identify current issues facing the criminal justice system**
    Learning Objectives
    Demonstrate knowledge of the current issues facing the criminal justice system
    Summarize, synthesize, and evaluate the opposing viewpoints on said issue
    Take a position on said issues and defend it with evidence

11. **11. Evaluate the current state of forensic sciences**
    Learning Objectives
    Evaluate the current strengths of forensic science
    Evaluate the weaknesses of the current state of forensic sciences
    Analyze and critique the implications of flawed understanding of forensic science in the courtroom

12. **12. Evaluate the social problem of felon reentry**
    Learning Objectives
Describe the challenges facing felons during reentry
Analyze the ethical implications of felon reentry challenges
Propose potential solutions for the social problem of felon reentry

**SCC Accessibility Statement**

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Additional information and forms can be found at: [www.southcentral.edu/disability](http://www.southcentral.edu/disability)

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