South Central College

SOC 106  Introduction to Criminal Justice

Common Course Outline

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)

Career Cluster  Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructional Level  Associate Degree

Total Credits  4.00

Total Hours  64.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type  Credits/Hours

Lecture  4 / 64

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite  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

1  Civic knowledge and engagement- local and global: Students will understand the richness and challenge of local and world cultures and the effects of globalization, and will develop the skills and attitudes to function as “global citizens.”

2  Ethical reasoning and action: Students will develop ethical and social responsibility to self and others, and will collaborate with others to address ethical and social issues in a sustainable manner.

3  Intercultural knowledge and competence: Students will recognize and understand the rich and complex ways that group and individual inequalities and interactions impact self and society.

External Standards
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.
   Summarize the regional variations in the development of the legal system in the U.S.
   Summarize the chronology of development of the legal system in the U.S.

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

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 **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 **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 **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 **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 **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**
If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in the course activities, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. This information will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or cassette tape, upon request. If you wish to contact the college ADA Coordinator, call that office at 507-389-7222.

Disabilities page [http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html](http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html)