Common Course Outline

South Central College

SOC 251  Criminology and Criminal Behavior

Course Information

Description
This course is designed to develop an understanding of criminally deviant behavior and how it is studied within the discipline of sociology. Students will study criminological theories, theories of causation of crime, as well as the current "trends" in crime coupled with an exhaustive profile of criminals engaging in a given area of crime. Topics of study include the pathology of murder and violent crime, rape, burglary, larceny, white collar crimes such as embezzlement, corporate crime, cybercrime, organized crime, street gangs, and other areas. Public policy implications and considerations from the local to national levels will be examined. (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 and 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.
Course Competencies

1  **Analyze the nature and extent of crime.**
   Learning Objectives
   Evaluate the measurement methods used to quantify crime.
   Analyze crime rates over time.
   Explain the various types of crimes and their respective prevalence in society.

2  **Analyze the nature of victims, victimization, and victimology.**
   Learning Objectives
   Model victim profiling and risk factors.
   Evaluate the race/class/gender differences in victimization.
   Judge and justify the criminal justice system's response to victims.
   Assess etiology of victims.

3  **Evaluate the various methods used to study criminological phenomena.**
   Learning Objectives
   Evaluate the pros/cons of qualitative methods such as ethnography.
   Evaluate the pros/cons of quantitative analysis, such as longitudinal statistical data sets.

4  **Evaluate rational choice theory.**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the etiology of crime according to rational choice theorists.
   Summarize the history of and basic precepts of rational choice theory.
   Evaluate the pros and cons of rational choice theory.
   Defend the ethical and moral implications of crime and punishment given a rational choice theory approach.

5  **Evaluate social process theories.**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the etiology of crime according to social process theorists.
   Summarize the history and basic precepts of social process theorists.
   Evaluate the pros and cons of social process theories.
   Defend the ethical and moral implications of crime and punishment given a social process theoretical orientation.

6  **Evaluate social conflict theories of criminality.**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the etiology of crime according to social conflict theorists.
   Summarize the history and basic precepts of social conflict theory.
   Evaluate the pros/cons of social conflict theory.
   Defend the ethical and moral implications of crime and punishment given a social conflict perspective.

7  **Analyze the criminology of interpersonal violence.**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the etiology of interpersonal violence.
   Evaluate the race/class/gender implications of interpersonal violence.
   Using evidence, formulate the "profile" of a typical violent offender.
   Critique law enforcement strategies for combating interpersonal violence.

8  **Analyze the criminology of property crime.**
   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the etiology of property crime.
   Formulate the "profile" of the typical property offender.
Explain the methods used by property offenders.
Evaluate the race/class/gender implications of property crime and property criminals.
Critique law enforcement strategies for combating property criminals.

9 Analyze the criminology of public order crime.

Learning Objectives
Summarize the etiology of public order crime.
Evaluate the moral and ethical implications of public order crime and punishment.
Evaluate the implications of race/class/gender as it relates to public order crime.
Explain the methods of the typical public order criminal.
Formulate the "profile" of the typical public order criminal.
Critique law enforcement strategies used to combat public order crime.

10 Analyze the criminology of various other crime categories.

Learning Objectives
Explain enterprise and white collar crime.
Explain the significance of organized crime and gangs.
Explain political crime and terrorism.
Explain cyber crime and human trafficking.

11 Explain the basics of the criminal justice system.

Learning Objectives
Evaluate the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of the police.
Evaluate the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of the courts.
Evaluate the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of corrections.

12 Evaluate the current state of forensic sciences.

Learning Objectives
Describe the current strengths and weaknesses of current forensic sciences.
Analyze and evaluate the implications of flawed forensic sciences in the courtroom.

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