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. (Prerequisites: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0080 and READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher; MNTC Goal Areas 5 & 9: History and Social Sciences & Ethical and Civic Responsibility)

Career Cluster
Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructional Level
Associate Degree

Total Credits 3.00

Total Hours 48.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits
Lecture 3

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite Completion of Reading 80 or 90 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer test.

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
Title  
MN Transfer Goals

Target Standards
GOAL 5. HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES To increase students’ knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas.

5.a Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

5.b Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

5.c Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

5.d Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

GOAL 9. ETHICAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY To develop students’ capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship.

9.a Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.

9.b Understand and apply core concepts (e.g., politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.

9.c Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

9.d Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

9.e Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Course Competencies

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

2 Explain the history and foundations of the court / legal system in the United States
   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of the international influences on the legal system of the U.S.
   Demonstrate understanding of the regional variations in the development of the legal system in the U.S.
   Demonstrate understanding of 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
   Demonstrate understanding of the historical context and chronology of correctional development in the United States
   Demonstrate understanding of the regional variations in correctional development in the U.S.

4 Model and 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 Model and 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
Model and evaluate alternatives to the sequential tasks of the court system

6 **Model and critique the structure of corrections programs in the United States**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate knowledge of and critically critique corrections strategies in the U.S.
Model and evaluate correctional fragmentation

7 **Evaluate the research methods used to study the criminal justice system**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate the practice of and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of surveys
Demonstrate the practice of and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ethnographies
Demonstrate the practice of and 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
Estimate and evaluate the effects of race on criminal justice outcomes
Estimate and evaluate the effects of gender on criminal justice outcomes
Estimate and evaluate the effects of social class on criminal justice outcomes

9 **Critically 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
Critically 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

**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)