South Central College

SOC 251  Criminology & Criminal Behavior

Common Course Outline

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 Reading 80 or 90 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; Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ethic and Civic Responsibility)

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type  Credits
Lecture  3

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite  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

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 Analyze the nature and extent of crime
   Learning Objectives
   - Evaluate the measurement methods used to quantify crime
   - Demonstrate understanding of crime rates over time
   - Demonstrate understanding of 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
   - Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of victims

3 Evaluate the various methods used to study criminological phenomena
   Learning Objectives
   - Demonstrate the practice of and evaluate the pros/cons of qualitative methods such as ethnography
   - Demonstrate the practice of and evaluate the pros/cons of quantitative analysis, such as longitudinal statistical data sets

4 Evaluate rational choice theory
   Learning Objectives
   - Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of crime according to rational choice theorists
   - Demonstrate understanding of the history of and basic precepts of rational choice theory
   - Evaluate the pros and cons of rational choice theory
   - Postulate and defend the ethical and moral implications of crime and punishment given a rational choice theory approach

5 Evaluate social process theories
   Learning Objectives
   - Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of crime according to social process theorists
   - Demonstrate understanding of the history of and basic precepts of social process theorists
   - Evaluate the pros and cons of social process theories
Postulate and 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
Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of crime according to social conflict theorists
Demonstrate understanding of the history and basic precepts of social conflict theory
Evaluate the pros/cons of social conflict theory
Postulate and defend the ethical and moral implications of crime and punishment given a social conflict perspective

7  **Analyze the criminology of interpersonal violence**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of interpersonal violence
Evaluate the race/class/gender implications of interpersonal violence
Using evidence, formulate the "profile" of the typical violent offender
Understand and critique law enforcement strategies for combating interpersonal violence

8  **Analyze the criminology of property crime**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the etiology of property crime
Formulate the "profile" of the typical property offender
Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by property offenders
Evaluate the race/class/gender implications of property crime and property criminals
Understand and critique law enforcement strategies for combating property criminals

9  **Analyze the criminology of public order crime**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of 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
Demonstrate understanding of the methods of the typical public order criminal
Formulate the "profile" of the typical public order criminal
Understand and critique law enforcement strategies used to combat public order crime

10 **Analyze the criminology of various other crime categories**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of enterprise and white collar crime
Demonstrate understanding of organized crime and gangs
Demonstrate understanding of political crime and terrorism
Demonstrate understanding of cyber crime and human trafficking

11 **Explain the basics of the criminal justice system**

Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of the police
Demonstrate understanding of the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of the courts
Demonstrate understanding of the functions, challenges, profile, and methods of corrections

**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)