



South Central College

## SOC 106 Introduction to Criminal Justice

### Course Outcome Summary

#### Course Information

<b>Description</b>	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)
<b>Total Credits</b>	4
<b>Total Hours</b>	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.

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**

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

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

This material can be made available in alternative formats by contacting the Academic Support Center at 507-389-7222.