



South Central College

SOC 251 Criminology and Criminal Behavior

Course Outcome Summary

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)
Total Credits	4
Total Hours	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. 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 of 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

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

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