

SOC225
Criminology
3 Credits

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SOC225 Version: 17



Criminology

Calendar Description

Examination and attempted explanation of crime and juvenile delinquency, with an analysis of the social processes leading to criminal behaviour.

Rationale

This course is intended for Sociology majors and fulfills one of the requirements for those graduating with a degree in Sociology. It also fulfills the Social Science requirements in other faculties.

Prerequisites

SOC100

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. identify and describe major sociological perspectives, theories, and concepts in the sociology of criminal behaviour.
2. appreciate the complexity and difficulty of measuring criminal phenomenon.
3. describe and explain how crime and criminal law are socially constructed.
4. identify the 'invisible' social variables that surround and influence criminal behavior.
5. apply appropriate writing skills in terms of spelling, grammar, terminology, and building an academically sound argument:
 - use language correctly and convincingly;
 - construct a thesis and conclusions from a broad range of sometimes contradictory data;
 - use recognized academic format and style.

Resource Materials

Required Text:

Siegel, L.J., Brown, G., & R. Hoffman. (2006). *Criminology: The Core* (1st Canadian ed.).

Toronto, ON: Thomson Nelson.

Reference Text:

During the course, students may also be required to read handouts or articles that are distributed in class or put on reserve at the appropriate time.

Conduct of Course

This is a 3 credit course with 3 hours of lecture per week (3-0-0).

This course uses lectures, guest lecturers, discussion of assigned readings, and videos. Regular participation in class discussion is part of claiming your education rather than waiting to receive it, but please be aware that there is value in attentive listening not just in regular speaking. Quality participation does not mean talking as often as possible; it means helping to ensure that everyone's views are given a respectful forum in the class, as well as putting forth your own views and the basis for them. Instructors welcome the expression of any point of view except those that contend that one group of people (e.g. one race, gender, sexual orientation) is superior to another.

It's okay to try ideas out; you don't have to have thought through all the implications of a position before speaking, as long as you are not habitually speaking more often than others. You might feel more comfortable articulating new thoughts if you begin by saying that you haven't yet thought everything out in the relation to the point about which you want to get feedback.

When you do share your views it is important to be self-reflective, so that assumptions are not left unexamined. Passionately held views are welcome, however preaching and judgmental assertions are not likely to help foster a free and frank exchange of views.

All assignments are to be completed and turned in at the assigned dates unless I tell you otherwise. If you have a problem getting an assignment in on time please come and talk to me about it, sometimes other arrangements can be made. **I reserve the right to give you a zero on any assignment not turned in on time or to reduce the mark by 5% for each day late,** so be sure to talk with me if you have a problem.

Plagiarism and cheating - presenting someone else's words, ideas or work as your own, is a serious academic offence. Punishments can range from a zero on the assignment to expulsion from the college.

Evaluation Procedures

Midterm Exam(s)	30%
Research Assignment	35%
Final Examination	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

The research assignment will be discussed in class.

No supplemental assignments or examination re-writes are permitted in this course.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. Poor attendance may result in the termination of a student from a course(s).

If you do not meet the established attendance requirements, your instructor will recommend that the Registrar withdraw you from the course. A failing grade of RW (Required to Withdraw) will appear on your transcript.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Instructors have the authority to require attendance at classes.

Course Units/Topics

Note: Classroom interaction and the availability of unscheduled events and/or guest speakers can affect the rate and order at which we progress through the course and can therefore interfere

with the course calendar. Consequently, though classroom discussion follows the schedule in general, there may be variations in terms of order and dates. Also, if we find that we are taking more time than is initially planned we may decide to reduce the course load by dropping a section or two.

Unit 1: Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology

Unit 2: Theories of Crime Causation

Unit 3: Crime Typologies



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