

Title: Introduction to Criminology **Catalog #:** CJUS 115-02

Credit hours: 3

Instructor: Steve Reece: Work # 874-8590

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Course Description

This course will define crime and evaluate the various ways crime is measured. Students will be provided with an overview of the more popular criminological theories, emphasizing the biological, psychological and sociological schools of thought. In addition, crime control and prevention strategies as they relate to each theory will be examined in terms of theory, practice and effectiveness. Prerequisite(s): none Corequisite(s): CJUS-105

Course Schedules

Dates: 08/27/2018- 12/15/20178

Location: Howe Hall Room 04

Time: Tu. and Th.- 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Understand and describe some of the major themes of criminology
2. Recognize the major empirical sources of crime data
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical evolution of criminological theory
4. Understand how criminology contributes to our understanding of crime today
5. Describe “what is crime?” using a sociological approach
6. Appreciate emerging, critical, and global versions of criminology

Required Textbook:

Criminology the Core- 7th Edition

ISBN-10: 9781337557719

Author: Siegel

Publisher: Cengage



Other readings

To supplement the required textbook readings there may be other relevant scholarly articles as well as current news articles will be presented from time to time. This is done to enhance and emphasize the material presented in the main textbook as well connecting it to local criminal justice issues. The additional readings will be posted on our SMCC course site, or handout in class.

Grading Assessment and Description of work

Exams:

There will be 4 exams given during our class. Each exam will be multiple choice or true/false questions. The exams are of equal weight and are a total of 30% of your final grade.

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:

Attendance and Participation (5%)

4 Exams (30%)

3 Brief Writing Assignments (30%)

1 Group Presentation (10%)

1 Current Event Article (5%)

1 Research Paper (20%)

Course Grades

A: 93%+	A-: 90%+	B+: 87%+	B:83%+	C+:77%+	C:73%+
C-:70%+	D+: 67%+	D:63%+	D-:60%+	F:0-59.9%	

“I” Grade: A temporary grade of “I” may be given when a student has, due to extraordinary circumstances, failed to complete all required course work by the end of the semester. A student has to have made an effort and be up to date in their coursework at the point the circumstances occurred. The remaining work must be completed within a month after the end of the semester following receipt of the “I” grade. An “I” grade that is not changed during this period automatically becomes an “F”.

Brief Writing Assignments

BWA # 1: How does the justice system affect your life?

This semester we will discuss many different ways that the justice system affects each one of us from a sociological perspective. For your 1st Brief Writing Assignment (BWA) please write about an example of one of the ways the justice system affects your life. The justice system in the U.S. incorporates, civil law, and criminal law. We all have experienced the justice system as we all live under written laws. The affect could be one you experienced (voting rights, getting stopped by the police, talking with an officer at your school, meeting with

lawmakers, or not be allowed to drink alcohol until your 21 years old). Express your opinion whether this particular life effect of the justice system is positive or negative.

Some of our Brief Writing Assignments can be personal as you can imagine as you contemplate BWA # 1. If you feel comfortable with sharing your writings with others please share in class so others may comment, inquire, learn more about you, and support you. I understand if you do not wish to share and will in no way effect your grade.

BWA # 2: Compare and contrast two theories you have read about in the text, and discussed during class. Choose two you feel strongly about (disagree or agree with). Briefly explain the theories and listing the pros and cons of each. Pick one of the two in which you most believe have a larger influence as a cause for criminal activity. Defend your position all in two to three clear and concise pages.

BWA # 3: The City Manager in the city you live has given you \$100,000 to reduce crime in your neighborhood area. Please use a theory we have read about in our textbook and explain how you would spend the money and why you believe it will reduce crime based upon the theory you have chosen.

Presentation

Groups of students will be researching and expanding upon the topics covered in our textbook. The groups will develop a lesson plan, handouts, activities, and more with a goal of presenting their work to other students. We will discuss this further in class.

Current Event Article

Students will locate and send electronically to all students and the instructor in our class. A current event article should be on a topic in the criminal justice system. We will have a brief discussion of the article led by the presenting student. The article will be sent at least 4 days prior to class presentation to give time for others to read. Articles cannot be repeated. The student should try to relate the material to what we are learning in our class. A student should ask the possible reason this event occurred, and the possible changes to the community following the event.

Research (Final) Paper

The ability to communicate with the written word is a valuable skill to process. The gathering of valid and reliable information and evidence has to be reported in a truthful, clear, and concise manner. It is my hope that by utilizing resources that are available to you; speaking with persons in the field, researching criminal laws, reading scholarly articles, and more, you will make connections between the material we are learning about and the field of criminology. Even if you're not in a criminal justice major these are important skills to have.

We can talk about the research paper and potential topics of interest to you at any time during the semester. **An outline about your topic will due on 11-01-18. The final research paper is due 12-06-18.** I will be available after class and by e-mail to discuss your research paper, and assist you so you feel comfortable with the paper.

Double-space the paper with margins of one inch all around. The font size should be 12 points and please number your pages. A cover sheet should have your name, submission date and the course name. Make sure any literature, quotes and other references are properly and consistently referenced. Your paper should be between 1,800 and 2,200 words long. APA style is preferred, but MLA is acceptable.

Some ideas of topics to think about for your research paper:

Possibility 1: Investigate a specific crime, such as burglary, robbery, theft, assault, sexual assault, homicide, or any criminal activity and research different criminological theories which provide a basis for explaining that crime.

Possibility 2: Tracing the evolution of a specific criminological theory from its inception to current times and providing an explanation for its evolution and connections to our past and current societies.

Possibility 3: Any idea that you are interested in that can be related to the class material. Examples may be neighborhood crime watch, environmental policing, high school drop outs and criminal activity, drug laws, economic issues and crime, and more.

Possibility 4: Develop your crime policy for your community, or a policy for your local/state jail.

It is absolutely essential you included at least one theory from our textbook in your research paper. Your research can support the theory or not but it needs to be in your paper. A grading rubric will be posted to assist you with the expectations of your research paper.

End of Course Evaluation

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal site. Students can access the course evaluation report beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. Instructors will announce when the online course evaluation is available.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Syllabus Statement

Located on the 3rd floor of Howe Hall on the South Portland Campus. For the Office of Disability Services, contact Sandra Lynham at 207-741-5923 or slynham@smccME.edu.

College can be a challenging time for all students, as many are away from home for the first time and facing increased academic expectations and new levels of personal responsibility. Disability Services seeks to level the playing field for our students who have disability-related needs.

The disability coordinator will:

- Arrange to meet with and give you individual attention.
- Review disability documentation and discuss with you the nature of your disability and your area of study so that the challenges you face are fully understood.
- Work out a plan to reasonably accommodate your identified challenges, attempting to put you on the same footing as your peers. This may mean having extra time for testing, help with note taking, a quiet area for testing, ASL interpreter services or more depending on the nature of your disability and how it affects your learning.
- Work with you in an open, friendly and respectful way. You will still have to meet academic expectations, but we will ensure that you will have reasonable access to the programs and services at the College.
- Provide reasonable accommodations for taking the Accuplacer test and maintain confidentiality throughout the process.

Learn More About ADA Policies and Procedures:

To view the complete text of SMCC's Policies and Procedures for ADA compliance, visit our website at www.smccME.edu/disabilityservices. The information there includes SMCC's grievance procedure for disability discrimination claims. Complaints regarding claims of disability and requests for accommodation must be directed to the ADA Compliance Officer, who can be reached at 207-741-5610.

SMCC Pay-for Print Policy

In an effort to control the escalating cost of supplies and to encourage students to conserve resources, SMCC charges for printing. Students receive a \$20 credit every semester. This credit resets for each semester and extra credit is not rolled over to the next semester. Page per costs are as follows:

- 8.5" x 11" black & white: \$0.10 per page
- 8.5" x 11" color: \$0.50 per page
- 8.5" x 14" and 11" x 17" black & white: \$0.20 per page
- 8.5" x 14" and 11" x 17" color: \$1.00 per page

Duplex (two-sided pages are discounted 50% from the listed page costs)

Students can monitor their remaining credit and number of pages printed by visiting the IT Help tab on MySMCC or by checking the Printing Information icon in the lower right hand corner of the screen while logged in to an SMCC computer. More information about the Pay-for-Print Policy is available on the IT Help tab on MySMCC

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. Early withdrawal for full semester-length courses is from day 7 – 10 of the semester. Official withdrawal from a course during this period results in a 50% refund of course tuition and fees. Official withdrawal after the early withdrawal period is available through week twelve of semester-length courses and week nine of summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter length courses (75% of the course length). There is no refund of tuition or fees associated with a withdrawal following the early withdrawal period. The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course.

Plagiarism Statement

Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer to the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct. The instructor has the

authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course.

The instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for additional sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions from an instructor may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Sanctions from a disciplinary officer may include all available sanctions noted in the Student Code of Conduct. Students have the right to appeal the decision of an instructor via the grade appeal process and the sanction of a disciplinary officer via the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. These processes are parallel and may result in different findings.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Southern Maine Community College (College) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or marital, parental or veteran's status in its programs and activities. Inquiries about the College's compliance with, and policies that prohibit discrimination on, these bases may be directed to:

Affirmative Action Officer, 2 Fort Rd. South Portland, ME 04106 Tel# 207-741-5610

Maine Relay Services: 800-457-1220 Fax: 207-741-5965

E-mail: deanofstudents@smccME.edu

Internet: www.smccME.edu