

SOCIOLOGY 240 - CRIMINOLOGY
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE - FALL SEMESTER 2009

Professor: Rudolph Harris
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Phone: 964-6521
Office Hours: 7:30-8:00 a.m. (M-F)
1:15-2:15 p.m. (M-F)
And by Appointment

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I. **TEXT:** Larry J. Siegel, Criminology (10th Ed.). Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2009.

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The nature and extent of crime and criminality; society's efforts to repress crime; theories of causation; emphasis on social process systems, and philosophy and methods of correction.

PREREQUISITES: Sociology 101 or consent of instructor

III. **COURSE GOALS:**

Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the processes of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting toward the breaking of laws. The focus of criminology is the development of a body of knowledge regarding the process of law, crime, and reaction to crime. The purpose of this course is to teach you criminological theory and to introduce you to the concepts and methods used in the study of crime. During the course, the presentation and analysis of the current issues in crime and its control in the United States will inform you about the complexity of crime and punishment in America.

It is also desired that through this course, students develop, reinforce, and value such basic learning skills as:

1. Self-discipline, as applied to study habits, meeting deadlines, and completing assignments. The minimum standard guideline is at least 2 hours of reading and study time for each hour of class time.
2. Reading, writing, studying and comprehending the English language.
3. Independent and critical thinking.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES:** <http://www.dmacc.edu/competencies>

1. Investigate the definitions, measurement, methods, and extent of crime.
2. Review the history of criminology.
3. Explain classical theories of crime.
4. Review concepts of crime, criminology, criminal law and its processes
5. Review biological theories to crime.
6. Discuss psychological theories of crime.
7. Analyze sociological theories of crime (social structure, social process, conflict, and integrated).

8. Analyze crime trends and patterns in the United States.
9. Analyze crime victims and victimization.
10. Discuss the relationship between social variables and crime --family, race, age, gender, education, social class, mass media, guns, drugs, ecology, gangs, etc.
11. Analyze the different types of crimes--economic, public order (sex, substance abuse, prostitution, pornography), organized, white collar, corporate, and computer.
12. Analyze capital punishment, treatment, and rehabilitation.
13. Analyze violent crimes - rape, murder, assault and battery, robbery, hate crimes, political violence, and terrorism, stalking, domestic abuse, sexual abuse.
14. Review property crimes – theft, burglary, and arson.
15. Discuss social reactions to crime.
16. Review classification of crime and criminals.
17. Review the Criminal Justice System--police, courts, probation, sentencing, and parole.
18. Assess corrections--history, sanctions, jails, and prisons.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods presented will be lectures, videos, class discussions, and the text.

<u>DATE (WEEK OF)</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>
August 26	Crime and Criminology	Chapter 1
August 31	The Nature and Extent of Crime	Chapter 2
September 1	<u>LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES</u>	
September 7	<u>NO CLASSES (LABOR DAY)</u>	
September 8	Victims and Victimization	Chapter 3
September 14	Rational Choice Theory	Chapter 4
	<u>FIRST EXAM</u>	
September 21	Trait Theories	Chapter 5
September 28	Social Structure Theories	Chapter 6
October 5	Social Process Theories	Chapter 7

October 12	Social Conflict Theory: Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice	Chapter 8
	Development Theories: Life Course and Latent Trait	Chapter 9
	<u>SECOND EXAM - (MIDTERM)</u>	
October 19	<u>Topics of Paper or Title of Book Report Due</u> Interpersonal Violence	Chapter 10
October 26	Political Crime and Terrorism	Chapter 11
November 2	Property Crime	Chapter 12
November 4	<u>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES</u>	
November 9	Enterprise Crime: White Collar and Organized Crime	Chapter 13
	<u>THIRD EXAM</u> <u>Rough Draft of Term Paper or Book Report Due</u>	
November 16	Public Order Crime	Chapter 14
	Cyber Crime and Technology	Chapter 15
November 23	Criminal Justice: Process and Perspectives	Chapter 16
	<u>TERM PAPER OR BOOK REPORT DUE</u>	
November 26, 27	<u>THANKSGIVING VACATION</u>	
November 30	Police and the Courts: Investigation, Arrest and Adjudication	Chapter 17
	Punishment and Corrections	Chapter 18
December 9 (W)	<u>MAKE-UP EXAM</u> (9:05 a.m.)	
December 14 (M)	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> - 9:30 a.m-11:45 a.m.	

VI. GRADING:

Exams: Exams will cover all assigned readings from the text and everything covered during lectures. The exam questions will be a combination of 20 multiple choice, 35 true-false, and 5 short essays.

There will be four major exams each of equal weight. The FINAL EXAM is not comprehensive. The course will be based on the total points (500). A study guide will be provided before each exam. Please bring a No. 2 lead pencil for the exams. If class is cancelled on a test day due to inclement weather, the test will be given on the make-up day for Finals, Wednesday, Dec 16, 2009.

Make-up Exams: All make-up exams should be made up during the LAST regular class period (December 9). A student is allowed only ONE make-up exam. If two or more make-up exams

are missed, you will receive an F for the course. Failure to take the make-up exam or final will result in a F for the course.

VII. RESEARCH PAPER OR BOOK REPORT: (Due Monday, November 23, 2009)

You have an option of doing a term paper or a book report.

Option A: Research Paper

You will be expected to select a topic that relates to Criminology--read sociological literature about the issue, and summarize and synthesize these into a coherent paper. Your paper must be a minimum of five to seven typewritten pages in length. You must consult a list of a minimum of three-five references. You must reference all quotations and include footnotes (endnotes or internal documentation) and a bibliography. Some suggested topics are as follows: Insanity defense, crime statistics, social class and crime, sex (gender) differences and crime, race and crime, age and crime, alcohol and crime, fear of crime, mass media and crime, victimization studies, capital punishment, biological theory, classical theory, guns and crime, juvenile crime, psychological theory, social structure, social process, conflict theories, rape, murder, robbery, terrorism, computer crime, larceny, embezzlement, white collar crime, serial killers, prostitution, drug abuse, organized crime, family and crime, plea bargaining, police, prisons, DNA, polygraph testing, and hate crimes.

Articles on crime can be selected from the following journals:

Criminology
Social Problems
Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency
Issues in Criminology
Crime and Delinquency
British Journal of Criminology
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Victimology
International Journal of Criminology and Penology
Social Forces
American Sociological Review

VIII. PLAGIARISM:

You are expected to avoid PLAGIARISM. Engaging in any form of plagiarism is considered academic misconduct by the College, resulting in an F for the paper. Plagiarism is defined as "the appropriation of and use of another person's writing, and passing it off as the product of one's own efforts. Copying any work and submitting it as original work."

The purpose of the research paper is to encourage you to think and integrate your ideas. All phrases, paragraphs, or sentences borrowed from another person's writing must be cited, referenced, and footnoted. Your project must be written using APA (American Psychological Association) style. College level writing, using appropriate language, grammar, and punctuation is expected. The paper must be word processed or typed. Computers with word processing are available in the Computer Lab in Bldg. 6.

When preparing your paper, please follow these steps:

1. Select a topic in the field of criminology. On the computer go to EBSCO host Select Databases.

EBSCOhost – Choose Databases

Tip: To search within a single database, click on the database name listed below. To select more than one database to search, check the boxes next to the databases and click on the CONTINUE Button.

CONTINUE

MasterFILE Premier

Provides full text for over 1,950 periodicals covering nearly all subject including general reference, business, health, and much more. Click here for a [complete title list](#). Click here for [more info](#)

Academic Search Elite

Provides full text for over 1,250 journals covering the social sciences, humanities, general science, multi-cultural studies, education, and much more. Click here for a [complete title list](#). Click here for [more info](#)

2. Read from literature in sociology, criminology, etc. about your topic. Be sure to list the resources you have found in your bibliography. You must use material from a least three to five of your resources in your paper. You must use quotations and reference any quotes from your source. To fail to do this is plagiarism and will result in an "F" for the paper. If I suspect that you did not write your paper or failed to give credit to your sources, I will place the burden on you to prove that the work was your own by giving me your rough notes and discussing the paper with me.
3. Develop a research question or hypothesis that you can test or answer in your paper.
4. Describe your plan for collecting your own original information from primary sources. You may conduct a survey, interview an informant, observation, conduct an experiment or use statistical reports.
5. Explain how, when, where, and from whom you acquired your original information.
6. Report your findings. Use graphs, charts, or statistics if appropriate.
7. Summarize the results of your work. State the relationship between what you have learned and your original hypothesis or question. Indicate the limitations of your work and what you recommend for future research.

Option B: Book Report

Your other option is to do a book report. You are to select a book that relates to Criminology and prepare a report of five to seven pages (APA style).

Your book review should be descriptive as well as critical, not to mention thoughtful and readable. Include a complete citation (in standard reference format) of the book you have chosen at the beginning of your review (the title, author, date, and publishing company). The book report must be written in this order. The following must be labeled (a, b, c, etc.) and answered in your analysis:

- a. What is the general content of the book? What aspects of criminology are being analyzed?

- b. Describe the author's purpose in writing the book. What are the author's major premises? How does the author support or develop his or her point of view and what evidence is used?
- c. What criminological ideas, concepts, theories, models or research presented in the class or in the text can be related (positively or negatively) to the content of the book?
- d. What are the major conclusions offered in the book? Given the support presented in the book, do you agree or disagree? Why?
- e. Have the author's premises and conclusions been supported by processes and trends in society since the publication of the book? What changes might be made if the book were being written today? (This question is more relevant to some books which are more dated.)
- f. What are the implications of the book for resolving the problem(s) discussed? What are your own conclusions about the usefulness of the book in this as well as for teaching and research?
- g. What is your own personal evaluation of this book in terms of readability, quality, and impact upon your own views?

All books or term papers reviewed must be approved in advance by the instructor. A one page description of your topic, with at least four to five references you will use is due October 19. Rough draft of the paper or book report must be submitted at any time prior to November 9. Final paper or report is due Monday, November 23, 2009. Papers handed in late are penalized five points per day. Save copies of your paper.

IX. CHEATING: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any student caught cheating will receive an "F" for the course.

Refer to the DMACC Student Handbook: <http://www.dmacc.edu/handbook/welcome.asp>

You are expected to complete your work without cheating or plagiarism. These constitute academic misconduct, and disciplinary action will be taken. Penalties include failure on the quiz, exam or paper, failure for the course, and filling an Academic Misconduct Form that will be placed in your college records. Information on avoiding plagiarism can be found at <http://www.library.dmacc.edu/PublicPages/Plagiarism.htm>.

X. GRADE COMPUTATION:

	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Your Score</u>
Exam #1	100	_____
Exam #2	100	_____
Exam #3	100	_____
Paper	100	_____
Final	<u>100</u>	_____
TOTAL POSSIBLE:	<u>500</u>	YOUR TOTAL _____

XI. TENTATIVE GRADING:

The tentative grade will be as follows:

- 500-450 points = A
- 449-400 points = B
- 399-350 points = C
- 349-300 = D
- 299 = F

Record your grade so you know where you stand.

XII. ATTENDANCE-PARTICIPATION:

I believe that attendance and class participation are especially important. I will be taking attendance and expect you to be in class. Contacting your instructor is not necessary if you occasionally miss a class. However, contacting your instructor is very important if you miss an extended number of classes. Class attendance is strongly recommended; missing classes can harm your grade. In the classroom, I will draw relationships between theory, concepts, and your everyday experiences in crime. Students should be aware that the good lecture attendance is strongly correlated with good performance on exams. Essay questions will come from lectures. You will be responsible for missed notes. Students are encouraged to get involved in class participation and discussion at any time. This class will cover some issues regarding crime and criminal behavior. An open attitude is conducive to an effective learning experience. Questions, rebuttals, and debate are always welcome in this class. Students are encouraged to speak their minds at any time. Your values, attitudes, and beliefs may differ from others. Differences do not mean that one view is right and the other is wrong. Respect differences since education tolerates diversity of opinions. Derogatory terms and name calling are not acceptable. I expect you to express your opinions in acceptable language and exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Students are expected to be on time. Students who disrupt the classroom will be asked to leave.

XII. WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

I want to help you succeed in this class. If you have a legitimate reason to be absent for an extended time, please contact me in order to arrange to make up missed work. I'll be happy to assign an "Incomplete" grade **if you request it** and if there is a reasonable probability that you will complete the missing assignment.

If you choose to drop the class, you **must** complete an official drop slip and return it to Student Records in Building 1. Without this drop slip, you will receive an F for the course. The last day to drop a class this semester is **November 4, 2009**.

XIII. GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

You should become acquainted with the services provided in Bldg. 6, Rm. 20, the Academic Achievement Center (964-6558), and Rm. 23, the Testing Center (964-6595).

Academic Achievement Center	http://www.dmac.edu/student_services/academic_achievement_center.asp Building 6, Room 20 Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. NOTE: Summer hours may vary
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It is a good place to seek individual help for your classes. Tutoring services, test taking skills, study skills, time management, writing lab, and a computer lab are also available.

Computer Labs	http://www.dmacc.edu/helpdesk/pc_labs.htm Building 6 Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday – 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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The Counseling Center (Academic), located in Bldg. 1 is an invaluable help in many areas. A personal counselor is also located in Bldg. 2, Room 10B (964-6268).

Library	http://www.library.dmacc.edu/ Building 6, Room 3 Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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Special Needs

Accommodations: http://www.dmacc.edu/student_services/disabilities.asp

It is the policy of DMACC to accommodate students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires reasonable accommodation should contact the Special Needs Coordinator at (515) 964-6850 voice or (515) 964-6810 tty.

If you carry a cell phone or pager/beeper to classroom, please turn it OFF and **DO NOT USE** during class time. If you have special circumstances that you feel warrant an exception to this policy, you must bring this to my attention in order to obtain permission.

Important Note: (Disclaimer) This syllabus is representative of materials that will be covered in this class; it is not a contract between the students and the institution. It is subject to change without notice. Any potential exceptions to stated policies and requirements will be addressed on an individual basis, and only for reasons that meet specific requirements. If you have any problems related to this class, please feel free to discuss them with me.