

**SOCI 3810 CRIMINOLOGY
SPRING 2009**

Professor: Dr. Tom McNulty
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Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30

Classroom: Baldwin 322
Class Hours: TR 3:30-4:45

Description: In this course, we will survey the descriptive, empirical, and theoretical issues in the study of crime and delinquency. We will also consider the roles of social, cultural, economic, political, psychological, chemical, biological, and ideological factors in treating behaviors as criminal as well as in causing criminal behavior. Students will be exposed to the major theoretical perspectives in the field, as well as to the critiques and uses of these perspectives in the prevention and response to crime.

Course Objectives:

- Summarize crime trends and describe how various factors influence crime rates including the economy, the number of at-risk youth in the population, criminal justice policies, social indicators and other factors.
- Explain how characteristics including ecology, firearms, gender, social class and race are associated with crime and victimization rates and patterns
- Differentiate between the core causes of crime presented in each of the major theories (choice, trait, social structure, social process and social conflict)
- Categorize individual theories into their respective branches
- Evaluate the validity of explanations for crime based on available data

Course Requirements: Your final course grade will be based on three (3) in-class exams. Each exam will be comprised of roughly 50 multiple choice questions. Please bring a pencil on exam days as your answers will be recorded on a Scantron exam form. Each exam will contribute equally (100 points) toward the final grade, for a total of 300 course points. Your final grade is based on the percentage of total points you receive (see below). Exams must be taken at the scheduled times (no exceptions). Students are also required to attend class regularly, read course material prior to lectures, and engage in class discussions.

A	92-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-91%	C	72-76%
		C-	70-71%
B+	87-89%		
B	82-86%	D	60-69%
B-	80-81%	F	< 60%

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be recorded. Students with good attendance (90% or better) will receive extra points toward their final course grade. It will be difficult to do well in this course without faithful attendance.

Required Texts (available at the University Bookstore):

Siegel, L.J. (2008). *Criminology: The Core* (3rd ed.). Thomson-Wadsworth.
Messner & Rosenfeld. *Crime and the American Dream* (3rd ed.). Wadsworth.

COURSE OUTLINE

Siegel Chapter 1: Introduction to Crime & Criminology

Siegel Chapter 2: The Nature & Extent of Crime

Messner & Rosenfeld, Chapters 1 & 2: Serious Crime in America

Siegel Chapter 3: Victims & Victimization

Siegel Chapter 4: Choice Theory

Siegel Chapter 5: Trait Theory

EXAM # 1

Siegel Chapter 6: Social Structural Theories

Messner & Rosenfeld, Chapters 4 & 5: Institutional Anomie Theory

Siegel Chapter 7: Social Process Theories

Siegel Chapter 8: Critical Criminology

Siegel Chapter 9: Developmental Theories

EXAM # 2

Siegel Chapter 10: Violent Crime

Siegel Chapter 11: Property Crime

Siegel Chapter 12: Enterprise Crime

Siegel Chapter 13: Public Order Crime

EXAM # 3 (Final Exam)