UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

I. Course Number and Title: CRJ/SOC 3680 Criminology

II. Course Description

This course will introduce to the students an overview of (1) the concepts of crime, law and criminology; (2) theories of crime causation; (3) the nature and extent and patterns of different kinds of crimes and social reactions towards the crimes in the American society; and (4) relevant crimes and social policies in other countries. As a writing intensive course, students will engage in writing both as a means to learn the concepts and theories outlined above and as a way to train themselves in conventional styles of criminological writing.

III. Course Prerequisite: CRJ/SOC 2610 Essentials of Criminal Justice

IV. Course Objectives:

a. To acquaint students with the society's making of laws, breaking of laws and reactions towards the breaking of laws.

b. To acquaint students with the development of sociological and psychological theories of patterns of crime and crime causation using writing as a component of in-class activities.

c. To develop an understanding of the nature, extent, patterns of different crimes in the American society.

d. To develop an understanding of the interrelationship among theory, research, and application of research in criminology.

e. To acquaint students with the relevant crime rates and social policies toward crime in other countries.

f. To learn and practice different styles of criminological writing, including summaries, analytic papers, memos, literature reviews, and ASA (American Sociological Association) style citation.

V. Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully passing the course, students should be able to:

a. Explain the basic concepts and measurement techniques in criminology;

b. Describe the nature, extent, and trend of crime causation for the three major categories of crime: predatory, moralistic, expressive;

c. Describe the major theories of crime causation and to assess them critically;

d. Discuss crime in societies other than the contemporary United States and international
crime;

e. Evaluate current strategies for crime control and to draw on knowledge in criminology to propose alternatives to them.

**Writing Intensive Course Outcomes**

Students will:

a. Use writing as an on-going classroom tool to understand theoretical literature in criminology including seminal pieces criminological theories. Instructors will choose a variety of writing-to-learn class activities to assist students’ understanding of criminological theories and concepts by using a combination of the following: reading logs, journals, critical summaries, reflection essays, analysis of news articles, Blackboard Discussion Board postings, and group discussions and presentations resulting in writing products (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 1);

b. Identify major theoretical debates in criminology, and develop arguments representing the positions of various theorists in written and oral classroom exercises (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 1 and 3);

c. Demonstrate their mastery of criminological theories and concepts and their ability to apply them to empirical realities through individual writing assignments. Writing assignments could be analysis or synthesis comparing different theoretical concepts and frameworks, essays on their life experiences using theoretical concepts as analytic lenses, memos on theoretical reviews in criminology journal articles, literature reviews, or a theoretical profile of a theorist. Students will use drafting, revising, and editing to complete assignments in phases while receiving feedback from the instructor and peers to produce no fewer than 20 pages over the course of the semester (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 2);

d. Demonstrate their ability to develop testable propositions/hypotheses from the diverse theoretical strategies, and propose ways in which these propositions might be tested through empirical research. This could be done as on-line or off-line class exercises or writing assignments including a research-proposal of 10 pages (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 3);

e. Demonstrate, in writing, their ability to locate relevant criminological literature for a topic using journal database and other online research tools, their familiarity with social science journal article format/convention, and the ability to format writing assignments according to ASA (American Sociological Association) style (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 3).

**VI. Topical Outline of the Course Content**

Part I. Concepts of Crime, Law and Criminology
1. Crime and Criminology
2. The Nature and Extent of Crime
3. Victims and Victimization

Part II. Theories of Crime Causation
1. Choice Theory
2. Trait Theory
3. Social Structure Theory
4. Social Process Theories
5. Critical Criminology
6. Developmental Theories

Part III. Crime Typologies
1. Violent Crime
2. Property Crimes
3. White Collar Crimes
4. Cyber Crimes
5. Organized Crimes
6. Terrorism
7. Public Order Crimes

Part IV. The Criminal Justice System
1. Law Enforcement
2. Courts and Criminal Case Processing
3. Punishment

VII. Guidelines for Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities:
1. Lecture
2. Class discussion and group debates
3. Individual and Group Projects
4. In-class Writing (including Blackboard Discussion groups)
5. Presentations
6. Drafting and revising of writing assignments
7. Films and videos
8. Student research
9. Guest lectures

VIII. Guidelines for Methods of Student Assessment

Instructors may choose a combination of the following methods for assessment of student progress:
1. In-class writings, reading logs, journals, or other writing products used as write-to-learn tools during the semester;
2. Individual and group projects requiring literature research, and paper-writing
3. Individual and/or group presentations;
4. Participation in classroom debates, discussions, and exercises;
5. Exams
6. Quizzes
XI. Suggested readings, texts, objects of study


X. Bibliography:


11. Preparer’s name and date: Gabe T. Wang

12. Original department approval date: Spring 1998

13. Reviser’s name and date: Sheetal Ranjan/ Gennifer Furst October 2011

14. Department revision approval date: