

CJ133

Criminology

[Onsite]

Course Description:

This course offers an interdisciplinary and integrative approach to the study of crime. It includes an overview of criminological theories of causation, treatment and punishment.

Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s):

Prerequisites: CJ131 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Credit hours: 4

Contact hours: 40 (40 Theory Hours)

Syllabus: Criminology

Instructor: _____

Office hours: _____

Class hours: _____

Major Instructional Areas

1. Criminology
2. Relevant theories—classical/neoclassical, biological, psychological, and sociological—of criminal behavior
3. Characteristics of offenders and the types of criminal behavior
4. Techniques for conducting valid criminological scientific research

Course Objectives

1. Explain the basic concepts of criminology.
2. Explain how scientific research is conducted in the field of criminology and its value in the study of crime.
3. Determine the relationship of crime patterns and trends with the issues of gender, age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
4. Explain the major principles of classical and neoclassical theories.
5. Describe biological theories of crime causation and how they relate to past and modern-day behavior.
6. Describe the psychological and psychiatric explanations of crime.
7. Describe categories of sociological theories and how they relate to real-world phenomena.
8. Describe theories specific to how and why violent crimes are committed.
9. Explain the types of property crimes and reasons why they may be committed.

10. Describe the categories of white-collar and organized crime, as well as possible causes.

SCANS Objectives

SCANS is an acronym for Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills. The committee, created by the National Secretary of Labor in the early 1990s, created a list of skills and competencies that the committee feels are necessary for employees to function in a high-tech job market.

1. Generate new ideas.
2. Use efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills.
3. Use critical thinking to apply the new knowledge learned.
4. Use ideas or information to gain new perspectives.
5. Analyze and interpret data.

Course Outline

Note: All graded activities, except the Project and Final Exam, are listed below in the pattern of <Unit Number>.<Assignment Number>. For example, Writing Assignment 2.1 refers to the 1st Writing Assignment in Unit 2.

| Unit | Activities |
|---|---|
| 1– Introduction to Criminology and Patterns of Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1, “What is Criminology?” pp. 12-20, sections titled “What is Criminology?” and “Criminology and Social Policy” ○ Chapter 2, “Patterns of Crime,” pp. 49-53 and 69-80, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Patterns of Crime” ▪ “The Crime Problem” |

| Unit | Activities |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Social Dimensions of Crime” • Writing Assignments: 1.1 |
| 2– Conducting Criminological Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 3, “Where Do Theories Come From?” pp. 90-110, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Theory Building” ▪ “The Role of Research and Experimentation” ▪ “Quantitative versus Qualitative Methods” ▪ “Values and Ethics in the Conduct of Research” • Writing Assignments: 2.1 • Course Project: Part One (Start) |
| 3– Classical School and Neoclassical Theories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 4, “Classical and Neoclassical Thought” • Quizzes: 3.1 |
| 4– Biological Theories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 5, “Biological Roots of Criminal Behavior,” pp. 167-200 and pp. 205-206, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Major Principles of Biological Theories” ▪ “Biological Roots of Human Aggression” ▪ “Genetics and Crime” ▪ “Critiques of Biological Theories” • Quizzes: 4.1 • Writing Assignments: 4.1 • Course Project: Part One (Submit) |

| Unit | Activities |
|--|---|
| 5– Psychological and Psychiatric Theories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 6, “Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior,” pp. 216-238, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Major Principles of Psychological Theories” ▪ “Early Psychological Theories” ▪ “Criminal Behavior as Maladaptation” ▪ “Crime as Adaptive Behavior” ▪ “Modeling Theory” ▪ “Behavior Theory” ▪ “Attachment Theory” ▪ “Self-Control Theory” • Quizzes: 5.1 • Writing Assignments: 5.1 |
| 6– Sociological Theories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 7, “Social Structure Theories” • Quizzes: 6.1 • Writing Assignments: 6.1 |
| 7– Social Process, Development, and Conflict Theories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 8, “Theories of Social Process and Social Development,” pp. 299-319, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Social Process Perspective” ▪ “Types of Social Process Approaches” ▪ “Policy Implications of Social Process Theories” ▪ “Critique of Social Process Theories” ▪ “The Social Development Perspective” ○ Chapter 9, “Social Conflict Theories,” pp. 344-354, |

| Unit | Activities |
|---|--|
| | <p style="text-align: center;">section titled, "Introduction"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes: 7.1 • Writing Assignments: 7.1 |
| 8– Violent Crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 10, "Crimes Against Persons," pp. 383-416, sections "Homicide" and "Rape" • Writing Assignments: 8.1 |
| 9– Property Crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 11, "Crimes Against Property," pp. 442-466 and 468-472, sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Persistent and Professional Thieves" ▪ "Larceny-Theft" ▪ "Burglary" ▪ "Arson" • Writing Assignments: 9.1 • Course Project: Part Two (Start) |
| 10– White-Collar and Organized Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 12, "White-Collar and Organized Crime" • Writing Assignments: 10.1 |
| 11– Course Review and Final Exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Project: Part Two (Submit) • Final Exam |

Instructional Methods

This course introduces you to criminology—the study of crime causation. It uses a broad range of assessments to test your knowledge: writing assignments, quizzes, a course project, and a final exam. Writing assignments focus on improving your composition and analytical skills. The

quizzes and final exam will test your understanding of the course objectives. The course project will introduce you to the basics of criminological research and writing.

Instructional Materials and References

Student Textbook Package

Schmallegger, Frank. *Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2009.

References

ITT Tech Virtual Library

Log on to the ITT Tech Virtual Library at <http://www.library.itt-tech.edu/> to access online books, journals, and other reference resources selected to support ITT Tech curricula.

Books

You may click “Books” or use the “Search” function on the home page to find the following books.

- Ebrary
 - Biressi, Anita. *Crime, Fear, and the Law in True Crime Stories*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001.
 - McCord, Joan, Cathy Spatz Widom, and Nancy A. Crowell, ed. *Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2000.
 - Pepper, John V., and Carol V. Petrie. *Measurement Problems in Criminal Justice Research: Workshop Summary*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2003.
 - Tanenhaus, David S. *Juvenile Justice in the Making*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 2004.

Periodicals

You may click “Periodicals” or use the “Search” function on the home page to find relevant periodicals in the following databases.

- Criminology
- ProQuest> ProQuest Criminal Justice Periodicals

Other References

The following resources can be found **outside** of the ITT Tech Virtual Library, whether online or in hard copy.

Web sites

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service

<http://www.ncjrs.gov>

This site includes links to information on training, events, drugs, crime, and juvenile justice.

- National Sheriff's Association Neighborhood Watch Program

<http://www.usaonwatch.org/>

This site provides a nationwide listing of neighborhood-watch programs and resources with information on finding or creating new neighborhood watch programs.

- Uniform Crime Reports

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>

This FBI site provides crime statistics from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States, including volume and rate of crime offenses for the nation, the states, and individual agencies. This report also includes arrest, clearance, and law enforcement employee data.

- Bureau of Justice Statistics

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

This is the home page for the Dept. of Justice bureau that provides data on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.

- Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime and Victim Statistics

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm

This site provides the latest results of the National Crime Victimization Survey.

All links to Web references outside of the ITT Tech Virtual Library are always subject to change without prior notice.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation Criteria Table

The final grades will be based on the following categories:

| CATEGORY | WEIGHT |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Writing Assignments | 30% |
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Course Project | 20% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Total | 100% |

Note: Students are responsible for abiding by the Plagiarism Policy.

Grade Conversion Table

The final grades will be calculated from the percentages earned in the course, as follows:

| | | |
|----|---------|-----|
| A | 90-100% | 4.0 |
| B+ | 85-89% | 3.5 |
| B | 80-84% | 3.0 |
| C+ | 75-79% | 2.5 |
| C | 70-74% | 2.0 |

| | | |
|----|--------|-----|
| D+ | 65-69% | 1.5 |
| D | 60-64% | 1.0 |
| F | <60% | 0.0 |