



Course Name: Sociology of Crime and Punishment

Course Number: SOC* E 214

Credits: 3 credit hours

Catalog description: A close examination of how society's norms and social values interact with the criminal justice system. Students will gain an understanding of the relationship between society and the police, courts and other criminal agencies. Issues pertaining to violent crime, punishment, inequality and discrimination will be discussed. This course will also focus on issues regarding "the war on crime", society's fear of crime and other relevant, current criminal issues.

Prerequisite: SOC* 101

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

BHEL Behavioral Science elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

None



Course Specific Objectives:

1. Develop knowledge of law enforcement, court and correctional systems, including knowledge of how these components interact.
2. Understand and appreciate sociological impacts on the criminal justice system.
3. Develop the ability to speak to groups.
4. Develop understanding of interpersonal communication skills.
5. Develop active listening skills.
6. Develop understanding of special ethical issues in society and criminal justice.
7. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the discipline of sociology.
8. Comprehend and analyze the relationship between society, the criminal and the criminal justice system.

Course Content:

1. The nature of crime in society
 - a) defining crime
 - b) crime trends
 - c) crime and the media
 - d) crime and freedom
2. The "war on crime"
 - a) war as a metaphor
 - b) crime and social perception
 - c) inequity and discrimination in the criminal justice system
3. Criminal Justice as a system
 - a) overview
 - b) relevant laws
 - c) victims and the criminal justice system
4. Courts and Justice
 - a) overview
 - b) Judicial discretion
 - c) sentencing and sentence disparity
 - d) plea bargaining
5. Corrections
 - a) deterrence, incapacitation and rehabilitation



- b) forms of corrections
 - c) corrections and treatment as a method of social control
6. Drugs and the war on drugs
- a) history of drug use in America
 - b) drugs, crime and society
 - c) making peace in the war on drugs
7. Violence
- a) socialization into violence
 - b) violence as a solution to problems
 - c) responding to violence
 - d) serial killers and mass murderers
8. Capital punishment
- a) history and overview
 - b) arguments for, and against, capital punishment
 - c) costs of capital punishment
- 9 Youth and gangs
- a) youth culture in America
 - b) youth crime and society
 - c) youth violence 10.
- Conclusion
- a) merging social myths and realities of the criminal justice system
 - b) rehabilitating criminal justice in America

Date Course Created:

Date of Last Revision: 3/29/2017