



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	SOCI
Course Number:	112
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Criminology
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Sociology
Course Disciplines:	Sociology
Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to the scientific analysis of crime and criminality. Sociological concepts and theories are used to analyze the nature, extent, and cause of crime; theoretical explanations for criminal behavior will be discussed. The dynamics of law, social control, treatment processes, and victimology will be evaluated.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Sociology 101 and eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	11/20/2006
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 2006
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences
Term:	

Other:	
IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Sociological Theoretical Perspectives Students will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of theoretical perspectives and apply sociological perspectives such as rational choice theory, social process theories, social structures theories, and developmental theories, to issues of crime and criminal behavior. SLO #2 Sociological Concepts Students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts, such as crime, crime rates, crime typology, social control, and social harm, by applying them to issues of crime and criminal behavior.
Course Objectives:	1. Define the concept of criminology and explain its goals, purposes and objectives. 2. Describe the principles, procedures and methodologies used by criminologists in the collection of crime data. 3. Analyze various acts of criminality and describe their social, cultural, biological and psychological etiologies. 4. Define the sociological terms and concepts used within the field of criminology to identify crime and criminal behavior. 5. Compare and contrast the sociological theories used to explain crime and criminal behavior. 6. Compare and contrast rates of crime and variations of criminality from historical and cross-cultural perspectives. 7. Describe society's changing response to, and treatment of, victims. Identify the various theoretical perspectives and sociological paradigms used to examine, interpret and analyze crime and criminal behavior. 8. Describe the importance of social norms and explain why they exist in all cultures as a way to maintain social control. 9. Differentiate between the roles of the police, courts and corrections in enforcing, sanctioning and punishing criminal acts. 10. Analyze crime data to determine sociological patterns and trends. 11. Identify crime typologies and describe the focus and consequences of these typologies.
Major Topics:	I. Introduction (9 hours, lecture) A. Definition of Crime B. History of Criminology as an Academic Discipline Including Classical Theorists and Classical Theories C. Overview of the Field of Criminology - Possible Causes of Criminal Behavior

D. Introduction to Current Perspectives in Criminology

1. Consensus Perspective
2. Conflict View
3. Interactionist View

E. Overview of Concept of Criminal Law and its Relationship to Societies and Cultures

F. Research Methods Most Often Used in Criminology

II. Nature and Extent of Crime (3 hours, lecture)

A. Methods of Determining Incidence of Crime

1. Uniform Crime Reports
2. Self-Reported Studies

B. Trends in Crime

C. Social Factors and Crime

III. Victims and Victimization (6 hours, lecture)

A. Theories of Victimization

B. Consequences and Problems of Victimization

C. Society's Response to Victims and Victimization

IV. Theories of Crime Causation (12 hours, lecture)

A. Classical Theory

B. Trait Theory - Biological and Genetic Theories

C. Social Structure Theories

D. Social Process or Socialization Theories

E. Social Conflict

F. Developmental Theories - Integration

V. Types of Crime (12 hours, lecture)

A. Violent Crime

B. Property Crime

C. Vice Crimes (Victimless Crimes)

	D. Corporate Crime E. Organized Crime F. Cyber Crime G. Crime and Morality (Victimless Crimes) H. Juvenile Delinquency VI. The Criminal Justice System (9 hours, lecture) A. Police and Law Enforcement B. Court System C. Corrections D. Models Used in the Criminal Justice System 1. Crime Control Model 2. Justice Model 3. Rehabilitation Model 4. Non-Intervention Model 5. Restorative Justice Model VII. Current Issues (3 hours, lecture)
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	After reading the chapter in your textbook on Rational Choice Theory, analyze street crimes, drug use and violent crimes from the perspective of the Rational Choice Theory. In your analysis, explain the major ideas of this perspective and apply these to an explanation of each of the three types of crimes. In conclusion, discuss your agreement or

	lack of agreement with these explanations. Defend your position utilizing reading and lecture material.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a two-to-three page typed essay, compare and contrast the key factors leading to crime as presented in Conflict Theory, Social Structure Theory, and Social Process Theory.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	After reviewing course materials (lecture notes, readings) on the social construction of crime, research the various factors that shape social attitudes toward crime and the criminal justice system. Focus on a particular topic such as the criminalization (or decriminalization) of drug use, domestic violence, white collar crime, etc. Working in small groups with other students in the class, prepare a 10-minute classroom presentation summarizing your research.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Larry J. Siegel, <u>Criminology: The Core</u> , 7th ed., Cengage Learning, 2019. (Discipline Standard) Anthony Walsh, Craig T. Hemmens, <u>Introduction to Criminology</u> , 4rth ed., Sage Publications, 2018. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	Alex Thio, Jim D. Taylor, Martin D. Schwartz, <u>Deviant Behavior</u> , 12th ed., Pearson, 2019. (Discipline Standard)
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	Sociology 101 AND

Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Students who have successfully completed Sociology 101 prior to taking other sociology courses will have a strong foundation in sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives, ensuring a greater level of student success in other sociology courses. SOCI 101 - Identify and describe key theoretical perspectives in sociology, including functionalism, conflict, and interactionism. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective relative to a variety of social situational circumstances. SOCI 101 - Demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts relating to social stratification and inequality. SOCI 101 - Describe major social institutions and evaluate their impact on individuals and groups in American society. Discuss historical and contemporary changes in these institutions.
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English C1000
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Students who have college-level reading and writing skills to understand analyze, and interpret sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives discussed in assigned readings. Students who demonstrate college-level research and writing skills will have better success with the written assignments in this course. A student needs college-level reading and writing skills to understand analyze, and interpret sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives discussed in assigned readings. In addition, students will need to demonstrate college-level research and writing skills in a variety of written assignments. Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion. Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques. Select and employ reading strategies to interpret the content of a college-level textbook, with special focus on constructing a thesis statement and providing valid support. Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Dr. Cornelia Lyles and Dr. Sue Dowden
Date:	09/01/2006
Original Board Approval Date:	11/20/2006
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Martin Leyva
Date:	09/26/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025

