SOC-2160: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SOC-2160 : Introduction to Criminology

Board of Trustees:

2018-05-24

Academic Term:

Fall 2021

Subject Code

SOC - Sociology

Course Number:

2160

Title:

Introduction to Criminology

Catalog Description:

To develop a sociological framework for examining crime. Review and apply major theories of criminal behavior. Critically examine how specific behaviors and social conditions become defined as crime. Use of sociological principles to assess the criminal justice system's ability to deter, punish, and rehabilitate offenders.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ANTH-1010 Cultural Anthropology, or PSY-1010 General Psychology, PSY-101H Honors General Psychology, or SOC-1010 Introductory Sociology, or SOC-101H Honors Introductory Sociology, or CJ-1000 Introduction to Criminal Justice.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze data collection methods and demographic variations of criminal behavior.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Describe how crime data is collected and reported in the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).
2. Evaluate alternatives to the UCR, including the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
3. Describe the historical trends, recent trends, and geographical differences in U.S. and international crime rates.
4. Compare and contrast data collection methodology, including limitations and value of each system: Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
5. Explain the racial, gender, and social class differences U.S. in crime rates.

Course Outcome(s):

Critically evaluate social science research.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of surveys, experiments, and secondary analysis.
2. Compare and contrast reliability and validity
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research.
4. Compare and contrast causation and correlation.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the effectiveness of classical, biological, and psychological theories of crime.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Describe and compare the sociological and historical context of classical and neoclassical perspectives on crime.
2. Describe the relationship between mental illness and criminal activity.
3. Analyze the impact of heredity and genetics on criminal activity.
4. Examine the effectiveness of psychological personal type as a predictor of criminal activity.

Course Outcome(s):

Apply sociological theory to criminal causation .

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Examine the role of power, privilege, and labeling in the creation and enforcement of criminal law.
2. Analyze how the strain between cultural goals and the institutionalized means of goal achievement can contribute to rates of crime.
3. Explain the relationship between social control and conformity to societal rules and laws.

Course Outcome(s):

Develop a capstone presentation that offers a sociological prescription for reducing or controlling crime.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Objective(s):

1. Describe what is meant by the criminal justice system funnel.
2. Evaluate the importance of primary prevention strategies, such as housing segregation and unemployment, in preventing or reducing crime.
3. Assess secondary prevention policies that contend that violent and property crimes are disproportionally committed by chronic offenders whose antisocial behavior emerged at an early age.
4. Analyze the effectiveness of tertiary crime prevention policies such as the death penalty, mandatory imprisonment, and community corrections.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the role of the victim and the issues they face within the criminal justice system.

Objective(s):

1. Define and explain victims and victimization.
2. Explain the patterning of victimization including social and demographic factors.
3. Analyze the relationship between victim and offender.
4. Apply routine activities and lifestyle theories to victimization.

Methods of Evaluation:
1. Examinations
2. Quizzes
3. Field work journals
4. Small and large group activities
5. Critical analysis research paper
6. Discussion boards
7. Thought papers

Course Content Outline:
1. Criminal law
   a. Classification
   b. Mens reus vs. actus reus
   c. The courts
2. Measuring crime
   a. Uniform Crime Report
   b. National Crime Victimization Survey
   c. National Incident-Based Reporting Systems
3. The research process
   a. Data collection methods
   b. Reliability and validity
   c. Correlation vs. causation
4. Classical and Neoclassical causes of crime
   a. Positivism
   b. Rational choice and deterrent theory
5. Biological causes of crime
   a. Heredity
   b. Genetics
6. Psychology and crime
   a. The criminal mind
   b. The role of mental illness
   c. The effects of labeling/the labeling perspective
7. Structural theories
   a. Social Control perspective
   b. Strain theory
8. Process theories
   a. Differential association
   b. Labeling Theory
9. Conflict theory
   a. The role of power
   b. The role of privilege
10. Violent crime
    a. Definitions
    b. Demographics
11. Property crime
    a. Definitions
    b. Demographics
12. White collar crime
    a. Corporate vs. individual crimes
    b. Employee theft
13. Computer crime
    a. Identity theft
    b. Cyber fraud
14. Organized crime
    a. Recruitment
    b. Culture
15. The role of the victim
    a. Social and demographic factors
    b. Relationship between victim and offender

16. Public policy and crime
    a. Rehabilitation
    b. Punishment
    c. Deterrence

Resources

Barkan, Steven A. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding.* 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ:Prentice Hall, 2014.

Schmalleger, Frank. *Criminology Today: An Integrative Introduction.* 8th ed. Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice Hall, 2016.

Weitzer, Ronald. *Current Controversies in Criminology.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.

Bachman, Ronet, and Russell K. Schutt. *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice.* 6th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2016.

Lilly, J. Robert, Francis T. Cullen, and Richard Ball. *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences.* 6th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2014.

Messner, Steven F., and Richard Rosenfeld. *Crime and the American Dream.* 5th Edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2012.

Sutherland, Edwin H. *White Collar Crime: The Uncut Version.* Cumberland, RI: Yale University Press, 1985.

Raab, Selwyn. *Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Families.* 10th anniversary ed. New York, NY:St. Martin's Press, 2016.

"Criminology"

"Criminology and Public Policy"

"Crime and Delinquency"

Resources Other

1. Uniform Crime Reports. https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr (https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr/)
2. National Crime Victimization Survey. https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245 (https://www.bjs.gov/?ty=dcdetail&iid=245)
3. National Incident-based Reporting System https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/NIBRS/

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS and Transfer Assurance Guide OSS034

Top of page
Key: 4058