

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

**SOC 10 - Introduction to Crime and Society**

**3 Unit(s)**

**Prerequisite(s):** NONE

**Recommended Prep:** Reading Level III; English Level IV

**Transfer Status:** CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is a sociological analysis of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. The history and social construction of crime and criminality are examined. The definition of crime and its violations as well as the laws and methods used to control criminal behavior are examined. The measurement of crime and basic theoretical explanations of criminal behavior are included. (C-ID SOCI 160).

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define the major concepts in criminology.
- B. Define the concept of social norms and explain why they exist in all cultures as a way to maintain social control.
- C. Compare and contrast the sociological theories used to explain crime and criminal behavior.
- D. Describe examples that illustrate the major criminology theories.
- E. Compare and contrast the principles, procedures, and methods used by sociologists in the collection of crime-related data.
- F. Analyze criminal patterns and trends.
- G. Analyze society's means and methods of addressing criminal behavior.
- H. Analyze crime rates and variations of criminality as they exist historically and cross-culturally and propose explanations for these variations.
- I. Examine the role of the police, courts, and corrections as a means to enforce, sanction, and punish criminal acts.
- J. Analyze the legal and criminal justice system as a social institution.
- K. Define and identify the types of crime and the people who commit them.
- L. Differentiate between actual crime and perceptions of crime.
- M. Analyze how race, gender, sexual orientation, age and class affect arrest, charging, and sentencing.
- N. Assess various types of intervention and prevention programs developed to reduce criminal behavior.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### **A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule**

Lecture

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Major sociological theories of crime	1.00
2. Definition and social construction of crime	1.00
3. History of criminal law, policing, punishment and corrections	1.00
4. Types of crime	2.00
5. Crime data and social research on crime	2.00
6. Crime intervention and prevention	2.00
7. Criminal sentencing and incarceration	1.50

8. Race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, sexuality, and crime	1.50
9. Deviance and social control	1.50
10. Victims and Victimization	1.50
11. Violent and property crime	3.00
12. White-collar and organized crime	3.00
13. Crime and substance abuse	3.00
14. Police, law enforcement, and the court system	6.00
15. Competing perspectives on due process and criminal control models	6.00
16. Issues in crime and criminal justice system	6.00
17. Youth and crime	3.00
18. Women, gender, and crime including sexual offenses	3.00
19. Cross-cultural variation of crime	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

#### **IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Guest Speakers
- C. Collaborative Group Work
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Discussion
- F. Problem-Solving Sessions
- G. Reading Assignments

#### **V. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Homework
- D. Essays and research papers

#### **VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
  - 1. Read about 'White-Collar' Crimes. Be prepared to discuss the various implications and effects these crimes have on society in class.
  - 2. Read about a real crime, either a personal crime or property crime. Then using the profile matrix discussed in class prepare your own profile of the victim and perpetrator. Be prepared to share your findings with the class.
- B. Writing Assignments
  - 1. Research a specific crime, either personal or property. Research paper must include the general profile about the specific crime, the victim and the perpetrator. Research paper must be 5-7 pages including abridged bibliography and works cited.
  - 2. Statistical Analysis plays an important role in fighting crime. Identify a crime issue and develop an instrument to measure the crimes effect on policing, courts jails and prison. Be prepared to present your findings to the class.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
  - 1. Contact a local police department about taking part in their 'ride along program'. After participating, write an evaluation of your experiences.
  - 2. Attend a court proceeding of your choice and present a written account of what you

witnessed.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

A. Curran and Renzetti. Theories of Crime. 2nd Edition. Pearson, 2001.

B. Barkan, Steven E. . Criminology: A Sociological Understanding. 6th Edition. Prentice Hall , 2014.

**Created/Revised by:** Melinda Riley

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