NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

SOC 236 - CRIMINALITY (3 CR.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studies research and causal theories of criminal behavior. Examines crime statistics, crime victims, and types of criminal offenses. Introduces the role of the police, the judicial system, and the correctional system in treatment and punishment of offenders. Lecture 3 hour per week.

GENERAL COURSE PURPOSE

To provide students with a critical understanding of the ways in which crime is defined, explained, and interpreted in the context of American society. It is expected that the student will be able to conceptualize a number of alternative interpretations of criminal behavior. Four major areas are covered: historical background, theoretical perspectives, the criminal justice system, and reporting crime (statistical and field data).

ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Literacy in the English language and SOC 201 or division permission.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Understand and be able to discuss crime in its broadest sense.
B. Identify and discuss various key theoretical perspectives of crime.
C. Identify the ways in which the social structure impacts on crime and how crime affects the social structure.
D. Apply a variety of methodological techniques to conduct research on crime and delinquency.
E. Discuss the utility of methods of dealing with criminals including the "when, where, and how" of treatment.

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED

A. Nature of Crime
B. Characteristics of Crime
C. Legal Definitions of Crime
D. Organized Crime
E. Criminal Sanctions
F. Theories of Criminality
G. Social Learning Theories
H. Control Theories
I. Social Conflict Theory
J. Labeling Theories
K. Biological Theories
L. Psychological Theories
M. Cultural Deviance Theory
N. Social Structure Theories
O. Differential Association Theory
P. Classical & Neoclassical Theories
Q. Anomie Theory
R. Ethical Issues
S. Typologies of Criminals
T. Adjudicatory Process
U. Social Class and Crime
V. White Collar Crime
W. Historical Development of Law
Y. Law Enforcement Agencies
Z. Criminal Justice System
AA. Corrections

EXTRA TOPICS (optional)

A. Sociology of Law
B. Victimization Studies
C. Sex-related Offenses
D. Substance Abuse
E. Additional Theories
F. Subcultural Strain Theory
G. Individual-Oriented Theories