

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Criminology

Course #: SOC* 240

Course Description: The course of Criminology deals with the causes of crime and how it relates to our society, as well as the response of society to criminal behavior. The relationship of the criminal justice system and corrections is also explored. Development of the criminal mind and the inmates social world within prison are of particular importance. Defining the concept of crime and the nature of criminal law are important aspects of this course of study. The effects of alcohol and substance abuse are prominent factors in modern criminal behavior, since a majority of crimes are related to this type of abuse. How society deals with these social problems will shape the future of criminal acts. 3 semester hours

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: Eligibility for ENG* 101

Goals:

- Understand the relationship between theory and policy in criminology
- Appreciate the primary sources of crime data and the strengths and limitations of research methods
- Develop an understanding of the major schools of criminology theory: classical, choice theory, social structural theory, social process theory, critical theory, development and psychosocial theory
- Comprehend the dynamics and characteristics of the various types of crime: violent, property, public order, white-collar, and organized crime
- Explore the emerging field of victimization theory in such areas as sexual assault, domestic violence, workplace victimization, human trafficking, and cybervictimization

Outcomes:

After you successfully complete this course, students will be able to:

- Classify and describe the main typologies of crime: violent, property, public order, white-collar and organized
- Define and describe basic terms used in the study of criminology and their definitions
- Identify and describe major steps in social science research and analysis
- Explain the major theoretical concepts used in criminology analysis and research to measure crime and criminal behavior
- Identify, describe and critique the major causal theories of crime: Choice Theory/Social Structural Theory/Social Process Theory/Critical Theory/Psychosocial Theory/Development Theory

- Demonstrate independent critical thinking on the subject of crime and criminology
- Successfully develop and write an essay from peer-reviewed journal articles on a selected topic in criminology