

Syllabus

SOCL 4461, version 1.2

Updated: May 20, 2016

SOCL 4461—Criminology

Course Description: Crime, the criminal justice system, and penology.

Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is *not responsible* for student purchases that result in *the receipt of the wrong materials*. It is the responsibility of the student to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*. Please use the information below to order your materials.

Please note: At www.cengagebrain.com, you may purchase a hardcover textbook, rent this textbook, or purchase e-book access. If you choose the rental or e-book options, please be aware that the access times are limited, and *you should purchase adequate time for your course*.

Textbook

Larry J. Siegel. *Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*. Twelfth edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2015.

ISBN-10: 1-305-26109-7

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-26109-9

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN.* Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

It is recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet*

Exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. Understand what is meant by the "field of criminology"
2. Understand various forms of crime data, how data is collected, and how crime data is used
3. Describe crime trends and how crime rates vary over time, across geographic areas, and across demographic groups
4. Understand the nature of criminal victimization
5. Be familiar with different definitions of crime types (violent crime, property crime, occupational crime, and public order crime)
6. Discuss various theoretical explanations of crime
7. Know the prevalence and context of different forms of crime
8. Explain the development of organized crime
9. Distinguish the different forms of terrorism and political crime
10. Understand cybercrime and how technology is used in crime

Whether we are cognizant of it or not, crime affects every one of us either directly or indirectly. It can affect us directly when we are the perpetrator or the victim of criminal actions. It can affect us indirectly when someone we know or care about is the victim of a criminal act, or when we alter our daily behavior patterns because of fear of being the victim of crime. This course is intended to provide an in-depth introduction to the major issues surrounding the study of crime in American society. We will focus on the following issues: (1) measurement of

crime; (2) the demographics of crime; (3) patterns and characteristics of different types of property and violent crimes; (4) theories and causes of crime; (4) emerging forms of crime; and (5) public policy.

While the basic orientation of this course is sociological, a wide variety of theoretical and practical issues in criminology are covered. In analyzing these and other issues, the most current literature in the field of criminology is utilized. Both classical and contemporary literature is utilized so as to expose the student to the knowledge that has accumulated in recent years and the rapid changes that have taken place in the field.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the Module Learning Objectives, the Reading Assignment, a graded Quiz, and the graded Module Assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For each set of answers you prepare for this course, follow carefully the guidelines provided in the textbook and this course website.

You will read an average of 30 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Crime and Criminology
02	The Nature and Extent of Crime
03	Victims and Victimization
04	Rational Choice Theory
05	Trait Theories
06	Social Structure Theories
07	Social Process Theories
	Mid-Course Examination
08	Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice
09	Developmental Theories
10	Interpersonal Violence
11	Political Crime and Terrorism
12	Property Crime
13	Enterprise Crime
14	Public Order Crime
15	Crimes of the New Millennium
	Final Examination

Module Assignments

The work in each module involves a graded quiz of multiple-choice questions and a module assignment. The module assignments comprise a set of 6 to 7 essay questions that cover your reading of the textbook chapter associated with that module. Answers to the essay questions need to address every part of the question, and this requires *two to three sentences per individual part* (if there are multiple parts). Thus, an adequate response for an *entire* question would be *at least* one half of a full page in a document. Your answers should be detailed, thorough, and in your own words. Each module assignment is then assigned a grade out of 100 based on the overall quality of the responses.

Carefully study the textbook and module materials before you begin to prepare the module assignments. This study should include a detailed examination of the key terms and quiz, as well as the assigned reading.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the modules in your Moodle course. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Please allow at least seven days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook. Once you *submit* an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, *you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material*, and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing

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their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations consisting of multiple-choice questions and essay questions that are similar to the questions in the module quizzes and assignments. The mid-course exam covers Modules 01–07, and the final exam covers Modules 08–15 *only*. You will have a maximum of *three* hours to complete each exam.

Each exam is worth 100 points. Your course grade equals the average of module assignments plus the average of quizzes plus your exams scores. Each component is weighted by the following percentages.

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	30%
Average of Quizzes	10%
Mid-Course Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

The following grading scale applies for students who complete the course on or after October 15, 2015. Prior to that date, the scale will be the same, except that pluses and minuses will be dropped from the grade posted in the student's permanent record and transcript.

97%–100%	=	A+
93%–96%	=	A
90%–92%	=	A-
87%–89%	=	B+
83%–86%	=	B
80%–82%	=	B-
77%–79%	=	C+
73%–76%	=	C
70%–72%	=	C-
67%–69%	=	D+
63%–66%	=	D
60%–62%	=	D-
0%–59%	=	F

YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. *You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam.* Please allow at least *seven days* for the final assignment grade to be posted in the grade book. During busy times, it may take longer for grades to be posted. Please do not schedule your final exam until this grade has been posted.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies>. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access. Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

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The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options:

<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>.

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Copyright © 2016 LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Ginger Stevenson, MA
Instructor
Distance Learning Programs
Louisiana State University

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