### Criminology

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to give an introduction to a wide range of questions about offending behaviour, crime and its control, drawing on criminological theory and research. The course introduces the origins and development of thinking about crime, patterns of offending behaviour, the problems of determining what we “know” about crime and the implications for how we should respond. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on the relationships between theory, research and practice and students are encouraged to think critically about the nature of ¿evidence¿ in relation to crime and control. All course materials are hosted on the Law School website.

Examines the causes of criminal behavior. Also examines ethical issues, policy implications, and research.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

* Discuss the theory and the research methodology used to test various theories of crime, delinquency, and behavior
* Explain that correlation does not equate to causation
* Identify the historical foundations of criminological theories
* Define the macro versus the micro viewpoints of crime, delinquency, and behavior
* Summarize the various theoretical schools of thought on crime, delinquency, and behavior and their utility in examining, explaining, and preventing crime and delinquency

### Week 1

#### Lecture: Introduction

#### Lecture: Researching Crime and Measuring Criminal Behavior

Outcomes

* Explain the purpose of counting crime and measuring criminal behavior
* Discuss the ingredients of crime defenses, typologies of crime, measurements of crime, nature of crime, extent of crime, and characteristics of crime

### Week 2

#### Lecture: Schools of Thought throughout History

Outcomes

* Explain criminological schools of thought throughout history
* Discuss the importance of classical and positivist criminology; biological, psychological, and sociological determinism; and historical versus contemporary criminology

### Week 3-4

#### Lecture: Biological Perspectives

#### Lecture: Psychological Perspectives

Outcomes

* Explain psychological and biological perspectives of crime
* Discuss psychology and criminality, mental disorders and crime, biology and criminality, and crime and human nature

### Week 5

#### Lecture: Sociological Theories and Cultural Deviance Theory

Outcomes

* Explain strain and cultural deviance theories of crime
* Discuss the interconnectedness of sociological theories; anomie, strain, and cultural deviance theories
* Illustrate ways these theories form policy

### Week 6

#### Lecture: The Formation of Subcultures

Outcomes

* Explain the formation of subcultures
* Discuss the functions of subcultures
* Distingush and identify subcultures of delinquency and violence, Miller’s Theory, and gangs
* Identify how theory forms policy regarding subcultures

### Week 7

#### Lecture: Labeling Theory, Conflict Theory, and Radical (Marxist) Theory

Outcomes

* Explain labeling, conflict, and radical theories
* Compare and contrast labeling, conflict, and radical theories

### Mid Term

### Week 8

#### Lecture: Environmental Theories

Outcomes

* Define the principles of environmental theory
* Discuss situational theories of crime
* Explain theories of victimization
* Identify key ways to prevent crimes from occurring

**Week 10:**

#### Lecture: Social Control Theories

Outcomes

* Explain social control theory
* Discuss theories of social control, containment theory, recent theoretical explorations
* Identify how these theories inform policy

**WEEK 11-12: THE DARK FIGURE OF CRIME: OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL STATISTICS – FACTS OR FICTION?** In week 3 we look at issues around measuring and representing crime. Some questions that will be raised are: Are the statistics trustworthy? How are they used and abused?

**Week 15:** Who measures crime and why does it matter who is measuring crime? What crime is measured and what is not? What do we really know about crime (consider last week’s discussion)?

**Recommended Books:**

White, R and Perrone, S (2010) *Crime, Criminality and Criminal Justice*, Oxford University Press. Chapter 1 (21-32).

Weatherburn, D. (2011) ‘Uses and abuses of crime statistics’ *Crime and Justice Bulletin,* no. 153, available at http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/Lawlink/bocsar/ll\_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB153.pdf/$file/CJB153.pdf

Morgan, F and Clare, J (2012) The distribution of crime over populations, space and time in Marmo, M, De Lint, W and Palmer, D (eds) (2012) *Crime and Justice: A Guide to Criminology (4th Edition),* Sydney: Lawbook Co.

Surette, R (2007) *The Media and Criminal Justice Policy,* Wadsworht. Chapter 8 ‘Media, Crime and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities and Policies’ (201 – 223).

Cohen, S (2009) The sociology of moral panics, in Newburn, T (ed) *Key Readings in Criminology*, Willan Publishing (79-84)