

SOC-F240-3422 Fall 2015-Criminology
Instructor Information

Instructor: Marc Mikulski

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This is a full on-line course. There are no scheduled meetings on campus.

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Office: Snow Hall 2nd Floor Faculty Office

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Placement into English 101L

Scope of Course: This is a "D" (Diversity Course)

Course Objective: To provide students with the fundamental principles relative to the nature and causes of crime. The various approaches to the study of crime, variables relative to how crime is viewed by different societies and crime prevention models are explored. The course also introduces students to the field of criminal law and the nature of criminal behavior from a sociological perspective.

Text: Siegel, Larry J. 2015. Criminology: The Core. Fifth Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. Additional reading as assigned. **You need the book week 1.**

Course Delivery: This course will be given exclusively online using Blackboard. There will be a weekly learning module on Blackboard that will be used to give specific instructions and assignments for that particular week.

Each week there will be an assignment to complete. These assignments will include, but are not limited to written papers, online quizzes and tests. All quizzes and tests will be taken through Blackboard. The tests and/or quizzes may include written responses, multiple choice, fill-in the blank etc...There will be four exams throughout the semester. These exams will cover the material presented during that particularly quarter of the course, usually four weeks.

Each week there will be a threaded discussion based on the material presented during that particular week. The way the threaded questions will work is that each student will need to write their own response to the question. Then respond to **at least (minimum requirements)** to two other classmate's initial postings. Grading for this particular section of the class will constitute a grade based on the thoroughness of the initial response and the follow-up responses to your classmates. A one or two line response to a classmate's initial posting will not suffice and meeting the minimum posting requirements will not automatically equate to full credit!

Assignment Schedule: Deadline for weekly assignments: quizzes, tests or written papers will be Sunday night by **11:59PM**. Late assignment will be accepted at a loss of one letter grade. The exception to this is discussions. Discussions must be completed the week assigned or the grade is a "0". All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard and the grades will be posted in the on-line grade book.

I will open the weekly "Learning Module" on Sunday night, which will include the assignments for the upcoming week. I will also post the weekly threaded discussion question on Sunday night. Students will be expected to have posted their initial response by sometime Tuesday. This will give students enough time to post their comments and thoughts. Remember this is a discussion, ***"One and Done"*** won't work. You should be monitoring the discussion boards throughout the week and participating in the discussions accordingly.

Important Note: On-line courses tend to be more demanding than attending class on campus. Time management is going to be crucial. You must set aside time each week for the class. A good reference is at least 8 hours. To be successful in this course you need to have a computer that has the appropriate software to take an on-line course. This means an appropriate, recognized document writer (Word, Open Office), a recognized PDF reader, and an appropriate video player. If you have any issues with the set-up of your computer, or need tutorials on how to take an on-line course on Blackboard, please review the distance learning page on the college web page: http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Content/Distance_Learning.asp

Grading Policy: There will be four (4) exams given during the semester. A student may drop the lowest exam grade **provided they take all four exams**. The exams comprise **50%** of the final grade. Tests are not timed, therefore they are more challenging. There will also be mandatory writing assignments that will be worth **25%** of the final grade. Weekly threaded discussions will count for **10%** of the final grade and the quizzes for **15%**. This grading schema takes into consideration different modalities of learning and assessments. If you are not a good multiple choice test taker then the written papers and the discussion boards are where you will excel and vice versa. The trick of taking an online course is keeping up with the work!

*** Remember this is an on-line course. I can tell when you sign into the course and how long you spend working in the course each week, which will be taken into consideration for the weekly threaded discussion grades.

ADA Accommodation Statement: It is the policy of Middlesex Community College that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the college. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with physical or learning disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Counseling Office located in the Career Development & Counseling Room 121. This should be done at the beginning of each semester. After disclosing the nature of the disability, students are urged to discuss their need with individual instructors. Instructors in conjunction with appropriate college officials will provide assistance and/ or accommodations only to those students who have completed this process.

Religious Accommodation Statement: If your religious obligations conflict with the course calendar requirements, and if you wish to request an accommodation, you must make your request in writing prior to the date of the assessment or activity you will miss and preferably at the beginning of the semester. When requesting a make-up quiz, test, exam, assignment, or activity, state the reason for your request and the date (s) on which your religious obligation (s) will conflict with the course calendar requirement. Also, if your religious obligation/holiday is unfamiliar to your instructor, you may be asked to provide a calendar which shows the published date (s) of your religious observance(s) or holiday (s).

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: At Middlesex Community College, we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' proscribed Conduct Policy in Section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Withdrawal from Course: The policy on withdrawing from a course is strictly adhered to by the college. Please refer to the college catalogue for the proper procedure regarding course withdrawal.

ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS INFORMATION

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency

closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus

SC **Class Schedule**

8/31/2015	Module 1	Chapter 1: <i>Crime and Criminology</i>
9/6/2015	Module 2	Chapter 2: <i>The Nature and Extent of Crime</i>
9/13/2015	Module 3	Chapter 3: <i>Victims and Victimization</i>
9/20/2015	Module 4	Chapter 4: <i>Rational Choice Theory</i> - Exam #1 Chapters 1-3
9/27/2015	Module 5	Chapter 5: <i>Trait Theory</i>
10/4/2015	Module 6	Chapter 6: <i>Social Structure Theory</i>
10/11/2015	Module 7	Chapter 7: <i>Social Process Theory</i>
10/18/2015	Module 8	Chapter 8: <i>Social Conflict, Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice</i>
10/25/2015	Module 9	Chapter 9: <i>Developmental Theories, Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory</i> Exam #2 Chapters 5-8
11/1/2015	Module 10	Chapter 10: <i>Violent Crime</i>
11/8/2015	Module 11	Chapter 11: <i>Political Crime and Terrorism</i>
11/15/2015	Module 12	Chapter 12: <i>Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar and Green-Collar</i> Exam #3 Chapters 9-12- Due Sunday after Thanksgiving
11/22/2015	No class	(Thanksgiving Week)
11/29/2015	Module 13	Chapter 13: <i>Public Order Crimes</i>
12/6/2015	Module 14	Chapter 14: <i>Crimes of the New Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime</i>
12/13/2015	Final	Exam 4 (<i>Final</i>) Chapters 12-14