Middlesex Community College

COURSE SYLLABUS
SOC-F240- CRN:1400
Spring 2016-Criminology

<u>On-Line</u>

Instructor: **Marc Mikulski**
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Telephone: (203) 848-5851

This is a fully 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: *Eligible for ENG 101, ENG 101E or ENG ALP.*

<u>**Course Description:**</u> The course examines the nature and cause of crime, approaches to the study of crime, and its treatment and prevention. The sociology of criminal law and the nature of criminal behavior are also examined. This is an "L" course.

<u>**Course Objectives:**</u>
1. Outline the fundamental principles relative to crime, criminal law, and criminology.
2. Differentiate between the philosophical and legal foundations of crimes based upon societal values.
3. Explain the importance of utilizing the scientific method to accurately measure crime and criminal behavior through the use of reliable and valid methodologies
4. Differentiate between explanations of criminal behavior, specifically biological, psychological and sociological theories.
5. Apply theoretical perspectives to the study of crime.
6. Explain the different types of crimes that are committed.
7. Outline the various criminal justice systems and the social reaction to crime.

<u>**Text:**</u> Siegel, Larry J. 2015. Criminology: The Core. Fifth Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. ISBN**:** 9781285068909. Additional reading as assigned.
<p style="text-align:center; color:red">**You need the book week 1.**</p>

<u>**Course Delivery:**</u> 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. All written assignment other than discussion boards and journals will be submitted through Safeassign.

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!

Communications: All routine communications with me regarding the course need to go through the in class messaging. There is a tab on the left menu of our blackboard page for this. I check messages regularly in the evening. However, if you need to get a hold of me immediately text is the best way (203-848-5851)

Assignment Schedule: Deadline for weekly assignments: quizzes, tests or written papers will be Sunday night by **11:59PM.** Late assignments 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 then 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, etc....), 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!

** *On-line grade book: If you look at your grades at the end of the semester and see that you have an overall grade of let's say a "90". But you have two assignments that you haven't completed, that "90" is going to go down significantly when I add in the 0's for the missing assignments. I will not be chasing you for missing 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.*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grade:	Percentage:	Letter Grade:	Percentage:
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

WITHDRAWAL: Withdrawal: Student may withdraw from the class with a grade of "W" before the 11th week of classes. After that date, students will receive a "W" or an "F." Students may withdrawal from the course only after speaking with the instructor and filing all the proper paperwork. Note: The primary responsibility for initiating a withdrawal rests with the students. Withdrawal from the course is official only when initiated in writing through the Records office, all requested signatures are obtained, and the proper papers are filed with the Records Office by the indicated deadlines.

THE FINAL DAY THAT I WILL SIGN A WITHDRAWAL WILL BE APRIL 13th.
No withdrawals will be signed after that point.

CLASS CANCELLATION AND OTHER MxCC POLICIES: In the event of inclement weather either before the start of the day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc, but listing to the local radio stations and television stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at www.mxcc.commnet.edu and an announcement is made on the college's main phone number (860) 343–5800. When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option #1 from the menu for school closings. If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

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-policies/

ANTI-PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE: SafeAssign, TurnItIn or other anti-plagiarism detection software products may be used in this course. Anti-plagiarism detection software products assist faculty and students in preventing and detecting plagiarism. Professors may utilize such software in order to check the originality of the academic work students submit in a course by comparing submitted papers to those contained in its database consisting of submitted papers and other sources. Anti-plagiarism detection software returns an "originality report" for each submission. The report is limited in scope to merely identifying passages that are not original to the author of the submitted work and which may include correctly cited quotations and information. Professors and students must carefully review such reports. No adverse action may be taken by a professor with respect to a student solely on the basis of an originality report which indicates the potential for plagiarism.

In this course you may be asked to submit your academic papers and other creative work containing personally identifiable information for originality reporting. By doing so, your work along with personally identifiable information will be retained in the product database and may be subsequently reported out containing your personally identifiable information not only to your professor, but also to professors of other universities and colleges within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) as part of subsequent originality reports.

You may decline to submit your work for originality reporting. If so, you must be provided an alternative method in which to submit your work. However, your professor, after removing your personally identifying information, may nonetheless submit limited portions of your academic work for originality reporting.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

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 and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator
  Dr. Adrienne Maslin
  Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
  amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759;
  Founders Hall Room 123|

- Secondary Title IX Coordinator
  Ms. Queen Fordham
  Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
  qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011

SCHEDULE:

Classes begin on Thursday, January 21, 2016. Module 1 will be available on the 21st However, we will be following the below schedule which will give you a little over a week for the first week's material.

Sunday, January 24, 2016	Module 1	Chapter 1: Crime and Criminology
Sunday, January 31, 2016	Module 2	Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Crime
Sunday, February 07, 2016	Module 3	Chapter 3: Victims and Victimization
Sunday, February 14, 2016	Module 4	Chapter 4: Rational Choice Theory - *(Exam #1 Chapters 1-3)*
Sunday, February 21, 2016	Module 5	Chapter 5: Trait Theory
Sunday, February 28, 2016	Module 6	Chapter 6: Social Structure Theory
Sunday, March 06, 2016	Module 7	Chapter 7: Social Process Theory Exam
Sunday, March 13, 2016	Module 8	Chapter 8: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice *(Exam #2 Chapters 4-7)*
Sunday, March 20, 2016	No Class	*Spring Break - No Class*
Sunday, March 27, 2016	Module 9	Chapter 9: Developmental Theories, Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory
Sunday, April 03, 2016	Module 10	Chapter 10: Violent Crime
Sunday, April 10, 2016	Module 11	Chapter 11: Political Crime and Terrorism
Sunday, April 17, 2016	Module 12	Chapter 12: Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar and Green-Collar *(Exam #3 Chapters 8-11)*
Sunday, April 24, 2016	Module 13	Chapter 13: Public Order Crimes
Sunday, May 01, 2016	Module 14	Chapter 14: Crimes of the New Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime
Sunday, May 08, 2016	Final	*Exam 4 (Final) Chapters 12-14*

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of this syllabus to meet the educational needs of the students in the course.

Topics Covered in SOC 240 Criminology:

Unit #	Instructional Unit	Specific Objectives of Unit
1	Crime and Criminology	• Explain the various elements of the criminological enterprise. • Differentiate between crime and deviance. • Discuss the three different views of the definition of crime. • Discuss the different purposes of the criminal law. • Describe the criminal justice process. • Identify the ethical issues in criminology.
2	The Nature and Extent of Crime	• Discuss the various forms of crime data. • Analyze recent trends in the crime rate. • Become familiar with the factors that influence crime rates. • Identify the gender and racial patterns in crime. • Define the term aging-out process. • Become familiar with the concept of chronic offending and identify its causes.
3	Victims and Victimization	• Describe the victim's role in the crime process. • List the greatest problems faced by crime victims. • Identify what is meant by the term cycle of violence. • Become familiar with the ecology of victimization risk. • Describe the most dominant victim characteristics. • Identify the most important theories of victimization.
4	Rational Choice Theory	• Describe the development of rational choice theory. • Explain the concepts of rational choice. • Explain what is meant by the term seductions of crime. • List the elements of situational crime prevention. • Identify the elements of general deterrence. • Define the basic concepts of specific deterrence.
5	Trait Theory	• Become familiar with the development of trait theory. • List some of the biochemical conditions that have been associated with crime. • Describe the link between genetics and crime, according to trait theory. • Identify the elements of the psychodynamic perspective. • Explain why behavioral theory is linked to crime. • Outline the controversy surrounding the link between intelligence and crime.
6	Social Structure Theory	• Describe the association between social structure and crime. • List the elements of social disorganization theory. • Differentiate between the views of Shaw and McKay. • Identify the various elements of ecological theory. • Outline the concept of strain. • List and compare the elements of cultural deviance theory.
7	Social Process Theory	• Differentiate between the concepts of social process and socialization. • Explain the effect of family relationships on crime. • Identify how the educational setting influences crime. • Explain the link between peers and delinquency. • Contrast social learning, social control, and social reaction (labeling) theories. • Explain how the social process theory is linked to crime prevention efforts.

8	Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice	- Outline the ideas that underpin critical criminology. - Explain globalization to crime and criminality. - Define the concept of state (organized) crime. - Identify the goals and findings of critical research. - List some of the basic ideas of critical feminism. - Discuss how restorative justice is related to peacemaking criminology.
9	Developmental Theories: Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory.	- Outline the history of and influences on developmental theory. - Identify the principles of the life course approach to developmental theory. - Define the term problem behavior syndrome. - Explain the principles of Sampson and Laub's age-graded life course theory. - Define the concept of the latent trait and assumptions the general theory of crime (GTC). - List the principles of trajectory theory.
10	Violent Crime	- Outline the various causes of violent crime. - Define rape and be familiar with why men commit rape. - List the issues involving rape and the law. - Differentiate between the different types of murder. - Outline the nature and patterns of robbery. - Be able to discuss newly emerging forms of violence, such as stalking, hate crimes, and workplace violence.
11	Political Crime and Terrorism	- Define the term political crime. - Identify the causes of political crime. - Differentiate between espionage and treason. - Distinguish among terrorists, insurgents, guerillas, and revolutionaries. - List and identify the various forms of terrorism. - Know the supposed causes of terrorism and what motivates the terrorist.
12	Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar, and Green-Collar	- Outline the history of theft offenses. - Differentiate between professional and amateur thieves. - List the various forms of shoplifting. - Define what is meant by the term Ponzi scheme. - Identify the various forms of white-collar crime. - Outline the efforts to control white-collar and green-collar crime.
13	Public Order Crimes	- Define the term social harm. - Outline the activities of moral crusaders. - Identify the various forms of outlawed deviant sexuality. - Differentiate among the different types of prostitutes. - Compare and contrast the arguments for and against legalizing prostitution. - List the causes of substance abuse.
14	Crimes in the Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime	- Define the concept of cybercrime and why it has become important. - Distinguish among cyber theft, cyber vandalism, and cyberterrorism. - Identify the various types of cybercrimes, such as computer frauds, illegal copyright infringement, and identity theft. - Outline the efforts to control cybercrime. - Trace the evolution of organized crime. - Explain the activities of transnational organized crime.