

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Summer 2015

**Course Title: Criminology**  
**Number & Section: SOC C240 CRN Course Type: On-line**  
**Instructor: Dr. David Rentler Class Time: Varies – On-line**  
**Office number: N/A E-Mail: [drentler1@yahoo.com](mailto:drentler1@yahoo.com) Office Hours: By appointment.**

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### **Text/Course Materials:**

Frank E. Hagan (2013). *Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior*<sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781452242347)

Student Resource Textbook Companion Site:

<http://www.sagepub.com/haganintrocrim8e/study/default.htm>

**Criminology: Tentative Course Outline/Topic Schedule; Summer2015**

**OUR WEEKS WILL RUN 12 AM Monday to 11:59 PM Sunday**

**Week Date Topic Module / Assignment**

**Week 1: 7/6 to 7/12** Introduction, Research Methods and General Overview

**Read the following Chapters:**

1. Introduction
2. Research Methods in Criminology
3. General Characteristics of Crime and Criminals.

**Post your Introduction**

**Complete Discussions 1 & 2**

**Week 2: 7/13 to 7/19: Theories of Crime**

**Read the following Chapters:**

5. Early and Classical Criminological Theories
6. Biological and Psychological Theories
7. Sociological Mainstream Theories
8. Sociological Critical Theories and Integrated Theories

**Complete Discussions 3 & 4**

**Week 3: 7/20 to 7/26: Types of Crime**

**Read the following Chapters:**

9. Violent Crimes
10. Property Crime: Occasional, Conventional, and Professional
11. White Collar Crime: Occupational and Corporate
12. Political Crime and Terrorism

**Complete Discussions 5 & 6**

**Week 4/5: 7/27 to 8/9: Types of Crime; Future of Crime; Your Perspective**

13. Organized Crime
14. Public Order Crime
15. Computer Crime
16. Epilogue: The Future of Crime

## Discussions 7 & 8

# Final Integrative Discussion

### Levels of Communication

We will be using a minimum of two levels of communication in this course, one formal, and the other informal. Assignments submitted directly to the instructor are considered formal and should be written with proper grammar, spelling, etc.

Discussion postings are informal. You do not have to use capitalizations to begin sentences; there are no penalties for misspellings, incomplete sentences, or other violations of grammatical rules. The **CONTENT** of your discussion comments is **MOST IMPORTANT**. Nonetheless, you should strive for accuracy in grammar and spelling when making your posts. Your discussion postings must be original, thoughtful, and show detailed familiarity with the assigned readings and application of critical thinking. You must communicate effectively and respectfully, and demonstrate your understanding of the readings.

### Talking with Classmates:

You should use the internal Blackboard e-mail system or personal email addresses for private correspondence between you and other classmates. You can use Blackboard e-mail or my personal email address to correspond privately with me as well. The Discussion Board is where you will post assigned discussion responses and also to ask questions that are general in nature or for which other students in the class may be able to provide assistance for you. You should read and try to respond to these questions frequently as well.

**On-Line Chat, telephone conference, and/or Campus-Based Meetings with the Instructor.** Although I have no formal office hours, I am more than willing to schedule an on-line chat session, telephone call, or campus-based in-person meeting if desired/needed to address concerns, questions, or other issues. Just email or call me to set up an appointment.

### Where to Submit Your Work:

- 1) Anything private to me that you don't want anyone else to see, goes to **"Mail."**
- 2) Your discussion **assignments** should be sent to the Discussion page.
- 3) Your **questions, discussions, and interactions** with other students are posted in the Discussion page for each assignment. A new discussion board thread will be started each week for each new set of discussion topics.

### Ground Rules for Online Participation

Students should use email for private messages to the instructor and other students. The Discussion area of the course is for public messages so we can see what each other has to say about any given topic, and respond if desired.

- Students are expected to participate in online discussions, as well as with other appropriate online activities including sending/receiving email.
- All students will observe conventions of "online etiquette," when communicating online which includes courtesy and respect, to all users. Vulgar, defamatory, prejudicial,

offensive, threatening, inappropriately sexual or other unacceptable comments/behavior will not be accepted. Students violating these rules will be withdrawn from the course.

- Students may get assistance with computer related problems through the instructor, WebTutor (the Wadsworth Publishers) or Blackboard college computer support staff.
- Assignments may be submitted via the postal service or fax in rare circumstances and only if arrangements are made with the instructor beforehand.

### **Student Conduct**

The instructor reserves the right to manage a positive learning environment and will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. This class covers material that may be controversial, sensitive, or personally relevant to other students. Therefore it is important that, in order for us all to grow and learn and increase our understanding of course material, we be careful and treat each other with respect and civility, even when our personal beliefs and values are different from those of our peers.

### **GRADING POLICY:**

Grading Summary: Number x Points Total Points % final grade

Weekly Discussion assignments 8 x 10 = 80 (80%)

Introduction: 1 x 10 = 10 (10 %)

Final Integrative Reflection discussion 1 x 10 = 10 (10 %)

### **Total Possible Points 100**

### **Your Introductions, Weekly Discussions, and Final Integrative Discussion**

**Assignments :** The most effective way to learn and grow is to share ideas, information, and inspiration with the rest of the class. With an online class, we do not have the same opportunity for class interaction and discussion that we would have if this were a traditional in-class format. As such, the Discussion Board and Blackboardmail become our vehicle for class participation and communication.

Participation in this class will be in the form of your response to weekly discussion questions that I will assign AND your reaction to what other students have posted on the Discussion Board regarding an assigned topic. Like a regular job, if you miss too much work you would be dismissed, so it is with this class. If you do not participate and contribute to the discussions, you will be required to choose between withdrawal or a failing grade.

Our class will run 12AM TUESDAY to 11:59PM MONDAY. New weekly assignments will be posted by **11:59PM MONDAY** of each week. You are required to write your response to discussion question/s by **11:59PM THURSDAY** and to react to a minimum of TWO of your classmates' responses for each of the Discussion Board posts by **11:59PM MONDAY**. These discussion and response posts will comprise your weekly discussion grade.

You should check into our Blackboard classroom at least 3-6 times per week, just as you would if you were attending a traditional campus-based summer class. Always check the Instructor's Announcements message for new information.

### **Suggestion:**

Since this is an online class, it is easy to forget that there is limited time to complete the course. Consider setting aside a certain time everyday to check in, contribute to discussions, turn in assignments, ask questions, e-mail the instructor, etc.

**Weeks/Modules:**

There are 4/5 condensed weeks or modules for this Summer session course. For each week/module, you will need to check the weekly assignment (e.g., "Week 1") module on Blackboard for further instructions on your assignments each week. The outline above provides a general overview of the course and due dates. Specific discussion topics and other assignments, including relevant web links will be included in the weekly assignment module. You will be graded on the content of your weekly discussion posts. The due dates are firm. No late responses or discussion submissions will be accepted beyond 11:59PM Monday.

**CRITERIA FOR ONLINE DISCUSSION POSTINGS**

10 = A

Online posting is on time and answers /responses given for all questions. Answers are complete and concise. Demonstrates familiarity with the assigned readings.

8 = B

Assignment is late, but has largely concise, thoughtful, answers/ responses for all questions or, assignment is on time, but answers are not complete, concise or thoughtful.

7 = C

Assignment is late, and answers /responses are not complete, concise, or are lacking some critical details.

6 = D

Assignment is late, or on time, but incomplete, lacking detail, demonstrates lack of familiarity with readings.

0 = F

**Assignment was not submitted, submitted late with no acceptable proof of timely submission, failure to respond to posts, lacking thoughtfulness or hasty, seemingly last minute, submission, demonstrates lack of familiarity with readings.**

**Final Grades:** Final grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned:

**A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F**

93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-65	59 and lower
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**Cyber-class, Lost Submissions and Due Dates:**

Sometimes assignments are lost in cyberspace. Be sure to make electronic copies of everything you send in case you have to verify that you sent an assignment by the due date. With electronic copies sent to yourself, you can forward lost assignments to me to receive credit for the assignment. Technological glitches such as computers that won't work just at the moment you are ready to send off an assignment occasionally happen. BUT technological glitches do NOT excuse late assignments. Please plan ahead so you don't get caught by a troublesome computer problem at the last minute.

The deadline for all assignments including all discussion posts, and other assigned materials is MIDNIGHT of the due date. ONE minute after midnight is LATE and the work will not be accepted. The time an item is sent shows up on electronic submissions. Make sure you plan ahead and don't wait until the last minute! Invariably your computer will decide to be difficult or crash just the very moment before midnight that you were going to send in your assignment. Technical difficulties do not alter the deadlines. Have a backup plan.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Attendance:** Though there is no formal attendance policy for online classes, the expectation is for students to commit an equal amount of hours per week to this course as for an on ground class (i.e., 3 hours). Students are recommended to log onto our class site at least three times per week to check posts, messages, and respond to assignments. In addition, time devoted to the course outside of class itself, time as meets the expectation of a three credit class (i.e., 2 to 3 times class time or 6 - 9 hours per week making for a total (assignments, exams for example obviously changing the commitment during any given week) commitment, on average of 10.5 hours per week. Students not familiar to the online format likely will, in the beginning, be spending more time becoming familiar with "BLACKBOARD".

## **NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title: Criminology Course #: Soc C240**

**Course Description:** (3 semester hours): 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.

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

### **Goals & Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the terminology and various criminological theories associated with Criminal Justice.
2. Demonstrate the skills necessary to recognize competing theories and use them to explain and understand crime.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the psychological, sociological, and psychological perspectives of crime.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of what crime, theory, and deviance is and how these are explained by developed theories.

**College Policies:**

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**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty are not tolerated at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Violators of this policy will be subject to sanction. Please refer to your “Student Handbook” under “Policy on Student Rights,” the Section entitled “Student Discipline,” or the College catalog for additional information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities. Students should notify Roseann Dennerlein, the Counselor for Students with Disabilities. She is located at Green Woods Hall, in the Center for Student Development. Her phone number is 860-738-6307 (V/TTY) and her email is [rdennerlein@nwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:rdennerlein@nwcc.commnet.edu).

**School Cancellations:** If snowy or icy driving conditions cause the postponement or cancellation of classes, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations and posted on the College’s website at [www.nwcc.commnet.edu](http://www.nwcc.commnet.edu). Students may also call the College directly at **(860) 738-6464** to hear a recorded message concerning any inclement weather closings. Students are urged to exercise their own judgment if road conditions in their localities are hazardous.

***"Some course content as presented in Blackboard Learn is not fully supported on mobile devices at this time. While mobile devices provide convenient access to check in and read information about your courses, they should not be used to perform work such as taking tests, quizzes, completing assignments, or submitting substantive discussion posts."***