

Print Date: 12/6/19
Spokane Community College
Course Learning Outcomes and Outline

Course Title: *Crime and Justice*

Prefix and Course Number: SOC 261

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Question understandings of crime and criminal justice based on personal experience, media portrayals, or “conventional wisdom.”
- Demonstrate an understanding of what criminology is and isn’t, and how crimes and deviance are defined.
- Become a more informed consumer of information about crime and criminal justice.
- Explain the historical context of modern criminology, and how psychology and biology have contributed to our understanding of criminal behavior.
- Use and illustrate the sociological theories of criminality.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the various types of criminal behavior.
- Show an awareness of the importance of white-collar and corporate crime, including behaviors that are damaging but not criminal due to the lack of international laws.
- Apply theories of criminality to policies that could help to reduce the incidence of behavior destructive to people and societies.
- Explain the operation of the criminal justice system, including issues related to equality, efficiency, and effectiveness, and suggest improvements.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction

How criminologists view their subject.

2. Research and Measurement

How criminologists research and measure crime and criminality.

3. Historical, Psychological, and Biological Theories

The history of criminological thought, psychological and biological perspectives.

4. Sociological Theories

Including differential association and opportunity, strain, control, labeling, conflict, radical, and environmental theories.

5. Types of Crime

Including violent, property, white-collar, corporate, organized, and consensual (“victimless”) crime.

6. The Criminal Justice System

The nature and effectiveness of punishment, the operation and effectiveness of our Criminal Justice System, and policies and programs that could reduce destructive behavior.