GAVILAN COLLEGE
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

Course Outline

COURSE: SOC 25 DIVISION: 10 ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2026 CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE 02/10/2026

SHORT TITLE: CRIME AND DEVIANCE

LONG TITLE: Sociology of Crime and Deviance

Units	Number of Weeks	Type	Contact Hours/Week	Total Contact Hours/Units
3	18	Lecture:	3	54 / 3 Units of Lecture
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs:	108.00
Total Learning Hrs:	162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociological analysis of crime and deviance, criminal and deviant behavior, and the criminal justice system. Explores the history and social construction of crime and criminality and examines the definition of crime and its violations as well as the laws and methods used to control criminal behavior. Discuss measurement of crime and basic theoretical explanations of criminal behavior. C-ID (SOCI 160).

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion
05 - Hybrid
71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Identify and explain various theoretical perspectives that have been used to explain deviant and criminal behavior.

2. Describe and critique the methodological techniques used to study crime.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of current practices within the criminal justice system and contemporary concerns with policing and mass incarceration.

4. Identify ways gender, race, and class relate to crime and justice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Define the major concepts in criminology

2. Define the concept of social norms and explain why they exist in all cultures as a way to maintain social control.

3. Compare and contrast the sociological theories used to explain crime and criminal behavior.

4. Describe examples that illustrate the major criminology theories.

5. Compare and contrast the principles, procedures, and methods used by sociologists in the collection of crime-related data.

6. Analyze criminal patterns and trends.

7. Analyze society's means and methods of addressing criminal behavior.

8. Analyze crime rates and variations of criminality as they exist historically and cross-culturally and propose explanations for these variations.

9. Examine the role of the police, courts, and corrections as a means to enforce, sanction, and punish criminal acts.

10. Analyze the legal and criminal justice system as a social institution.

11. Define and identify the types of crime and the people who commit them.

12. Differentiate between actual crime and perceptions of crime.

13. Analyze how race, gender, sexual orientation, age and class affect arrest, charging, and sentencing.

14. Assess various types of intervention and prevention programs developed to reduce criminal behavior.

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date 02/10/2026

Course Topics:

Introduction to Crime and Criminology (3 hours)

This unit will introduce important terminology regarding the sociological study of crime, provide a brief overview of the history of criminology (e.g. classical criminology, positivism, the Chicago School, and contemporary criminology), and explain what criminologists do in their field of study.

Studying Crime (3 hours)

This unit will explore methods of studying crime and the current and historical trends in criminal behavior. Important data sets will be covered and critiqued for their strengths and weaknesses and will include: the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), National Incidence Based Reporting System (NIBRS), The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and Monitoring the Future (MTF). Emphasis will be placed on distinctions between cross sectional and longitudinal data. Other methods covered will include observations, ethnography, and experiments. Trends in various types of crimes will be discussed.

Victimology (3 hours)

This unit will explore the subdiscipline of victimology. Material covered will include the effects of crime on victims (e.g. economic, stress, fear, antisocial behavior), characteristics of victims, social factors associated with higher risk of victimization, and theories of victimization (e.g. lifestyle theories, deviant place theories, and routine activities theory).

Theories of Crime

Rational Choice Theories (3 hours)

Unit will cover the rational choice theory of crime connecting back to the classical school of criminology. Focus will be on the rationality of crime, how rational choice theorists explain criminality, and how these theorists suggest we respond to crime (e.g. general and specific deterrence).

Trait Theories (2 hours)

This unit will explore the foundations of trait theories and emphasize the sociological components of these theories. Unit will cover arousal theory, evolutionary theory, the role of genetics in crime, and Psychology trait theories. As this is a sociological focused class, sociological critiques of these particular theories will be emphasized.

Social Structural Theories (4 hours)

This unit will explore the structural dynamics that produce criminality. Emphasis will be placed on the role of poverty, discrimination, and other structural elements that reduce opportunity. Specific theories covered will include social disorganization theory, social ecology, theory of differential opportunity, and the strain theories (e.g. Robert Merton's anomie and Agnew's general strain theory).

Social Process Theories (4 hours)

This unit will explore criminal behavior as part of a social process. Attention will be paid to how people are socialized into criminal behavior and that criminal behavior is learned. Specific theories will include: Sutherland's Differential Association theory, Sykes and Matza's Neutralization Theory, Bandura's Social Learning Theory, and Hirchi's Social Bond Theory.

Social Conflict Theories (3 hours)

This unit will explore critical criminology theories. Students will be introduced to Marxist theory and how it has been applied to criminology. The unit will also explore the Peacemaking Criminology, Convict Criminology, and Restorative Justice approaches situated in critical criminology.

Developmental Theories (3 hours)

This unit will explore developmental approaches to understanding criminality. The life course perspective will be examined (e.g. problem behaviors, age of onset, pathways to crime, and adolescent-limited and life course persisters). Unit will also explore Sampson and Laub's Age-Graded Theory and Gottfredson and Hirshi's General Theory of Crime.

Crime Typologies

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

Violent Crime (3 hours)

This unit will explore the causes of violence (e.g. psychological, evolutionary, and socialization, exposure, cultural, and substance use) and the various types of violence (e.g. rape, homicide, assault and battery, robbery, and Intimate partner violence). Focus will be placed on the legal definitions, trends, and correlates of each type.

Gangs (3 hours)

This unit will explore pathways into gangs, types of gangs, and policy responses to gangs.

Political Crime & Terrorism (3 hours)

This unit will cover types of political crimes (e.g. election fraud, treason, espionage), that nature and goals of political crime, and various forms of terrorism.

Enterprise Crimes (3 hours)

This unit will explore crimes of business enterprises, organized crime, and other economic crimes. Focus will be placed on white collar crime including the definitions, the extent and causes, and the consequence.

Public Order Crimes (3 hours)

This unit will focus on laws and behaviors criminalized for moral reasons. The unit will cover debates about morality and social harm of these offences. Specific crimes covered will include: sex offences, prostitution, pornography, and substance abuse.

Cyber Crime and Technology (3 hours)

This unite will cover the role of technology in the facilitation of crime. The unit will cover cyber theft (e.g. computer fraud, copyright infringement, identity theft), cyber vandalism, cyber terrorism and the societal effects of cybercrimes.

Criminal Justice System (3 hours)

This unit will provide an overview of the criminal justice system. The origins and structure of the American justice system will be explored as will specific models of justice (e.g. justice model, due process model, rehabilitation model, and restorative justice model). Unit will include a discussion of justice reform debates.

Punishment and Correction (3 hours)

This unit will explore the historical and contemporary models of punishment and correction. This will include a brief history of the prison model (including the Pennsylvania/ Walnut Street Model and the Auburn System), overview of current prisons and jails system, overview of probation practices, and various other forms of sanctions (e.g. fines, forfeiture, bail). The goals of the criminal punishment will also be covered.

Final Exam (2 hours)

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction may include the following: Lecture Discussion (class wide, small group, etc.) Activities Films, video clips, and other audio/visual media. In class and out of class written assignments and projects.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Outside Hours 30

Assignment Description

Written Assignments (e.g. response papers, reading reflections, and/or journals)

Required Outside Hours 50

Assignment Description

Assigned Readings

Required Outside Hours 28

Assignment Description

Group Project or Research Paper

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 30

Evaluation Description

Exams may include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 70

Evaluation Description

Writing assignments may include analysis of specific theories, current or historical issues within the criminal justice system, personal reflections on criminal and deviant behavior, and analysis of criminal justice policy.

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Criminology, 8th Edition., Larry J. Siegel, Cengage Learning, 2023 or a comparable textbook/material.

ISBN: 9780357624746

Rationale: This is one of the leading textbooks in the field of criminology. It covers a wide range of important topics.

12 Grade Verified by: Nicholas Park

Adler, Freda., Mueller, Gerhard O. and Laufer, William S. (2024) Criminology, 10th Edition. Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

GAV GE:

GAV D
GAV Area 4

CSU GE:

CSU D

IGETC:

IGETC 4

CALGETC:

CALGETC Area 4

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N
Classification: Y
Noncredit Category: Y
Cooperative Education: N
Program Status: 1 Program Applicable
Special Class Status: N
C-ID (SOCI 160).
Prior to College Level: Y
Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N
Funding Agency Code: Y
In-Service: N
Occupational Course: E
Course Control Number: CCC000617961
Sports/Physical Education Course: N
Taxonomy of Program: 220800
CIP: 451101