

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

FACULTY MEMBER:

TERM:

COURSE TITLE: Criminological Theory

COURSE NUMBER: MAJ 6600

OFFICE HOURS/ METHOD OF CONTACT:

Technical Requirements that may be required to utilize technology in this course:

A headset or microphone.

The latest version of [Java](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an overview of the nature and scope of crime and deviance through a comprehensive survey of criminological theories that presents a systematic and critical analysis of traditional and contemporary theory. Existing theories will be examined within the context of contemporary issues as students build upon classical theory in a variety of contexts and become familiar with the work of the theoreticians in the field. Major emphasis will be placed upon analyzing topics that demonstrate the relationship of theory to practice.

I. RATIONALE:

Theory is a fundamental aspect of human life in which people engage on a regular basis. It is an integral component of academic inquiry and the foundation of the academic discipline. The graduate study of criminal justice must therefore begin with a survey of the leading theorists in the field and a review of both the classic and modern approaches to the analysis of crime and the causes of crime.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Students will recognize the relationships between the theoretical and practical approaches to the study of criminal justice that are associated with the explanations of crime and criminal behavior.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- A-1. Examine and discuss how theory is used in everyday life to make our lives safer, simpler and less uncertain.
- A-2. Analyze and discuss how criminal justice practitioners apply theory to operational issues on a regular basis.
- A-3. Discuss how an understanding of theoretical paradigms leads to the new ideas in criminal justice agencies.
- A-4. List the ways in which inductive and deductive reasoning is used in investigative work.
- A-5. Assess how the relationship of theoretical explanation of crime can make a fit

with observed criminal behavior.

GOAL B: Students will exercise critical thinking strategies including reasoning, problem solving, analysis and evaluation, and then apply them to criminal justice issues.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- B-1. Review major criminal case studies and apply theories of crime as an explanation of the criminal activities.
- B-2. Evaluate the application of selected theories to specific types of crimes.
- B-3. Critically review and evaluate criminal justice crime issues from the perspective of selected criminological theories.
- B-4. Recognize how certain criminological theories attempt to address crime issues.

GOAL C: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the variety of criminological theories that are available to explain crime and criminal behavior in a manner that responds to active involvement as a scholarly practitioner.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- C-1. Analyze and discuss the classical theories of crime.
- C-2. Analyze and discuss the positivist theories of crime.
- C-3. Analyze and discuss the sociological theories of crime.
- C-4. Analyze and discuss the contemporary theories of crime.
- C-5. Identify and critique the theorists who proposed the various theories of crime.
- C-6. Compare and contrast the differences among the theoretical explanations.
- C-7. Incorporate the various theorists and theoretical principles in their discussions

- E-1 Utilize professional writing skills to analyze and cite appropriate sources (e.g. APA format) to express and convey empirical research.
- E-2 Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.
- E-3 Organize and develop a team project.

METHODOLOGY: This course will be consist of readings, discussion, written assignments, and external application of course content to real world crime problems.

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