



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Criminology: History and Theory
Course Code	SOCI 2714
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	10 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A
Antirequisite	SOCI 2712 Criminology: History and Theory (5 Weeks)

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the historical evolution of ideas surrounding crime, punishment, and justice from the pre-modern period through the early 20th century. It traces key intellectual and social transformations that influenced the development of criminology as a discipline. By examining shifts in societal views on deviance, criminal behavior, and legal responses, students will gain insight into the historical foundations of contemporary criminological theories and practices.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will engage in analytical thinking, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge to complex problems, and construct well-reasoned solutions and arguments.
- **Independent Research and Inquiry** – Students will conduct independent research, utilizing academic resources to explore relevant topics, formulating research questions, analyzing data, and presenting findings in a coherent, scholarly manner.
- **Problem-Solving and Application** – Students will apply theoretical concepts and methodologies learned in the course to real-world problems, demonstrating the ability to develop practical solutions informed by academic inquiry.
- **Global and Cultural Awareness** – Students will gain awareness of the global and cultural contexts relevant to the course, appreciating diverse perspectives and considering the implications of their studies in a broader, international context.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- analyze the major schools of thought that shaped the study of crime and punishment;
- understand the impact of social, political, and economic contexts on evolving conceptions of criminal behavior;
- identify key figures, movements, and texts that contributed to criminological theory;
- evaluate the historical development of criminal laws, policing, and punitive systems;
- discuss the legacy of historical criminological ideas in modern criminal justice systems.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:

Tibbets, S.G. (2019). *Criminological Theory: The Essentials, 3rd Edition*. SAGE Publications.

Additional readings and resources will be provided throughout the course.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation – 10%

Active participation is essential to fostering a dynamic and engaging learning environment. This portion of your grade will be based on your contributions to class discussions, engagement with course materials, and participation in group activities or debates. Attendance also plays a role—regular presence in class is crucial, as frequent absences may reduce your participation grade.

Reading Quizzes – 15%

Unannounced quizzes will be administered to encourage careful preparation and consistent engagement with assigned readings. These short quizzes may include multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions designed to test your understanding of key concepts, historical contexts, and theoretical developments discussed in the readings. Quizzes will be taken at the beginning of class and will collectively help reinforce your grasp of the material throughout the semester.

Midterm Exam – 20%

The midterm exam will cover all material from lectures, readings, and class discussions up to the first half of the semester. This assessment may include a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay-style questions. You will be expected to demonstrate not only your recall of key facts and concepts but also your ability to critically analyze and synthesize the material, placing criminological theories within their broader historical and intellectual contexts.

Research Paper – 25%

The research paper is a major component of the course and provides you with the opportunity to delve deeply into a historical criminological theory, figure, or topic of your choice (with approval from the instructor). The paper should be 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced, and follow a recognized citation style (e.g., APA, MLA). The research paper will be completed in stages, with the following key milestones:

- **Proposal (5%):** A brief outline of your chosen topic, research question, and preliminary bibliography.

- **Annotated Bibliography (5%):** A list of at least five academic sources, with annotations summarizing their relevance to your research.
- **Final Draft (15%):** The completed paper should present a clear thesis, well-structured arguments, and critical engagement with scholarly sources.
- Detailed guidelines and a grading rubric will be provided to ensure that you understand expectations regarding structure, argumentation, and academic integrity.

Final Exam – 30%

The final exam will be cumulative, covering material from the entire course. Like the midterm, it will include a mix of question types (e.g., multiple-choice, short answer, essay) and will test your ability to integrate and critically engage with key themes, theories, and historical developments in criminology.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Class Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

SOCI 2714 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction: What is Criminology?	Syllabus review, course expectations
L2	Pre-modern Conceptions of Crime	Ch.1
	Witchcraft, demonology, and religious interpretations	Ch.2
L3	Crime and Punishment in the Middle Ages	Ch.2

L4	Feudal justice systems and customary laws Transition to Secular Law	Ch.2
L5	Early legal codes, social control The Enlightenment and Classical Criminology The rise of reason and individual rights	Beccaria, <i>On Crimes and Punishments</i> Ch.2
L6	Bentham and Utilitarianism Deterrence theory, rational choice	Ch.3
L7	The Birth of the Prison System From corporal punishment to incarceration	Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (excerpt) Ch.3
L8	Debates on Penal Reform The emergence of the prison as a disciplinary institution	Ch.3
L9	Early Challenges to Classical Criminology The limitations of rational choice theories	Ch.3
L10	Marxist Perspectives on Crime	Marx & Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (excerpt) Ch.3
L11	Class Conflict and Criminal Law Conflict theories and power dynamics Law and social inequality	Ch.3 <u>Research Paper Proposal Due</u>
/	Midterm Exam	/
L12	The Rise of Positivism Scientific approaches to understanding criminal behavior Shift from moral to biological explanations	Ch.4
L13	Cesare Lombroso and the Italian Positivist School Biological determinism and the concept of the "born criminal"	<i>Criminal Man</i> , atavism theory Ch.4
L14	Biological Positivism: Phrenology, Eugenics, Early Criminological Science Intellectual theories and criminal behavior: early IQ testing, criminal anthropology	Ch.5
L15	Psychological Explanations of Crime Mental illness, personality, and deviance	Ch.5
L16	Psychological Theories: Freud and Beyond	Ch.5
L17	Sociological Positivism Social factors influencing crime Social Darwinism and crime	Ch.6 <u>Research Paper Bibliography Submission</u>
L18	Early Feminist Critiques Women, crime, and early sociological views	Ch.10
L19	Early Social Structure and Strain Theories of Crime Social Structure and Anomie	Merton, Robert K. <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i> . Ch.6
L20	The Chicago School and Social Ecology Urban crime, social disorganization	Ch.7
L21	Policing and Law Enforcement in Historical Perspective Case studies in historical criminology (famous trials and their theoretical implications)	Ch.11
L22	Punishment and Social Control in the 19th Century Shifts in punitive systems	Ch.12

L23	Criminology of the 20th Century: New criminological approaches	Ch.12
L24	Criminal justice, punishment, and social control The Impact of Early Criminological Ideas on Contemporary Practices Legacy and influence	Ch.12
L25	The Evolution of Criminal Law in Historical Context Legal reforms and developments	Ch.11
		<u>Research Paper Final</u>
		<u>Draft Submission</u>
/ Final Exam		/

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you

believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs, and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.