

# Dakota County Technical College

## SOCY 1400: Introduction to Criminal Justice

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course will provide an overview of the philosophy of criminal law and deviance, and of the nature and extent of crime in America. The theory, structure, and operation of each of the principle components of the Criminal Justice System (ie. police, courts, and corrections) will be examined in detail. Major topics include the historical foundations of our Criminal Justice System, critique of current sociological theories on crime, analysis of impact of legal and social systems on human behavior, rehabilitation, public safety (including homeland security), and citizen responsibility. We will create a learning environment that takes into account all backgrounds and experiences where we can learn from one another.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 02/16/2011 - Present

**C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. define crime and identify different types of crime
2. identify 3 levels of law enforcement
3. define sociological perspectives on crime
4. measure extent and distribution crime in the U.S.
5. identify and exam the correction process applying both historical perspective and current trends
6. identify crime theory
7. discuss media's relationship to crime in the U.S.
8. evaluate and discuss programs for treatment, prevention and control of crime in the U.S.
9. define historical perspective of crime
10. contrast the crime control and due process models
11. identify gender differences as related to crime
12. identify and compare crime in the U.S. to crime on a global level
13. define crime cross-culturally and demographically using historical and theoretical perspectives
14. identify and research two major programs designed to reduce crime in the U.S. - apply them at a local level-understand the political, ethical, economical issues involved-identify if there are interests served
15. contrast positivism with classical criminology
16. define social process theory
17. examine police work
18. identify addiction models and their relationship to crime
19. define FBI crime reports and describe how data is gathered
20. identify social stratification and its relationship to crime
21. distinguish between the National Crime victimization survey and self-reported surveys in terms of how crime is measured
22. explain the factors that influence crime rates
23. understand, apply, and critique a current theory on crime
24. examine role of citizen in building safer communities and working toward preventing crime based on contemporary theory
25. examine the principals and functions of American criminal law
26. examine law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security
27. discuss the challenges of effective plicity
28. describe the use of DNA and forensics in law enforcement and prosecution
29. understand the importance of the Constitution and policing
30. examine historical court cases that influence the power and authority of police
31. define and contrast the functions of the court (including role of the prosecution vs. the defense)
32. understand the Criminal Trial Process
33. examine current trends in punishment and sentencing
34. examine probation, parole, and community corrections
35. examine the role of prisons
36. define the juvenile justice system and the nature/extent of juvenile delinquency in America
37. understand the role of cyber crime in society

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted