



RCJU300 –
Criminology
Master Course Syllabus

Course Overview (QM Standards 1.2)

Course description: This course provides a sociological perspective on the causes of crime and societal responses to crime. We will compare the images of crime and criminals that emerge from the media, from official crime statistics, and from the writings of people engaged in criminal behavior. Specific crimes examined include mass murder, auto theft, family violence, substance abuse, and terrorism. Sociological theory and research will be applied to help students understand and explain why crime exists, and to suggest effective policies for crime reduction. We will critically analyze the functioning of the U.S. criminal justice system in light of the implications of sociological theory and research.

The eight-week course is being offered entirely online. Each week you will complete a module. Each module will consist of a series of readings, one or more self checks, and chapter quizzes. In addition, for some weeks you will be viewing some videos, completing a weekly assignment and participating in discussions.

Course Goals:

1. Analyze theories, norms, and problems associated with Criminology.
2. Analyze and describe rights and views of victims.
3. Identify and explain issues involving research in the field of Criminology.
4. Identify and explain inequalities associated with Criminology.
5. Identify and describe various types of crimes, i.e. political, white collar, etc.

Pre-Requisites (QM Standard 1.6)

There are no course prerequisites for this course other than being an RBA (Regents Bachelor of Arts) student.

Minimum Technical Requirements and Online Resources (QM Standards 1.5 & 1.7)

In addition to a web browser (preferable Firefox) that is Blackboard compatible, you will need the other WVROCKS supported technologies outlined in the student policies section.

Online Resources: This course makes use of many online resources. I have made every effort to make sure the links I have are up-to-date. However, due to the changing nature of the web, you may find that a resource is temporarily unavailable or has been removed. If this should happen, please send me an email and I will find an alternative resource or modify the assignment accordingly.

Instructor Information (QM Standards 1.8 & 5.3)

Individual instructors complete this information.

Virtual Office Hours

I am available in my virtual office by appointment only. Send me an email to set up an appointment.

Personal Commitment

My personal commitments to you as a participant include:

- I will reply to course mail messages within 24 hours;
- I will read all discussion postings and will reply where appropriate within 3 days
- I will acknowledge my receipt of every course mail message immediately upon reading it. If I am unable to respond to the request or concern at the time of initial reply, I will give you an estimated time for my next reply.
- If I am going to be away from the course space for more than a day or two, I will send a message to you indicating the length of my absence.
- I will regularly update information regarding due dates in the course announcements.

Optional/Required Course Materials (QM Standard 4.6)

You will find your required textbook information in the course catalog at <http://ilearn-wvrocks.wvnet.edu>. All other materials are found in the individual course modules.

Grading Policy (QM Standard 3.2)

Evaluation and Grading

Each module consists of a series of assignments, discussions and checks for understanding, each having specific point values designated in the table below. For each assignment you will be given the rubric or grading criteria from which you will be evaluated.

The grading scale is as follows:

- A = 446-495 pts.
- B = 396-445 pts.
- C = 347-395 pts.
- D = 297-346 pts.
- F = < 296 pts.

List of Course Assignments with Point Values

Assignment/Assessment	Point Value
M0A1: Orientation Quiz	10
M0A2: Orientation Assignment	5
M1A1: Introductory Discussion with Career Spotlight	25
M1A2: Media Portrayal of Crime and Victims Discussion	25
M1A3: Module 1 Assignment	20
M1A4: Chapter 1 Quiz	10
M2A1: Strengths and Weaknesses of the UCR Discussion	25
M2A2: Module 2 Assignment	20
M2A3: Chapter 2 Quiz	10
M2A4: Chapter 3 Quiz	10
M3A1: Classical And Positivist Views And Theorists Discussion	25
M3A2: Module 3 Assignment	20
M3A3: Chapter 4 Quiz	10
M3A4: Chapter 5 Quiz	10
M4A1: Module 4 Assignment	20
M4A2: Chapter 6 Quiz	10
M4A3: Chapter 7 Quiz	10
M5A1: Conflict, Radical and Feminists Theories Discussion	25
M5A2: Chapter 8 Quiz	10
M5A3: Chapter 9 Quiz	10
M6A1: Neutralizations of Shoplifters, Aging of Criminals, and Criminal Desistance Factors Discussion	25
M6A2: Module 6 Assignment	20
M6A3: Chapter 10 Quiz	10
M6A4: Chapter 11 Quiz	10
M7A1: Fooling Society: Batters and White Collar Criminals Discussion	25
M7A2: Module 7 Assignment	20
M7A3: Chapter 12 Quiz	10
M8A4: Chapter 13 Quiz	10
M8A1: Criminology Wrap-up Discussion	25
M8A2: Module 8 Assignment	20
M8A3: Chapter 14 Quiz	10
Total Points	495

Module Objectives and Assessments (QM Standard 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1)

Module 1: What is Criminology?

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Explain how the mass media distorts images of crime. [**M1A2: Media Portrayal of Crime and Victims Discussion**]
- Explain how the mass media contributes to the culture of fear about crime [**M1A2: Media Portrayal of Crime and Victims Discussion**]
- Identify ways to remedy the effects of the media's reporting of crimes [**M1A2: Media Portrayal of Crime and Victims Discussion**]
- Define key concepts: crime, criminal law, criminalization [**M1A4: Chapter 1 Quiz, M1A3: Module 1 Assignment**]
- Recognize various sociological definitions of crime [**Chapter 1 Check for Understanding (ungraded)**]
- Describe a contemporary occupation in the field of criminology. [**M1A1: Introductory Discussion with Career Spotlight**]
- Compare quantitative and qualitative research [**M1A4: Chapter 1 Quiz**]
- Identify and describe the various qualitative research methodologies that are known as fieldwork. [**M1A3: Module 1 Assignment**]
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of using incarcerated individuals as subjects in criminological research. [**M1A3: Module 1 Assignment**]
- Identify and explain the ethical and safety issues involved in doing fieldwork with active criminals. [**M1A3: Module 1 Assignment**]

Module 2: Measuring Crime Data

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Compare crime rates and explain why rates are used rather than raw numbers. [**M2A2: Crime Rate Assignment**]
- Describe the strengths and limitations of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) [**M2A1: Strengths and Weaknesses of the UCR Discussion**]
- Identify the major patterns of crime by class, race, gender and age. [**M2A2: Crime Rate Assignment, M2A3: Chapter 2 Quiz**]
- Identify cultural terminology and patterns of crime. [**M2A4: Chpater 3 Quiz**]

Module 3: Criminological Theories I

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify the socio-historical and philosophical origins of criminology. [**M3A3: Chapter 4 Quiz, M3A4: Chapter 5 Quiz**]
- Compare and contrast the Classical and the Positivist schools of criminology, including key theorists from each school. [**M3A1: Classical And Positivist Views And Theorists Discussion**]
- Explain the ideas of Cesare Lombroso and the major criticisms of these. [**M3A2: Module 3 Assignment**]
- Explain the penal dilemma. [**M3A2: Module 3 Assignment**]
- Explain Gabriel Tarde's theories of crime. [**M3A2: Module 3 Assignment**]
- Explain Emile Durkheim's theories of crime. [**M3A2: Module 3 Assignment**]
- Explain Merton's Anomie-Strain Theory. [**M3A2: Module 3 Assignment**]

Module 4: Criminological Theories II

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify the themes and prejudices that characterized our understanding of crime in the U.S. prior to 1915. [**M4A2: Chapter 6 Quiz, M4A3: Chapter 7 Quiz**]
- Identify the social and intellectual factors associated with the emergence of criminology in the U.S. [**M4A2: Chapter 6 Quiz, M4A3: Chapter 7 Quiz**]
- Describe the research methods and concepts of the Chicago School of social ecology, especially the findings of Shaw and McKay. [**M4A1: Module 4 Assignment**]
- Identify the contributions of Edwin Sutherland to the field of criminology. [**M4A3: Chapter 7 Quiz**]
- Describe how, beginning in the 1950s, criminologists have attempted to explain lower-class, male, delinquent subcultures.
- Describe the theory of David Matza and explain how it differs from theories of delinquent subculture. [**M4A1: Module 4 Assignment**]
- Describe the control theory explanation for delinquency. [**M4A1: Module 4 Assignment**]
- Identify and explain key concepts from the following theories: Control, Social, and Labeling [**M4A1: Module 4 Assignment**]

Module 5: Criminological Theories III

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify the key concepts of Karl Marx's theories of crime. [**M5A2: Chapter 8 Quiz**]
- Identify and explain key concepts from the following theories of crime: conflict theory, radical theory, feminist theory [**M5A1: Conflict, Radical and Feminists Theories Discussion, M5A2: Chapter 8 Quiz, M5A3: Chapter 9 Quiz**]

Module 6: Inequalities and Crime

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify the different types of property crime. [**M6A4: Chapter 11 Quiz**]
- Identify differences between amateur and professional property criminals. [**M6A4: Chapter 11 Quiz**]
- Identify and discuss the four major forms of inequality that influence crime. [**M6A2: Module 6 Assignment, M6A3: Chapter 10 Quiz**]
- Discuss age-related factors related to a criminal lifestyle [**M6A1: Neutralizations of Shoplifters, Aging of Criminals, and Criminal Desistance factors**]
- Describe how the neutralizations of shoplifters can be used to rationalize other crimes. [**M6A1: Neutralizations of Shoplifters, Aging of Criminals, and Criminal Desistance factors**]

Module 7: Interpersonal Violence and White Collar Crime

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Define violent crime. [**M7A2: Module 7 Assignment**]
- Identify the different types of violent crime. [**M7A3: Chapter 12 Quiz**]
- Define white-collar crime [**M7A2: Module 7 Assignment**]
- Identify the different types of white-collar crime and their social costs [**M7A4: Chapter 13 Quiz**]
- Describe how white-collar crime differs from other kinds of crime [**M7A2: Module 7 Assignment**]
- Analyze the justifications domestic batterers and white collar criminals give for committing crime. [**M7A1: Fooling Society: Batters and White Collar Criminals Discussion**]

Module 8: Political Crime

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Define political crime [**M8A2: Module 8 Assignment**]
- Identify the different types of political crime [**M8A3: Chapter 14 Quiz**]
- Describe the extent, nature, and costs of political crime. [**M8A2: Module 8 Assignment**]
- Identify and discuss a challenge facing criminologist today. [**M8A1: Criminology Wrap-up Discussion**]