Criminology (SOCI 2336 2A1)

CREDIT
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
ON LINE

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:
None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course surveys various theories of crime, with emphasis on understanding the social causes of criminal behavior. The techniques for measuring crime as a social phenomenon and the characteristics of criminals are examined. This course addresses crime types (such as consensual or white-collar crimes), the criminal justice system, and other responses to crime.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Define key concepts associated with criminology.
2. Identify major criminological theories.
3. Describe the major categories of crime.
4. Explain the various methodological approaches used to research crime and criminal behavior.
5. Describe the components and explain the dynamics of the criminal justice system.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dennis White
Email:	dwhite@lit.edu
Office Phone:	409-247-5277
Office Location:	Technology Center Building Room 214
Office Hours:	By Appointment

MONDAY: 12:00 pm - 5:30 pm
TUESDAY: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 12:00 pm (noon) – 1:00 pm
WEDNESDAY: 9:30 am – 11:00 am
THURSDAY: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 12:00 pm (noon) – 1:00 pm
FRIDAY: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Approved: dw/January 2026

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. Criminology by Frank Schmalleger, 5th edition (Pearson Publishing)
   a. ISBN number is 13: 978-0-13-518625-1 or 10: 0-13-518625-0
2. Class or on-line materials for taking notes.
3. Access to the Internet, media/video files via YouTube, etc.
4. The ability to open and utilize Blackboard to complete course assignments and take all Course exams.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a face-to face attendance class. CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified date as listed in the College Calendar on the Student Success web page. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR
Note: All Readings are from the course required text and designated pages, as well as course-included PowerPoints which are available on Blackboard.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	What is Criminology	Chapter 1: Pages 1-19	February 13, 2026
Week 2	Classical and Neoclassical Criminology	Chapter 2: Pages 20-40	February 13, 2026
Week 3	Early Biological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior	Chapter 3: Pages 41-54	February 13, 2026
Week 4	Biosocial and Other Contemporary Perspectives	Chapter 4: Pages 55-76	February 13, 2026
Week 5	Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations on Criminal Behavior	Chapter 5: Pages 77-100	March 20, 2026
Week 6	Social Structure	Chapter 6: Pages 101-123	March 20, 2026
Week 7	Social Process and Social Development	Chapter 7: Pages 124-150	March 20, 2026

Week 8	Social Conflict and Emergent Theories	Chapter 8: Pages 151-173	March 20, 2026
Week 9	Criminal Victimization	Chapter 9: Pages 174-199	April 17, 2026
Week 10	Crimes Against Persons	Chapter 10: Pages 200-226	April 17, 2026
Week 11	Crimes Against Property	Chapter 11: Pages 227-244	April 17, 2026
Week 12	White-collar and Organized Crime	Chapter 12: Pages 245-266	April 17, 2026
Week 13	Drug and Sex Crime	Chapter 13: Pages 267-284	May 5, 2026
Week 14	Technology and Crime	Chapter 14: Pages 285-299	May 5, 2026
Week 15	Globalization and Terrorism	Chapter 15: Pages 300-313	May 5, 2026
Week 16	Globalization and Terrorism	Chapter 15: Pages 300-313	May 5, 2026

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Three Unit Tests   20%
2. Class Assignments 25%
3. Course Project   25%
4. Final Exam   20%
5. Participation   5%
6. Attendance   5%

GRADE SCALE
- 90-100   A
- 80-89   B
- 70-79   C
- 60-69   D
- 0-59   F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the LIT Online Experience page. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

- LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. DUE DATES ARE NOT EXTENDED. If a Student fails to complete the course work on the designated time/date(s) a GRADE of ZERO (0) will be recorded on line Blackboard. NO MAKE UP WORK ACCEPTED.
- Students should log into Blackboard a minimum of three (3) times a week to view ANNOUNCEMENTS, and work on and complete required Assignments, Projects, Research work and reviews for Exams during the designated time and date periods. Consult the Spring 2026 Course Dates/Deadlines Post on the Content Section of this course.
- Students will learn the various aspects of theory and practice related to criminology
- Critical Thinking Analysis – Analyzation of current and or past criminal cases using the Scientific Theory of understanding crime, crime causation, biosocial perspectives, criminal behavior, social disorganization, differential association of crime, victimization, crimes against persons and property, and technology and crime.
- Research and Practical Application Project – Students will research a past felony crime issue / topic of their choice and write a summary of the crime and criminal to include the how, when, where and why.
- Exams – There will be three exams and a Final Exam. Each exam will cover 3-4 chapters of the text. Each Exam will cover specific Learning Objectives that the Criminologist would complete in their studies on crime, criminals and crime causation.
- All Assignments must be submitted on line blackboard during the designated time period(s).
- PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – Participation is assessed through exercises,
- Assignments and projects completed on line. Activities consist of course assignments, individual analysis of information from various sources such as scientific journal articles, crime scene documentaries, and crime scene investigation projects. Sources of learning include the Frank Schmalleger (5th edition) Text Book, Course power points, course assignments and case studies such as "The Case – Jodi Arias – The Petite Killer" pages 37-38) However, failure to log in blackboard and not complete Assignments (4 or more) will result in a 50% reduction in the Participation/Attendance grade (on line) column
- NOTE: This is an On Line Class. All work must be completed on line Blackboard during the designated time and date periods. SEE FIRST POINT ABOVE
- Students should utilize the "Message" Box Section in the course to convey information to the instructor.
- The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.