

**SOCI 2336 2A1**  
**Sociology (Criminology)**



**LAMAR INSTITUTE**  
**OF TECHNOLOGY**

**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: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

TUESDAY: 9:00 am – 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

THURSDAY: 9:00 am – 9:30 am

FRIDAY: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

**CREDIT**

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

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

**Online**

**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.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

1. *Criminology* by Frank Schmalleger, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Pearson Publishing)
  - a. ISBN number is 13: 978 0 13 454864 7
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**

Students must sign in a minimum of three times per week online Blackboard. Participation is assessed through submission of assignments and weekly log-in activity. 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 drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

## **STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS (Due on this Date)</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)</b>
Week 1	What is Criminology?	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 1 September 14, 2023	September 14, 2023
Week 2	Classical and Neoclassical Criminology	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 2 September 14, 2023	September 14, 2023
Week 3	Early Biological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 3 September 14, 2023	September 14, 2023
Week 4	Biosocial and Other Contemporary Perspectives	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 4 September 14, 2023	September 14, 2023
Week 5	Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 5 October 12, 2023	October 12, 2023
Week 6	Social Structure	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 6 October 12, 2023	October 12, 2023
Week 7	Social Process and Social Development	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 7 October 12, 2023	October 12, 2023
Week 8	Social Conflict	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 8 October 12, 2023	October 12, 2023
Week 9	Criminal Victimization	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 9 November 14, 2023	November 14, 2023
Week 10	Crimes against Persons	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 10 November 14, 2023	November 14, 2023
Week 11	Crimes against Property	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 11 November 14, 2023	November 14, 2023
Week 12	White-Collar and Organized Crime	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 12 November 14, 2023	November 14, 2023
Week 13	Drug and Sex Crimes	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 13 November 30, 2023	November 30, 2023
Week 14	Technology and Crime	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 14 November 30, 2023	November 30, 2023
Week 15	Globalization and Terrorism	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 15 November 30, 2023	November 30, 2023
Week 16	Course Review and Final Exam Review		November 30, 2023
Week 16	Final Exam		December 5, 2023

## **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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. 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](mailto: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](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **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**

1. As all class information is provided online. Students will need access to internet and to a computer.
2. Students should log in to BLACKBOARD a minimum of three times a week to view announcements, to view exam dates for availability and due dates for exam completion, check e-mail, etc.
3. Exams – Exams will cover various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of criminology. All Exams will be taken online through Blackboard.
4. Course Project – Students will conduct research on a specified topic relative to criminology. The research paper will be submitted online through Blackboard.
5. Class Assignments – Students will utilize their critical thinking skills to discuss issues currently trending in the field of Criminology. All Class Assignments will be submitted on Blackboard.
6. Participation/Attendance – Participation is assessed through completing required assignments, projects, and research documents through work assigned on Blackboard. Activities may consist of class assignments and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, failure to submit six assignments, due to unexcused absences, will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade.
7. The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.