

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
SOC 2400 Criminology (1)

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: --

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 2:00-3:15

Days: Tuesday/Thursday

Room: UU 421

Instructor: Chad Hanson, Ph.D.

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Office:
LS 175 B

Phone:
(307) 268-2219

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00; T 11:30-12:30; TH 1:00-2:00; TH 3:00-4:00

Course Description: A general introduction to the nature of crime, statistics on crime, types of deviant behavior, and explanations for crimes.

Statement of Prerequisites: SOC 1000 or permission from the instructor

General Goal: In general, I hope that at the end of the semester we have a basic understanding of how sociologists view the subject of crime, how they study it, and we should also have a sense of how sociology can be used in careers such as law enforcement or other public services.

Casper College General Education Outcomes:

This course's objectives link to outcomes # 3 and 4.

- _____ 1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
- _____ 2. Use the scientific method
- X 3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
- X 4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
- _____ 5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
- _____ 6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
- _____ 7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
- _____ 8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Specific Outcomes:

1. Identify trends or patterns in relevant research on crime/criminology.
2. Describe and evaluate the psychological perspective on crime.
3. Describe and evaluate the social structural perspective on crime.
4. Describe and evaluate the critical perspective on crime.
5. Describe and evaluate social process theories of crime.
6. Analyze contemporary research on violent crime.
7. Analyze contemporary research on property crime.
8. Explore possibilities for crime prevention policies/practices.

Teaching/Learning Methods: This course is a mixture--a lecture-based class in which participation and discussion are not only encouraged but expected. I look forward to challenging questions and lively, thoughtful debates. That means it is important to do the assigned reading before class each week. Otherwise, it will be difficult to take clear notes and even harder to engage in discussions. I cover general topics during lecture, and the text provides some of the finer points of information. Therefore, in this class, attendance is important and the assigned reading is essential.

Evaluation Criteria:

Writings.....	40 pts
Tests	150 pts
Participation	20 pts
Town Hall Meetings.	30 pts
TOTAL.....	240 pts

A	=	90-100%	=	216 - 240 pts
B	=	80-89%	=	192 - 215 pts
C	=	70-79%	=	168 - 191 pts
D	=	60-69%	=	144 - 167 pts
F	=	< 60%	=	< 144 pts

Writings: There are four short writing assignments. These range in length from one paragraph to one page. Two of them will be completed in class and three you will complete at home and return the following week. I will specify due dates one week in advance, late papers will not be accepted.

Tests: There will be three tests this semester, each worth 50 points. The questions will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. The final will not be comprehensive. Instead, test 3 will cover the material we study between test 2 and the end of the semester.

Town Hall Meetings: During the course, you will be assigned to work with a group of 4-5 students. Each group will be responsible for leading a discussion in the format of a Town Hall Meeting. I will give you a full set of instructions for this assignment in class. These are informal presentations and they should have the feel or character of a Town Hall Meeting as opposed to a “speech.”

Participation: During the Town Hall Meetings, whether or not you are scheduled to lead the discussion, you will be expected to participate. Your participation in the discussions are worth 2 points per meeting for a total of ten. In addition, there are also several in-class activities, your participation in those activities will also be worth ten points by the end of the semester for a total of twenty five. Side note: the only way to earn the points is to participate, therefore attendance is critically important.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:

Barkan, Steven. 2015. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*. 6/e
Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Publishers.

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: 11/12/15

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Chair/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

SOC 2400: Criminology
Tuesday / Thursday 2:00 – 3:15

Week	Topic	Reading Assignments
8/25 – 8/27	Criminology and the Sociological Perspective	Barkan, Chapter 1
9/1 – 9/3	Criminology and the Sociological Perspective	Barkan, Chapter 1
9/8 – 9/10	The Perspective contd. & Library	
9/15 – 9/17	Public Opinion, the Media and Crime	Barkan, Chapter 2
9/22 – 9/24	Measurement and Patterns in Criminal Behavior	Barkan, Chapter 3
9/29 – <u>10/1</u> Test	Review & Exam #1	
10/6 – 10/8 No Class	Explaining Crime: The Individual	Barkan, Chapter 5/6
10/13 – 10/15	The Individual contd... & <i>Town Hall</i>	
10/20 – 10/22 No Class	Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure	Barkan, Chapter 7
10/27 – 10/29	Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process & <i>Town Hall</i>	Barkan, Chapter 8
11/3 – 11/5	Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives & <i>Town Hall</i>	Barkan, Chapter 9
11/10 – <u>11/12</u> Test	Review and Exam #2	
11/17 – 11/19	Violent Crime & <i>Town Hall</i>	Barkan, Chapter 10
11/24 – 11/26 No Class	Property Crime & Turkey	Barkan, Chapter 12
12/1 – 12/3	Crime Reduction & <i>Town Hall</i>	Barkan, Chapter 18
12/8 – 12/10	<i>Town Hall</i> & Review	
Final Exam	Exam #3 —See Casper College Final Exam Schedule	