SPECIAL NOTE:

This brief syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. A full syllabus will be distributed to students at the first class session.

TEXT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS USED IN THE COURSE (if any):

Please check with the LCC bookstore for the required texts for this class.

COURSE NUMBER: SOCI 211

COURSE TITLE: Criminology

SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 3 Credit Hours

DEPARTMENT: Sociology

DIVISION: General Education

PREREQUISITES: Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course to the study and examination of the field of criminology, including its theories, basic assumptions, and definitions. Criminology is the science and study of criminal behavior and is primarily concerned with understanding the causes of crime. In this course we will examine crime and deviant behavior from the sociological perspective. We will examine some of the most influential explanations for criminal behavior such as culture, law, power and equity that also contributes to the maintenance of social order. We will consider how different explanations have emerged at different times and understand how the social context contributes to explanations of crime.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify the general elements and basic concepts associated with criminological theory.
- Identify the criteria that characterize a good theory.
- Determine whether a theory would be considered a consensus or conflict perspective of crime.
- Describe and explain the ecological school and the Chicago school of criminology.
- Compare and contrast the cultural and subculture perspectives of criminal behavior.

2. Examine the historical evolution of criminological theory.

- Examine the pre-classical perspectives of crime and punishment.
- Know and describe the historical context in which the classical school of criminology developed.

3. **Recognize and examine the major source of data on crime trends and patterns.**
   - Identify key features of the National Incident-Based Reporting System.
   - Describe Hate Crime Statistics.
   - Identify key features and the major limitations of the Uniform Crime Reports.
   - Distinguish key features and some of the major limitations associated with National Crime Victimization Survey.
   - Distinguish the major differences between the Uniform Crime Reports and the. National Crime Victimization Survey.
   - Identify different types of self-report surveys.

4. **Demonstrate critical thinking skills in examining the concepts, and criticisms of pre-modern, current positivistic (modern) sociological, biological, and psychological perspectives of the study of criminology.**
   - Examine studies that specifically describe the interactive influence of biology and the environment.
   - Describe the integrative process of both physiology and the social environment in relation to socialization and its consequence on individual behavior.
   - Explain and assess the policy implications associated with the early positivistic school of criminology.

5. **Critically examine criminal activities such as; cybercrime, white-collar crimes, hate crimes, terrorism and homeland security in the context of the causes and consequences of major social change (e.g. globalization, environment, technology, population shifts, and social movements.**
   - Analyze the dimensions of collective criminal activities such as cybercrimes, hate crimes, and terrorism in local, national, and global contexts.
   - Examine and assess the macro impact of criminal behavior that exists in society today using the functionalist, conflict, symbolic interactionist, and post-modernism perspective.
   - Examine the relationship between criminological theory and policy.
   - Examine the study of victimology as a new area of criminology.