

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**ECONOMICS OF CRIME  
ECON 305**

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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
BUSINESS  
SPRING 2019**

- A. **TITLE: ECONOMICS OF CRIME**
- B. **COURSE NUMBER: ECON 305**
- C. **CREDIT HOURS: 3**
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: NO**
- E. **GER CATEGORY: NONE**
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: SPRING**
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the behavior of criminals and uses economic concepts to analyze crimes of violence, crimes against property, and the markets for illegal goods and services. Topics to be covered include costs of crime to society and its various stakeholders, prostitution and drug crimes, issue of decriminalization and legalization, allocation of resources to and within the criminal justice system, crime prevention strategies, and efficiency and effectiveness of the use of punishment as a form of crime deterrence. In addition, the course uses an economic understanding of crime and criminal behavior to develop public policy options.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

- a. Pre-requisite(s): Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 101) or Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 103) and a minimum 45 credit hours, or permission of instructor.
- b. Co-requisite(s): NONE
- c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): NONE

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<b><u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u></b>	<b><u>PSLO</u></b>	<b><u>GER</u></b>	<b><u>ISLO</u></b>
1. Discuss the impacts of crime on the economy and its various stakeholders.	Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both through written and oral means.		<b>Communication Skills</b> Written [W]
2. Calculate the economic costs and benefits of crime within the U.S.	Demonstrate the ability to apply mathematical concepts and models, and to represent mathematical information symbolically, visually,		<b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>

	numerically and verbally.		
3. Analyze and evaluate empirical research findings relating to the economics of crime.	Demonstrate the ability to apply mathematical concepts and models, and to represent mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically and verbally.		<b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>
4. Discuss the world and U.S. drug markets, including post-Taliban Afghanistan and the heroin market.	Demonstrate an understanding of the history, cultural practices, politics, beliefs, and institutions of other cultures and the interplay of diverse worldviews in the global context.		<b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>
5. Compare and contrast the effectiveness of social and legal policies in preventing and deterring crime.	Demonstrate an understanding of the different skills, methods, goals, and evaluative tools used in the Social Sciences and Humanities.		<b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>
6. Describe the effectiveness of prevention strategies aimed at reducing crime.	Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both through written and oral means		<b>Communication Skills</b> Written [W]
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of punishment in deterring criminal behavior.	Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, evaluate, synthesize and apply arguments		<b>Critical Thinking</b> <i>Critical Analysis</i> [CA]

	from various disciplines.		
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KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	<b>Communication Skills</b> Oral [O], Written [W]
2	<b>Critical Thinking</b> <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	<b>Foundational Skills</b> <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	<b>Social Responsibility</b> <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	<b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes   X   No       

K. **TEXTS:** Hellman, D. A. and N. O. Alper. (2006). *Economics of Crime: Theory and Practice*. 6/e, Pearson Custom Publishing.

Winter, H. (2008). *The Economics of Crime: An Introduction to Rational Crime Analysis*. New York, NY: Routledge.

L. **REFERENCES:** Articles of current interest and other resources placed on the course online learning site.

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom.

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:** Participation, quizzes, final exam, assignments and projects.

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduction to the Economics of Crime
  - A. FBI Index Crimes
  - B. Recent Trends in the Amount of Crime
  - C. Victimization Surveys
  - D. International Crime
- II. Economic Concepts and Evaluation Techniques
  - A. Macroeconomic Concepts applied to Economics of Crime

- B. Microeconomic Concepts applied to Economics of Crime
- C. Empirical Analysis in Economics
- D. Fundamentals of Cost-Benefit Analysis
- III. Economic Impact of Criminal Activity
  - A. Costs Estimation of Individual Criminal Victimization
  - B. Impacts Analysis
  - C. Distribution of the Costs of Crime
  - D. Distribution Analysis of Costs: Supply and Demand Framework
- IV. Economic Model of Criminal Behavior
  - A. Microeconomic Model of Criminal Behavior
  - B. Supply Curve for Crime and Technological Change
  - C. Macroeconomic Explanations of Criminal Behavior
  - D. Marxian Model of Criminal Behavior
- V. Optimal Allocation of Criminal Justice Resources
  - A. Optimum Amount and Mix of Crime
  - B. Marginal Benefits and Marginal Costs of Crime Prevention
  - C. Optimum Allocation over Neighborhoods
  - D. Optimum Allocation within Courts and Corrections
- VI. Economics of Crime against Property
  - A. Impacts on Market Prices and Outputs
  - B. Impacts on the Public Sector
  - C. Market for Stolen Property
  - D. White Collar Crime
- VII. Economics of Crime against Persons
  - A. The Market for Murder
  - B. Irrational Murder
  - C. Murder and the Business Cycle
  - D. Aggravated Assault, Forcible Rape, and Juvenile Crime
- VIII. Economic Crimes without Victims
  - A. Negative Externalities
  - B. Opportunity Costs
  - C. Criminal Justice Costs
  - D. Market for an Economic Bad
- IX. Economics of Heroin and Cocaine
  - A. History of Heroin and Cocaine in the U.S.
  - B. Heroin and Cocaine Production and Consumption
  - C. Structure of Heroin and Cocaine Industries
  - D. Market Characteristics of Heroin and Cocaine
- X. Economics of Organized Crime
  - A. Diversification and Change
  - B. Economic Costs of Organized Crime
  - C. Economic Analysis of Organized Crime
  - D. Strategies for Fighting Organized Crimes
- XI. Public Policy Options
  - A. Public Policy toward Crimes against Property
  - B. Public Policy to Reduce the Amount of Murder
  - C. Public Policy toward Crimes without Victims
  - D. Public Policy toward the Market of Illegal Drugs
- XII. Crime Deterrence and Punishment
  - A. Efficient Punishment and Fines
  - B. Prison and Crime Deterrence
  - C. Death Penalty and Crime Deterrence
  - D. Private Crime Deterrence

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** N/A