

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



COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 310 – Causes of Crime

Revised By: Michelle Currier

**School of Science, Health and Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice
February, 2016**

- A. **TITLE:** Causes of Crime
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 310
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces various criminological theories to explain the cause of criminal behavior. Specific attention is placed on the primary theorists and the evolution of their corresponding theories and how they relate to current theories associated with biological, psychological, personality, intelligence and gender, and social disorder. Students learn to identify and apply criminological theories to the commission of specific criminal acts. The history of crime and punishment is reviewed, leading to the present day criminal justice system and competing criminological theories.

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

Forty-five (45) credit hours or permission of Instructor

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Objective</u>	<u>Institutional SLO</u>
a. Describe the social and historical contexts and foundations of criminology	2. Crit. Thinking
b. Contrast the logic and assumptions of various criminological theories within the five dominant criminological paradigms	2. Crit. Thinking
c. Apply criminological theory to a range of criminal and delinquent behaviors	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Professional Competence

K. **TEXTS:**

Brown, S.E., Geis, G., & Esbensen, F. (2015). *Criminology: Explaining Crime and its Context*. New York, NY: Routledge.

(**E-book *free* to students and available via SLLC at

https://login.libproxy.canton.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1021286&site=eds-live&scope=site&ebv=EK&ppid=Page-__-31)

L. **REFERENCES:** n/a

M. **EQUIPMENT:** n/a

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

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Essays
- Written Discussion /Participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Foundations for Criminology

A. Crime and Criminology

B. The Relativity of Law and Crime

C. Production of Crime Statistics

D. Distribution of Crime

II. Theories of Crime

A. Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories of Crime

B. Individual Theories of Crime: A Biosocial Perspective

C. Social Structure Theories of Crime

D. Social Process Theories of Crime

E. Social Reaction Theories of Crime

F. Integration and a Life-Course Perspective

III. Types of Crime

A. Violent Crime

B. Economic Crime

C. Crimes Without Victims and Victims Without Crimes

D. Youth Violence