CRIMINOLOGY (SOCI 2336 2A1)

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: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
TUESDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
WEDNESDAY: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
THURSDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
FRIDAY: 8:30 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.

Approved: August 2025

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.

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TUESDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am
WEDNESDAY: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
THURSDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am
FRIDAY: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. *Criminology* by Frank Schmalleger, 5th edition (Pearson Publishing)

    a. ISBN number is 13: 978-0-13-518625-1 or 13: 978-0-13-518625-0
    b. The fourth edition of the required textbook is acceptable as there is very minimal difference in page numbering.

    Criminology by Frank Schmalleger, 4th edition (Pearson Publishing)

    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.

COURSE CALENDAR
Below schedule subject to change.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	What is Criminology?	*Textbook:* Chapter 1 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 2	Classical and Neoclassical Criminology	*Textbook:* Chapter 2 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 3	Early Biological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior	*Textbook:* Chapter 3 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 4	Biosocial and Other Contemporary Perspectives	*Textbook:* Chapter 4 September 20, 2025	September 20, 2025
Week 5	Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior	*Textbook:* Chapter 5 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 6	Social Structure	*Textbook:* Chapter 6 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 7	Social Process and Social Development	*Textbook:* Chapter 7 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 8	Social Conflict	*Textbook:* Chapter 8 October 18, 2025	October 18, 2025
Week 9	Criminal Victimization	*Textbook:* Chapter 9 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025

Week 10	Crimes against Persons	*Textbook:* Chapter 10 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 11	Crimes against Property	*Textbook:* Chapter 11 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 12	White-Collar and Organized Crime	*Textbook:* Chapter 12 November 15, 2025	November 15, 2025
Week 13	Drug and Sex Crimes	*Textbook:* Chapter 13 December 2, 2025	December 2, 2025
Week 14	Technology and Crime	*Textbook:* Chapter 14 December 2, 2025	December 2, 2025
Week 15	Globalization and Terrorism	*Textbook:* Chapter 15 December 2, 2025	December 2, 2025
Week 16	Final Exam	Final Exam online Blackboard by 11:30 AM on December 8, 2025	December 3-8, 2025

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

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. 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. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

AI STATEMENT
Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into the classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

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.