

Criminology, Law, and Justice Courses (Sociology and Criminology) (CRIM)

CRIM Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code CRIM. For more information, see Sociology and Criminology (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the catalog.

CRIM:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

CRIM:1410 Introduction to Criminology 3 s.h.
Nature and causes of crime; the criminal justice process, correctional treatment, crime prevention. GE: Social Sciences.

CRIM:1447 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System 3 s.h.
Organization and function of criminal justice system in the United States; history, organization, and current practices of policing, criminal courts, and correctional system; sociological and criminological research on major subsystems comprising criminal justice systems.

CRIM:2210 Iowa Criminal Justice Policy and Reform 3 s.h.
Introduction to contemporary discussions of policy and reform across all stages of criminal justice system including policing, pretrial detention, sentencing, incarceration, and reentry; current practices and policies; development of applied skills in policy analysis and communication; course material extends beyond policies for crime reduction and considers policies geared towards other outcomes (i.e., reducing inequalities and racial disparities in the criminal justice system); exploration of criminal justice policies through an Iowa lens at state and local levels.

CRIM:2430 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems 3 s.h.
Criminal justice systems around the world; similarities and differences in how justice is defined and operationalized in contemporary legal traditions in terms of police, courts, and corrections examined in light of cultural norms and values; emphasis on link between societal characteristics and legal traditions; differences in defendant rights guaranteed under various legal traditions.

CRIM:2440 Student Practicum in Policing 3 s.h.
Practical application of criminal justice knowledge with physical demonstrations and hands-on exercises; physical participation includes defensive tactics, firearms instruction, and violent intruder training; students journal about student police academy topics and present to faculty. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410 or CRIM:1447. Requirements: background check.

CRIM:2460 Policing in Modern Society 3 s.h.
History, theory, and practice of policing; exploring the link between officer decision-making and department expectations; policing subculture; ethical considerations officers face; policing administration; policing/community interaction; legal issues affecting policing practice; contemporary developments in policing emergent crime types.

CRIM:2470 Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice 3 s.h.
Introduction to social science research methods in the fields of criminology and criminal justice; techniques necessary for systematic analysis of research questions and program effectiveness; critical evaluation of existing empirical research and sources of criminal justice data; assessment of data quality. Prerequisites: (STAT:1020 or STAT:1030 or SOC:2160 or STAT:2010 or STAT:3510 or PSQF:4143) and (CRIM:1410 or CRIM:1447).

CRIM:3110 Communities and Crime 3 s.h.
Why do some neighborhoods have more crime than others? Why do some neighborhoods see increasing rates of crime over time, while others seemingly do not? Although many crime events occur among individuals, scholars have long noted that crime events tend to cluster in neighborhoods and places where people live; students consider explanations for why this spatial patterning occurs; research methods that have been used to learn about crime in spatial context, classic and contemporary studies of this issue, and approaches to crime prevention that involve focusing on neighborhood or place, rather than simply on individuals. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410 or CRIM:1447.

CRIM:3250 Drugs, Deviance, and Social Control 3 s.h.
Introduction to social reality of drug use, drug users, and attempts to control drug behavior; exploration of relationship to crime and deviance, medicalization, and movements aimed at drugs.

CRIM:3260 Immigration and Crime 3 s.h.
Students are provided with a solid foundation to understanding key issues in immigration-crime debates; central to this is a critical examination of historical trends in immigration and its relationship to crime, media portrayal of immigration and its impact on public sentiment, relationship between immigration and crime at individual and aggregate levels, emergence of crimmigration—or blurring of immigration and criminal justice policies since the 1980s, and social impact of immigration policies including those that relate to deportation and militarization of U.S. borders.

CRIM:3400 Criminology Mentoring Program 1 s.h.
Career search through self-exploration, research, and discussion in area of criminology; preparation for criminology capstone and/or internship program; creation of an individual development plan; individual meetings with instructor at beginning and end of semester; bimonthly meetings to discuss aspects of criminology from a practical perspective; identification of student interests and potential career paths.

CRIM:3414 Criminology of Genocide 3 s.h.
Legal, social, and human causes and consequences of genocide in the 20th and 21st centuries; focus on the definition and dynamics of genocide, theoretical frameworks that help explain causality, dynamics, and consequences of genocide, and law, justice, and accountability for war crimes and genocide in the modern era.

CRIM:3415 Global Criminology 3 s.h.

Crime and the control of crime at the transnational and sub-national levels of analysis; focus on non-U.S. societies; consequences of economic, political, and cultural globalization.

CRIM:3416 Race, Crime, and Justice 3 s.h.

Extent and nature of racial disparities in offending and victimization; interpretation of patterns using various theoretical approaches; examination of race inequalities across many stages of criminal justice process.

CRIM:3417 Community Corrections 3 s.h.

Community corrections; probation, parole, intermediate sanctions (boot camps, intensive supervision, electronic monitoring); contemporary issues in community supervision of offenders.

CRIM:3420 Juvenile Delinquency 3 s.h.

Theories of juvenile delinquency; individual, neighborhood, and societal explanations of delinquency; research on families, schools, peers, neighborhoods, gangs, and delinquency.

CRIM:3421 Gangs and Gang Crime 3 s.h.

Criminology; sociology; theories of gangs and gang crime; violent crime; communities and crime; societal explanations of gangs; research on delinquency, peers, and identity; policing and gangs; crime prevention.

CRIM:3422 A Critical History and Exploration of Mass Incarceration and Reentry 3 s.h.

Explores the historical context leading to the current state of mass incarceration through the legislation of mandatory minimums, the direction of law enforcement toward marginalized populations, and the overcriminalization of nonviolent offenses. Addresses reentry and recidivism; analyzes the "Second Prison" of disenfranchisement and isolation of people formerly incarcerated; and explores the rise in calls for reform including a range of proposed options from system change to abolition.

CRIM:3425 Women, Crime, and Justice 3 s.h.

Overview of women's experiences with crime and criminal justice system, with reference to experiences of men for purposes of comparison; role of race, ethnicity, and poverty in women's experiences; causes of crime, inequalities in police-citizen interactions, imprisonment, and other aspects of criminal justice system experience. Same as GWSS:3425.

CRIM:3437 American Crime 3 s.h.

Prevailing issues in criminology; extent and nature of disparities in offending and victimization, interpretation of patterns using various theoretical approaches; evaluation of crime-control policies. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410 or CRIM:4430 or CRIM:3420.

CRIM:3450 Criminal Legal System 3 s.h.

Discretionary decision-making in U.S. criminal courts from arrest through sentencing; legal and sociolegal issues relevant to each stage of felony adjudication; sociological and social-psychological theories of decision-making in adjudication, empirical research testing these theories.

CRIM:3600 Crime and Public Policy 3 s.h.

Policies having to do with crime, delinquency, or deviance are often heavily debated; examination of certain crime-related policies including the theories that motivate them, research methods and design used to evaluate them, and prior studies that investigate whether they do, in fact, accomplish stated goals; students engage with a diversity of topics and policies including those dealing with individuals, groups, criminal justice institutions, geographic areas, and more. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410.

CRIM:4120 Environmental Criminology 3 s.h.

Macro-criminological theories tend to focus on sociodemographic correlates of crime (e.g., poverty), the basic question asked in environmental criminology is how does the built environment (e.g., roads, buildings, tourist destinations, etc.) shape where and when crime occurs? Students gain a more sophisticated understanding of spatial-temporal patterns of crime as opposed to garden variety application of peoples' routine activities; topics include seasonality and time of day, near repeat victimization, ambient population, geometry of crime, and offenders' journey to crime. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410 and (SOC:2170 or CRIM:2470).

CRIM:4300 Gender and Violence 3 s.h.

Focus on gendered violence, including violence against women and members of LGBTQ+ communities; relationship between masculinities and violence; ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, age, and social class combine to explain gendered violence; theories and empirical research.

CRIM:4400 Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections 3 s.h.

Supervised fieldwork in a criminal justice or correctional agency. Prerequisites: (CRIM:1410 or CRIM:1447) and (CRIM:2430 or CRIM:2460 or CRIM:3415 or CRIM:3416 or CRIM:3417 or CRIM:3420 or CRIM:3437 or CRIM:3450 or CRIM:4420 or CRIM:4430 or CRIM:4450 or CRIM:4460). Requirements: criminology, law, and justice major or minor, and junior standing.

CRIM:4410 Treatment Interventions in Corrections 3 s.h.

Introduction to treatment interventions utilized in the criminal justice system that target some of the special populations seen within the system as a whole; specific populations may include mental health, substance abuse, sex offenders, and domestic violence; emphasis on evidence-based practices and successful program outcomes with focus on identification and discussion of ethical issues and concerns that arise when providing specialized services to this population, as well as the sometimes difficult mixture of treatment and safety/security. Prerequisites: CRIM:1410 or CRIM:1447. Requirements: junior, senior, or graduate standing.

CRIM:4420 Criminal Punishment 3 s.h.

Sociological theories and research on criminal punishment; classical and contemporary theories; research on imprisonment and capital punishment.

CRIM:4430 Interpersonal Violence in Society 3 s.h.

Extent and nature of interpersonal violence in societies, in general and for specific population subgroups; theoretical explanations for the phenomenon; alternative ways of defining and responding to violence across various social contexts; application of scientific method; relevant literatures from multiple disciplines including sociology, anthropology, criminology, psychology, and behavioral economics; types of violence defined as illegal and those which are deviant but not illegal.

CRIM:4440 Sociology of White-Collar Crime 3 s.h.

Critical perspectives on causes and consequences of white-collar crime; definitions and types; criminological, social-psychological, and rational-choice theories; political and economic causes of white-collar crime under capitalism and socialism; rates and patterns of white-collar criminality across different social groups (defined by racial, ethnic, class, and gender attributes); control, prevention, and criminal justice response.

CRIM:4450 Juvenile Justice: A Sociolegal Perspective 3 s.h.

Examination of social, historical, and legal foundations of juvenile justice system in the United States; adjudication processes in juvenile justice, transfer of juveniles to criminal court, contemporary juvenile court, community-based corrections programs, legalities of juvenile system; current and future directions in juvenile justice.

CRIM:4460 Sociology of Law 3 s.h.

Conceptual, historical, and theoretical issues of law and operation of the criminal justice system; theory and research on law and the criminal justice system.

CRIM:4680 Corruption: The Social Scientific Perspectives 3 s.h.

Social scientists and policy makers alike recognize corruption as an obstacle to economic development, democratic governance, and human rights around the world; students survey recent research from sociology, criminology, political science, and anthropology that addresses causes and consequences of corruption; why individuals engage in corrupt behavior, how organizations affect patterns of corrupt transactions, and how rates of corruption impact and are impacted by political regimes; consequences that corruption has for social inequality, civic mobilization, lives of women and immigrants, and stability of autocratic governments. Same as SOC:4680.

CRIM:4800 Research Practicum in Criminology 3 s.h.

Students engage in a criminology research activity that is not related to an honors project, conducted under the supervision of (or in collaboration with) a faculty member.

CRIM:4930 Teaching Internship 1-3 s.h.

Students gain teaching experience by providing supervised support for instructors in introductory-level courses in criminology. Requirements: criminology undergraduate teaching aide appointment.

CRIM:4950 Sociology Criminology Student Ambassador 1 s.h.

Ambassadors provide information about the Department of Sociology and Criminology to incoming and visiting students, university community, and broader community; conduct tours; meet with students and parents; review curriculum; provide information on opportunities; coordinate events; and update materials for prospective and incoming students. Requirements: sociology or criminology major. Same as SOC:4950.

CRIM:4990 Directed Individual Study 1-3 s.h.

Students pursue interests not covered in other courses.

CRIM:4998 Honors Research arr.

Honors research projects under faculty supervision.

CRIM:5120 Introduction to Criminal Justice Systems 3 s.h.

Critically explore the criminal justice system and its impact on communities across the U.S. Topics include crime and criminalization, policing, courts, prisons, community supervision, immigration detention centers, and the juvenile justice system. Recommendations: some general knowledge of the criminal justice system terminology.

CRIM:5410 Criminological Theory I 3 s.h.

Foundations of theoretical development; theory construction; classical criminological theories; intro to contemporary theories.

CRIM:5420 Crime and Public Policy 3 s.h.

Examines selected crime-related policies, focusing on the theories that motivate them, the research methods and designs used to evaluate them, and previous studies that investigate whether they achieve their stated goals.

CRIM:6080 Master's Thesis arr.**CRIM:6420 Criminological Theory II 3 s.h.**

Advanced study of criminological theories; contemporary criminological theories; testing criminological theories. Prerequisites: CRIM:5410. Same as SOC:6425.

CRIM:6430 Feminist Perspectives on Crime and Punishment 3 s.h.

Feminist criminology; gender theory; intersectional approaches; gender and crime; critical theories; system-involved girls and women. Recommendations: previous upper level or graduate course in sociology or criminology. Same as SOC:6435.

CRIM:6440 Crime and Health in the Life Course 3 s.h.

Patterns of physical and mental health, and deviant and criminal behavior across the life course; focus on intersection between health and deviance and crime; topics incorporate research from evolutionary biology, psychology, criminology, and public health; themes include policy, developmental context, social change, and population health. Same as SOC:6440.

CRIM:6450 Comparative Criminology 3 s.h.

Survey of theoretical and empirical literature on crime across nations with primary focus on homicide; exploration of why we even bother to study crime across nations, how crime is measured at cross-national level; where to find cross-national crime data; whether source matter for crime data across nations matters; discussion and evaluation of theoretical and empirical explanations for why some nations have more/less crime than others. Same as SOC:6450.

CRIM:6460 Criminal Punishment 3 s.h.

Sociological theories and research on criminal punishment; classical and contemporary theories; race and gender inequality in punishment; collateral consequences; research on imprisonment, community sanctions, monetary sanctions. Same as SOC:6460.

CRIM:6490 Immigration and Crime 3 s.h.

Historical trends in immigration and crime; media portrayal of immigration and its impact on public sentiment; relationship between immigration and crime at individual and aggregate levels; social impact of immigration policies including those that relate to deportation and militarization of U.S. borders. Recommendations: previous upper level or graduate course in sociology or criminology. Same as SOC:6490.

CRIM:6750 Race and Crime 3 s.h.

Relationships among race/ethnicity, crime, and the justice system through rigorous engagement with empirical research and data; emphasis on historical evolution of major branches of the justice system; sociological and criminological theories that predict racial/ethnic variation in crime and victimization; sociological, economic, and political reasons behind racial disparities in the justice system. Same as SOC:6750.

CRIM:7030 Readings and Research Tutorial arr.**CRIM:7090 PhD Dissertation arr.****CRIM:7400 Seminar: Selected Topics in Criminological Research 3 s.h.**

Critical analysis of current research; emphasis on theoretical contributions and methodological foundations. Same as SOC:7400.

CRIM:7410 Communities and Crime 3 s.h.

Distribution of crime as rooted in community-level conditions such as concentrated affluence or poverty, racial residential segregation, unemployment, family disruption, and immigration. Requirements: sociology graduate standing. Same as SOC:7410.

CRIM:7430 Gender and Violence 3 s.h.

Research and theories on gender and violence (victimization, offending); masculinities and femininities; intersectionality approaches considering the combined impact of race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age, social class, etc. Same as SOC:7420.

CRIM:7440 Social Psychology of Violence 3 s.h.

Social psychological and criminological theories of aggression and violence; laboratory and observational research; contemporary theories; sources of data and research designs; interdisciplinary approaches. Recommendations: previous upper level or graduate course in sociology or criminology. Same as SOC:7440.