To The Students In This Course
WELCOME TO THE STUDY OF CRIMINOLOGY! The study of criminology is a
dynamic, ever changing field of scientific inquiry in which theories, concepts, and processes are
contantly evolving. In this course you will become familiar with the problems surrounding
crime in American. In the text and in the class you will be engaged in the conversation of
specific issues facing offenders and their victims. We will be reading about and discussing why
the study of criminology is so important and what the study of criminal deviance entails. The
text your instructor has selected to guide the course is divided into 14 learning Modules
corresponding with the learning modules and assignments for the course.

Course Description: Sociology 354 Criminology -Definition of crime, types of crimes, crime
statistics, crime causation, crime policy. Suggested background: SOC 137.
Program Learning Outcomes: The learning outcomes specifically outlined in the Department of
Social and Cultural Analysis Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s) are as follows:
The sociology program states the following items as program learning objectives (PLOs) for
sociology majors.
The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and
contemporary theories.
PLO 1. The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research
design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling
methodology.
PLO 2. The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of
the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations,
deviance, and globalization.
PLO 3. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of
settings.
PLO 4. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about
the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.

**PLO 5.** The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.

**PLO 6.** The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

*SOC 354 Criminology,* addresses the following of these objectives:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Objective</th>
<th>Supported by Course Objective (Student Learning Outcome) #, or NA – Not applicable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO 1</td>
<td>#1, 2</td>
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<td>PLO 2</td>
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**Measurable Learning Outcomes**

1. Learn about the nature and extent of crime in the United States;
2. Become familiar with and critically evaluate the major theories that have been developed as explanations for criminal behavior;
3. Learn about society's response to delinquency through informal and formal mechanisms of control; and
4. Analyze the roles of police, courts, the justice system;
5. Evaluate treatment programs for offenders.

**Here’s what you need to do to succeed in this course:**

The **Learning Modules** will typically be opened at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday of each week of class. When the Learning Module is opened, follow the steps described in *Unpacking the Module* posted in the Course Content page. Read the Lecture narrative, review the Module Objectives and follow the directions of your instructor.

**Discussion** After reading the lecture and reviewing the learning objectives and key terms, your first assignment in each Module will be to post to the Course Discussion (instructions to follow in this syllabus). The Discussion will open at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday following the introduction of the Module for that week and close Thursday at midnight following the introduction of the Module. If you miss the posting deadline you can still post after the deadline via e-mail with your instructor and receive partial credit. See the course make-up policy below.

**Quizzes** There will be a MC/TF Quiz over each Module. Each Quiz will have 10 questions each worth 2 points. You will have 10 minutes to complete the Quiz. The additional benefit for you with the quizzes is that some of the questions will be repeated on the Exams. The Quiz will open
at 8:00 a.m. on Friday of the Module for that week and close at midnight on Friday of each
weekly Module.

**Examinations** There will be 4 scheduled Examinations during the semester. These
Examinations are posted on the electronic course calendar. The Exams will cover the noted
Module topics and chapters in the text. The Examinations will consist of 75 MC/TF questions
worth 2 points each. You will have 60 minutes for the Exam. The course Final Exam will be the
last of the 4 scheduled examinations and will not be cumulative.

**Course Make-up Policy:** ALL MAKE-UP WORK MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO
WEEKS OF THE MISSED ASSIGNMENT FOR CREDIT (Discussions, Quizzes, or
Examinations). Following the no questions asked time frame, an excused absence is
required (See the University Class Attendance and Excused Absence Policy). No make-up work
may be submitted after Friday, May 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Perhaps you are beginning to feel the pace of the course as the Modules will be introduced on
Sunday and close on Friday each week.

**The Course Calendar is the official calendar for the course.** You will find the calendar on the
course Homepage. It may be modified during the semester at the discretion of the instructor
should unforeseen events change the pace of the course. If there are changes you will be notified
by e-mail of the changes.

**Final grades** will be based upon the TOTAL POINTS earned on the following areas.

**Here are the Components that will be the building blocks of your grade.**

**Discussion - A total of 350 Points may be earned** Following the presentation of each Module
there will be a Discussion Topics posted. The discussions are intended to be like a discussion in
class that may start with a specific question, but then, based on the responses of the first few
students, the discussion may evolve into something entirely different from the original question.
**THEREFORE, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT (to your grade) THAT YOU READ ALL
OF THE AVAILABLE POSTS BEFORE MAKING YOUR POST(s).** If you post later in the
discussion and you respond to the original question, your post will likely not ADD to the
discussion and therefore you will earn 0 points on the post. As noted above the discussions are
intended to assess your understanding and synthesis of the chapter materials. Passing
grades will be earned based on how well your original ideas demonstrate your
understanding and synthesis of the material from the lecture, text, the postings of other
students, my comments. **Points for the Discussion would be earned if:** You make a post that
contributes to the discussion and demonstrates a synthesis of the chapter materials including
other students’ posts. You comment on another student's post. You post your “opinion” on a
topic along with a rationale based on the course materials to support your opinion.

**Points would NOT be earned if:** You make a post that does not demonstrate an understanding
and synthesis of the topic/concept (e.g., “I agree with Sandy…” ), You make a post that does not
add to the discussion. You make a post to the original question when the topic has evolved beyond the original question.

**Here are some things to avoid in your postings to the Discussion:** Steer away from “texting” language”. Though this is not a writing intensive course there is still an expectation that college level writing (this is a Junior Level course) will be used including appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, etc. The HTML editor has a built in spelling and grammar checker. Please use them. Let’s avoid conventions such as “decartes had a good point. i think he was interested..” or “B4 making a statement”, “LOL”, “i think u hv mde a gd pt.” In all cases where there is multiple texting conventions used, 0 points will be earned. Great “speak” in some contexts but not for displaying your knowledge of this juvenile delinquency course!

**Alternatively, and this is what I’d recommend:** Compose your post in a word processor, check it for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc., save the file, then copy and paste your writing from your word processor file into the discussion. That way you have a backup copy on your own computer in case of an emergency.

**Here’s How Your Discussion Will be Graded:**

*You will receive a grade of "Pass", "Pass/Fail", or "Fail"* (Pass=25 pts., Pass/Fail=5-10 pts, and Fail=0 pts per Discussion for each Module). Contributions that are marginally better than a Fail, but not achieving a Pass grade will earn a Pass/Fail grade. Earning too many of these Pass/Fail grades will have a negative impact on the number of points earned. I encourage you to respond directly to other students’ posts for Pass points. You can post late (after the closing time for the Discussion period) and you can receive up to half credit.

**READ THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR COURSE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COURSE WELCOME.**

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**Quizzes:** A Total of 280 Points May be earned See above for specifics on the Module Quizzes.

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**Examinations:** A total of 600 Total Points may be earned See above for specifics on the Course Examinations.

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**Extra credit (30 points)** As you review the total points for the course you will observe that there are 30 points set aside by the instructor for the possibility of awarding extra credit in exceptional circumstances. Extra credit may be awarded to students who make significant and meaningful contributions to the Discussions and have consistently completed all Quizzes and Examinations. **This will be the only extra credit available in the course.**

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Grading Scale  The total number of points you can earn in the course is 1260 (1230 for all class activities plus 30 bonus points). Following is the grades associated with different levels of performance. Your grades will be posted weekly after each Module is complete and after each Examination is graded.

A - 1107-1230 Points
B – 984-1106 Points
C – 861-983 Points
D – 738-860 Points
F --737 or fewer Points

You are expected to actively participate in class. I am not specifying the amount of time, but your grade is heavily dependent upon it and I will monitor it. In the past, students that have actively participated have done well; those that did not participate did not do so well. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!!!

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR: E-mail me via the Mail option in Desire 2 Learn. I will try to respond to your email and discussions as soon as possible. I will respond to all substantive email (most within 24 hours) during the official class time Monday-Thursday. Email received after Thursday at midnight will receive a response at the latest by the following Monday. I will monitor the activity in the discussion board since a large part of your grade is dependent upon it. PLEASE email using the course email system if you have any questions or are having any problems with the information being covered. If you are having trouble with the Desire 2 Learn platform, please contact the help desk in the Office of Information Technology (936-468-1919 M-F 8 – 5).

Here’s To A Great Semester For Us All!