

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Sociology Department

Criminology Major Assessment Plan - Revised Dec. 12

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1. Mission Statement:

The overall purpose of the Criminology Major is to encourage critical thinking about the social construction of crime; the nature and causes of crime; the behavior of offenders; and how society reacts to crime and criminals. It aims to communicate the perspectives of the leading criminological theories and research. The Major is firmly grounded in sociology; thus current criminological discourse is linked with its roots in classical sociological theory. It also stresses the connections between theory, methodology, and social policy.

Firmly based on a liberal arts and interdisciplinary model of undergraduate education, the Criminology Major fosters the basic skills of a rigorous liberal arts program: the ability to think critically, read primary literature, write clearly with scholarship, and probe an academic discipline in depth. These skills are highly valued in graduate education and law school and transferable to a great many jobs and careers inside and outside of the criminal justice field.

2. Assessment Philosophy:

The goal of the outcomes assessment exercise is to review the learning goals of the Criminology Major and to identify areas in need of improvement. It aims to enhance the learning experiences of current and future students. The Criminology Major went through a major review in 2007. This present learning outcomes exercise will provide a further opportunity to revisit the lessons learned and insights gained from the review process.

The Sociology Department has developed the following learning goals for the Major (see below). The assessment process will begin with SOC440 the Senior Seminar which is the capstone course. The Senior Seminar is intended to serve as a culmination of the academic experience in that it aims to integrate and consolidate prior work in the Criminology Major. Thus, it should reflect the overall learning goals of the Major. Results from the assessment of the Senior Seminar will have implications for both this course and particularly for lower level courses where students are expected to have received the foundations in knowledge and skills necessary for achieving the learning goals in the Senior Seminar. This particularly relates to the foundation courses in Criminology (SOC203) and Theories of Social Order (SOC314) and the research methods course (SSC325).

3. Assessment Cycle:

The Sociology Department is currently working to a 5 year plan.

Following the assessment of Senior Seminar, the Sociology Department will then embark on a similar process for SOC203 Criminology, SOC314 Theories of Social Order and SSC325 Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences; these courses, together with Senior Seminar, constitute four of the five disciplinary requirements for the Major. The theoretical and methodological knowledge and critical thinking skills gained from these courses are expected to feed into and/ or complement the content of the additional courses required for the Major (for example, the ability to apply theory to specific contexts). The next stage will involve the evaluation of Statistics250 (the fifth disciplinary requirement) and the courses required for Part Three, 'Applications of Criminology', Part Four 'Advanced Methods' and the Sociology Electives (See Appendix 2: Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology for details on the sequencing and courses necessary for the Major). Finally, a review of the introductory course SOC101 will take place. At each stage the department will review the findings and modify the curriculum as necessary to ensure the learning goals are being met. In the final year of the cycle a thorough review of all the data collected will take place with a consideration as to whether major curriculum changes are needed (See Appendix 1 for details on the current status of assessment).

2010-2011 Academic Year

- The Sociology Department will approve the Assessment Plan for the Major. In 2009/10 the Department discussed and approved an earlier version (included in 2009/10 Chair's Evaluation)
- Develop and approve learning goals for the Criminology Major
- Ensure learning goals are in place on course syllabi
- Assessment of SOC440 Senior Seminar (see accompanying document)
- Review findings from assessment of Senior Seminar
- Report back to the Department and Administration on progress.

2011-2012 Academic Year

- Recommendation of and implementation of minor curriculum changes to Senior Seminar SOC440 (the latter should begin Spring 2012).
- Report on previous year's assessment to the Sociology Department and any need for revisions to the overall strategy
- Assessment of SOC203 Criminology, SOC314 Theories of Social Order and SSC325 Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences. A preliminary review of SOC203 occurred in 2009/10 – the insights from this will also be used to inform this assessment process.
- Review findings from assessment of Senior Seminar

- Report back to the Department and Administration on progress

2012-2013 Academic Year

- Review of findings of SOC203, SOC314, SSC325 and SOC440 specifically in relation to Criminology Major learning goals 2 and 3 which deal with the theoretical and methodological component of the Major. The theoretical component was flagged in the earlier review of SOC203 in 2009/10
- Recommend adjustments in curriculum.
- Assessment of Statistics250 and the courses required for Part Three 'Applications of Criminology' of the Major (SOC301 Penology, SOC308 Sociology of Violence, SOC309 Juvenile Delinquency, SOC335 Migration and Crime, SOC360 Corporate and White Collar Crime, SOC238 Victimology (in the process of being revised to a level 3 course), SOC3XX¹ Special Topics in Criminology (in the process of being revised to a level 3 course), SOC420 Women and Crime)
- Collect assessment data
- Report back to the Department and Administration on progress

2013-2014 Academic Year

- Review of findings from assessment of Statistics250 and 'Applications of Criminology' courses
- Recommendation and implementation of necessary curriculum changes
- Assessment of the courses required for Part Four 'Advanced Methods' (SOC327 Advanced Sociological Methodology, SOC393 Advanced Social Statistics, SOC3XXX Quantitative Research Methods, SOC3XXX Evaluation Research). Commencement of assessment of Level 3 and 4 Sociology electives.
- Collect assessment data
- Report back to the Department and Administration on progress

2014-2015 Academic Year

- Review of findings from assessment of 'Advanced Methods' courses and Level 3 Sociology electives
- Assessment of Level 2 Sociology elective courses and SOC101 Introduction to Sociology
- Collect assessment data
- Create a detailed report on how the overall learning goals of the Major are being met; results and recommendations from the prior 4 years.
- Recommend necessary curriculum changes
- Submit the final report to the Department and Administration.

¹ XXX Courses: these are newly required for the Criminology Major and, as such, have yet to be given codes.

4. Overall Learning Goals of the Criminology Major

1. Students will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the core literature and debates that make up the discipline of criminology.

Students are expected to:

- show an understanding of the social construction of crime and deviance, the nature and causes of crime, the behavior of offenders, the social reaction to crime and deviance, the relationship between criminology and public policy.
- critically engage with and cite the relevant literature.
- be able to contextualize their thinking in relation to the criminological literature.

2, Students will demonstrate an understanding of the key components of criminological theory and the ability to apply theory to specific contexts.

Students are expected to:

- show a knowledge of contemporary and classical criminological theory.
- relate criminological theory to specific subject areas as in the elective courses, for example, violence, juvenile delinquency, drugs
- present arguments for and against specific theoretical positions.

3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods of criminological research.

Students are expected to:

- show a knowledge of the key methods of data collection.
- have an awareness of the problems of researching crime and deviance, for example, the hidden figure, the use of different definitions of crime and deviance, difficulties of sampling and so on

- cite exemplars of criminological research
- be able to plan and develop independent research projects.

4. Students will demonstrate the ability to make reasoned and informed judgment on issues relating to crime and punishment

Students are expected to:

- show a critical awareness of public debate in the areas of crime and punishment.
- illustrate how debates on crime and punishment exist within a wider social, political and historical context.
- engage in intellectually grounded debate
- question and test conventional wisdom relating to crime
- to analyze and evaluate the contemporary response to criminality

5. Students will demonstrate the ability to organize their thoughts and communicate their arguments effectively in writing.

Students are expected to:

- write academic essays using the proper syntax and grammar with correctly cited sources and bibliographies
- write clear and meaningful research statements or questions
- present their work with clarity with evidence gleaned from the literature to support their arguments
- draw appropriate and informed conclusions

APPENDIX 1: Course Assessment Status

Department:	Sociology 2010/11 Assessment Plan												
Courses in the Department	Learning Goals		Methods of Assessment						Document & Use Results				Schedule to Complete Assessment
	Learning Goals for the Course	Learning Goals on each syllabus (Consistent across sections)	Grades	Survey	Sequence of Courses	Selected Questions or Assignments	Departmental Final	Diagnostic Test	Analyze Results	Report Findings	Share Findings	Use Findings / Curric Review	
SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology	x	x											
SOC 201: Urban Sociology: The Study of City Life	x	x											
SOC 202: Sociology of the Family	x	x											
SOC 203: Criminology	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	May-12
Statistics 250	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	
SOC 206: Sociology of Conflict and Dispute Resolution	x	x											
SOC 213: Race and Ethnic Relations	x	x											
SOC 216: Probation and Parole: Principles and Practices	x	x											
SOC 222: Sociology of Mass Communications	x	x											
SOC 236: Victimology	x	x											
SOC 240: Social Deviance	x	x											
SOC 301: Penology	x	x											
SOC 302: Social Problems	x	x											
SOC 305: Sociology of Law	x	x											
SOC 308: Sociology of Violence	x	x											
SOC 309: Juvenile Delinquency	x	x											
SOC 314: Theories of Social Order	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	May-12
SOC 335: Migration and Crime	x	x											
SOC 393: Advanced Social Statistics	x	x											
SOC 327: Advanced Sociological Methodology													(*)
SOC 3XX: Qualitative Research Methods	x	x											
SOC 3XX: Evaluation Research													(*)
SOC 351: Crime and Delinquency in Asia	x	x											
SOC 3XX: Special Topics in Criminology													(*)
SOC 360: Corporate and White Collar Crime	x	x											
SOC 420: Women and Crime	x	x											
SOC 405: Social Systems/ Modern Organizations													(*)
SOC 440: Senior Seminar	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	May-11
SSC 325: Research Methods	x	x	x			x			x	x	x	x	May-12

(*) TBA New Course

Appendix 2: Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

In effect for students declaring a criminology major as of Fall 2010

Credits required. 36

Prerequisites: SOC 101 and PSY 101. Students are strongly urged to complete SOC 101 and PSY 101 requirement during their first year at the college. These courses fulfill the College's general education requirements in the social sciences.

Other courses also have prerequisites beyond courses previously taken in the major:

- In Part Three, any Economics course can be a prerequisite for Economics/Sociology 360—Corporate and White Collar Crime
- In Part Five, CRJ 101 or ICJ 101 is a prerequisite for Police Science 216--Crime Mapping
- In Part Five, AAS 110 or AAS121 is a prerequisite for African-American Studies Sociology--215 Police and the Ghetto
- In Part Five, ECO 101 or ECO 170 is a prerequisite for Economics /Police Science 315- - An Economic Analysis of Crime
- In Part Five, PSY 242 is a prerequisite for Psychology 372--Psychology of Criminal Behavior

Honors Option. Students with a cumulative 3.5 grade point average when they have completed 75 credits are eligible for a Criminology Honors track. The Honors track requires completion of six additional credits in the form of a two-semester research internship or a research independent study Sociology 430-431 (6 credits). Consult the major advisor for further information.

PART ONE. DISCIPLINARY REQUIREMENTS

Subtotal: **15**

All required

Sociology 203--Criminology

Statistics 250

Sociology 314—Theories of Social Order

Social Science Research 325 --Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences

Sociology 440—Senior Seminar in Criminology

PART TWO. Multi-Disciplinary Foundations

Subtotal: **3**

Select one

Anthropology 230--Culture and Crime

Economics 170--Introduction to the Economics of Crime and Social Problems

Law /Philosophy 310--Ethics and Law

Psychology 242--Abnormal Psychology

PART THREE. Applications of Criminology

Subtotal: **6**

Select two courses.

Sociology 301—Penology;

Sociology 308-- Sociology of Violence;

Sociology 309—Juvenile Delinquency;

Sociology 335—Migration and Crime;
Sociology 216 -- Probation and Parole
Economics/Sociology 360—Corporate and White Collar Crime;
Criminal Justice/Sociology 238—Victimology (to be revised to a 300 level course)
Sociology 3xx--Special Topics in Criminology
Criminal Justice/Sociology 420—Women and Crime

PART FOUR. ADVANCED METHODS

Subtotal: **3**

Select one course.

Sociology 327--Advanced Sociological Methodology
Sociology 393--Advanced Social Statistics
Sociology 3xx--Qualitative Research Methods
Sociology 3xx—Evaluation Research

PART FIVE. Electives

A. Multi-Disciplinary Electives

Select one course

Subtotal: **3**

African-American Studies Sociology--215 Police and the Ghetto
Anthropology 330--American Cultural Pluralism and the Law
Anthropology 340--Anthropology and the Abnormal
Economics /Police Science 315-- An Economic Analysis of Crime
Police Science 216--Crime Mapping
Literature 327--Crime and Punishment in Literature
Psychology 232--The Psychology of Adolescence and the Adolescent Offender
Psychology 372--Psychology of Criminal Behavior
Puerto Rican/Latin American Studies Justice 325--The Latina/o Experience of Criminal Justice

B. Sociology Electives

Select two courses

Subtotal: **6**

Sociology 201--Urban Sociology
Psychology/Sociology 202--Sociology of the Family
Sociology 206—Sociology of Conflict
Sociology 222-- Sociology of Mass Communications
Sociology 240-- Social Deviance
Sociology 213-- Race and Ethnic Relations
Sociology 302-- Social Problems
Sociology 305-- The Sociology of Law
Sociology 351—Crime and Delinquency in Asia;
Sociology 405-- Social Systems/Modern Organizations

Total: 36

Appendix 3: Curriculum Map

	LEARNING OUTCOMES				
COURSES – Working towards the achievement of the learning goals of the Criminology Major	1. Thorough knowledge of the core literature and debates that make up the discipline of criminology	2. An understanding of the key components of criminological theory and the ability to apply theory to specific contexts	3. An understanding of the methods of criminological research	4. The ability to make reasoned and informed judgment on issues relating to crime and punishment	5. The ability to organize thoughts and communicate arguments effectively in writing
SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology	x			x	x
SOC 201: Urban Sociology: The Study of City Life	x				x
SOC 202: Sociology of the Family	x			x	x
SOC 203: Criminology	x	x		x	
Statistics 250			x		
SOC 206: Sociology of Conflict and Dispute Resolution	x			x	x
SOC 213: Race and Ethnic Relations	x			x	x
SOC 216: Probation and Parole	x			x	x
SOC 222: Mass Communications				x	x
SOC 236: Victimology	x	x		x	x
SOC 240: Social Deviance	x	x		x	x
SOC 301: Penology	x	x		x	x
SOC 302: Social Problems				x	x
SOC 305: Sociology of Law	x	x		x	x
SOC 308: Sociology of Violence	x	x	x	x	x
SOC 309: Juvenile Delinquency	x	x		x	x
SOC 314: Theories of Social Order	x				x
SOC 335: Migration and Crime	x	x		x	x
SSC325 Research Methods			x		
SOC 393: Advanced Social Statistics			x		
SOC 327: Advanced Sociological Methodology			x		
SOC XXX: Qualitative Research Methodology			x		
SOC 3XX: Evaluative Research	x		x		
SOC 351: Crime and Delinquency in Asia	x	x		x	x
SOC 3XX: Special Topics in Criminology	x	x		x	x
SOC 360: Corporate and White Collar Crime	x	x		x	x
SOC 420: Women and Crime	x	x		x	x

SOC 405: Social Systems	x				x
SOC 440: Senior Seminar	x	x	x	x	x