

SOC 2700 / Criminological Theory / Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Steph Howells**Email:** showells@uoguelph.ca**Course Overview**

In this course, we will explore theories that explain criminological behavior. We will begin with the history of criminological theory, from the classical and biological perspectives through to more contemporary theoretical understandings of crime. We will explore policy implications suggested by each of the theoretical approaches to understanding crime. By the end of this course, successful students will be able to: a) utilize various and competing theories to explain crimes; b) articulate the main components of major theories of crime and criminal behavior, and c) trace the social and political processes that have impacted philosophies of crime and crime control policies, as well as how the public views crime.

Learning Outcomes

The main purpose of this course is to introduce students to sociological perspectives on crime and criminality. The learning outcomes for this course are to:

- Describe the main strengths, limitations and assumptions of major criminological theories.
- Apply criminological theory to explain a variety of causes and consequences of crime.
- Explain how different criminological theories and policies influence the operation of the criminal justice system.
- Critically reflect on the disciplinary limits of knowledge about the causes of crime.
- Write effectively, accurately, precisely and professionally.
- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity, analytic, problem-solving, decision-making and listening skills.

Evaluation Components

Top Hat Readings	5%	
Two Term Tests	30%	15% each
Essay Proposal	15%	
Final Theory Essay	25%	
Take-Home Final Exam	25%	Written on CourseLink

Readings: The textbook for this class is an interactive e-book available via Top Hat called “Criminology: A Canadian Perspective” by Rick Linden. Additional readings will be available through the library’s course reserves. Assigned readings and lectures are core components of this class and are required.

This draft outline is for informational purposes only; a complete outline will be provided via CourseLink on the first day of classes.