**Course Outline – SOC\*2700 Criminological Theory**

Fall 2024

Meeting Information: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am-11:20am

Location: ALEX 200 LEC

Instructor: Abigail Mitchell

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1. **Course description**

In this course, we will explore theories that explain criminological behavior: who commits or is victimized by crime, how one decides to commit a crime, and the reason the crime is committed. We will trace the history of criminological theory, from the classical, rational, and biological perspectives through to more recent theoretical advances. We will discuss the policy implications suggested by each of the theoretical approaches to understanding crime, examples of how these policies have been enacted, and how these policies are received by the public. Finally, we will explore theories of how justice may be achieved in the aftermath of criminological behaviour.

1. **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

* Describe the strengths, limitations, and philosophical bases of major criminological theories;
* Explain the evolution of criminological theory within a historical context;
* Apply criminological theory to explain various causes and consequences of crime;
* Explain how different criminological theories have influenced the criminal justice system and related institutions;
* Critically reflect on the limitations and biases of various criminological theorists, policy makers, and the public in understanding crime;
* Identify and explain the links between criminological theory, philosophy, and the pursuit of justice;
* Identify and cite academic publications relevant to criminological theory; and
* Write clearly, concisely, and professionally, and edit written work through the incorporation of feedback.

1. **Required Texts:**

Eisler, L., White, R., and Haines, F.. (2023). *Crime and Criminology: An Introduction to Theory* (4th Canadian ed.). Oxford University Press Canada.

1. **Assessments**

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| **Assessment** | **% Weight** |
| Weekly Quizzes | 5% |
| Theory Paper #1 | 15% |
| Feedback Integration and Reflection #1 | 10% |
| In-Class Midterm | 20% |
| Theory Paper #2 | 15% |
| Feedback Integration and Reflection #2 | 10% |
| Final Exam | 25% |