**SOC 2700 / Criminological Theory / Fall 2023**

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**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 polices, 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.
* Communicate effectively, accurately, and professionally with clear and precise language.

**Evaluation Components**

Readings via Top Hat 5% Ongoing – via Top Hat Textbook

In Class Participation 5% Cumulative – via Top Hat

Perusall Readings 3% 4 assigned readings; 1% each with lowest score dropped

Two Term Tests 22% 11% each – written in person during class time

Proposal 15% Deadline TBD

Final Project 25% Deadline TBD

Final Exam 25% In person, scheduled through Registrar

**Readings:** The textbook for this class is an interactive e-book available via Top Hat Textbook (able to purchase direct or through the library) called “Criminology: A Canadian Perspective, 9e (TH Bundle)”. Additional readings will be available through the library’s course reserves and available on Perusall (which is free to use). Assigned readings are a core component 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.*