

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**CRIM-102**  
**Criminology**  
3 Semester Hours

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course introduces the student to the basic theories, fundamental facts, and problems associated with the science of criminology, while providing a systematic basis for the study of criminals, and criminal behavior as it relates to the criminal justice system in America. (3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the major theories of "crime causation" including classical, neoclassical, and positivist.
2. Describe the characteristics of each theory and the major limitations associated with each.
3. Differentiate between the major biological, psychological and sociological explanations.
4. Critically analyze contemporary theories of crime causation in light of empirical evidence.
5. Examine demographic factors as they relate to crime rates.
6. Distinguish between different types of crimes and categories of criminal behavior.
7. Relate crime causation theory to specific types of crime.
8. Identify and employ the methods of criminology including survey analysis, observation, experimentation, and the use of official criminal justice statistics.
9. Examine public policy decisions as they relate to causation theory.
10. Construct a composite theory of crime causation and relate it to specified case studies.

### **Major Topics**

1. Origins of criminological theory
2. Crime causation theories -- classical, neoclassical, positivist
3. Biological and psychological explanations
4. Sociological theories of crime causation -- differential association, subculture, anomie, strain, control, labeling and conflict
5. The measurement of crime
6. Crime statistics
7. Criminal Patterns
8. Characteristics of Criminal Behavior
9. Relationship of crime causation theory to public policy decisions
10. Crime typologies
11. Causation theory as it relates to types of crimes
12. New directions in criminological theory
13. Control and treatment of criminal as it relates to criminological theory

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include:

- a minimum of two exams
- at least 1,000 words of writing requiring minimum standards of proficiency including correct grammar and spelling.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a social science elective and an arts and science elective.