Course Information Sheet
SOCI 2336 – Criminology
Summer I 2024

Instructor Information:
Elaina Fitzgerald
Office: Levelland – AD 147
Phone: 806.716.4656
E-mail: efitzgerald@southplainscollege.edu

Preferred Contact Method:
My preferred contact method is to email me at efitzgerald@southplainscollege.edu. Please email me through your SPC official email.

For phone calls to my office (806.716.4656), if I am not able to answer, leave a message with your name, course section/time, call-back number, and a detailed message.

**Please note: I prefer to be contacted by email rather than by telephone. The phone number listed above rings only in my Levelland office, but as a general rule, I can get back to you more quickly if you email me rather than call me.

Course Sections:

SOCI-2336-151	Online	Online Lecture

Office Hours:

* By appointment only during Summer sessions.

This time is set aside for you. You are not "bugging" or interrupting me when you pop in or set up a time to meet with me during these hours. Rather, you are making good use of a resource! You should feel free to use this time as you need — ask me a question, review notes, brainstorm ideas, consider future plans, etc. I'm also happy to meet in small groups.

How this Course is Conducted:
This course is fully online. All course materials, assignment submissions, and exams will be through Blackboard.

Logging into Blackboard:
To access your course, go to https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/ or go to the SPC Homepage and click on the "Login to" link in the top right-hand portion of the page and then click on the Blackboard link on the pull-down or you can type or copy the address into the address window of your computer. I recommend that you bookmark Blackboard on your computer for quick access. You can also log into MySPC and there is a Blackboard link there. Once you reach the site you will click "Log In". The log-in screen will come up asking for your user name and password. Simply follow the instructions on the screen.

Other Information Concerning Blackboard:
- **Minimum technology requirements**:
  - Word Processing Software – Microsoft Word, Google Docs, WordPerfect. **Microsoft Word is available for FREE as an SPC student through your Office 365 account.**
  - Web Browser – Firefox or Google Chrome
  - Antivirus software
- **Open Computer Lab**: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Library. It is available to all students. Computers are also available on the Lubbock Downtown Center, Lubbock CTE Center, and Plainview Center campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.
- **Technical Problems/Support:** If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation. If you lose your coursework due to bad flash drives, Internet service down, computer crash, or your dog ate your homework, there is nothing I can do about it. **THIS IS YOUR WARNING TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN IN PLACE.**
- **IMPORTANT:** Most technical issues are related to using the incorrect internet browser (try using Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer). Please note that I do NOT recommend use of any handheld devices for taking this course. **Cellphones are wonderful but not for coursework done on the Internet.**
- Reminder - **bookmark** the Blackboard login page on your computer.
- **SPC Technical Support:**
  - SPC Help Desk/Information Technology: Call (806) 716-2600 or email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu
  - SPC Blackboard Support: Call (806)716-2180 or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu for student technical support.
  - I am your coursework support contact. Only call or e-mail technical support with questions about Blackboard or computer functioning. There is Technical Support information in the Course Resources area of your Blackboard course. It contains links to Student Tutorials for Blackboard. Contact me for any course content information.
- **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN COURSEWORK IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS!** Remember the saying "**TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS**"!
- **Anti-virus Software**: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

Academic Integrity:
In addition to the policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence of a written assignment, a missing citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized post on a discussion board, one copied exam item, looking at the scantron of another student during an exam or an exam or other coursework completed by someone other than yourself. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content/items/answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar "study applications." For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org.

Guidelines for Classroom Behavior:
The following is in addition to the Common Course Syllabus:
I would like to welcome all students into an environment that creates a sense of community, pride, courtesy and respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together. Disruptive behavior is not tolerated.

*To further classify: Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to being rude to an instructor or other students, walking out of class before class ends, using an electronic device, making "side comments" to other students, or any other non-adult behavior as defined by the instructor. For additional information on student misconduct, refer to the *Student Guide*. Failure to abide by policies may result in expulsion from the class and an "X" or "F" for the semester.

Statement from SPC regarding COVID-19:
If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376.

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: COVID Response (southplainscollege.edu).

Institutional Policies:
For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/.

Content Warning:
Students are advised that difficult or sensitive issues may be represented or discussed in this class. While care will always be taken not to cause distress and to create a welcoming learning environment for everyone, there may be occasions where you will confront images or texts, or where you hear discussions that are uncomfortable for you. I will not issue trigger warnings with respect to potentially

challenging or distressing content, for several reasons. I do not presume in advance to know what content or discussions may cause you distress; trauma is a deeply complex and personal experience. Instead, I will provide context for materials that feature content generally found to be challenging and make it clear why I am showing particular images or we are reading particular texts. If you ever feel unable to continue to participate in a particular class, you may leave at any point and will not be challenged. I will follow up to address any concerns and provide additional resources for support. You are also, of course, welcome to share any concerns about the course content you may have at any time during the term, and I promise to listen openly and respectfully.

Basic Needs Statement:
Other factors may also affect your ability to thrive in this class. In particular, students who have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lack a safe and stable place to live may find that their situation affects their performance. I encourage each of you to contact the Dean of Students or the Health and Wellness Office for support. You may also notify me, if you feel comfortable doing so, and I will do my best to help you identify resources, or simply walk with you to the campus offices that have resources set aside and additional information for all students.

SPC's Texan Food Pantry Locations:
- Health & Wellness Center, Levelland Campus
- Health & Wellness Office Lubbock Downtown Center
- Lubbock Career and Technology Center, across from the Learning Center
- Plainview Center: Please contact the Director of the Plainview Center at 806-716-4301.

Course Policy and Requirements

This is what you need to do to _**earn**_ your grade:

Textbook:

The readings for ANY section of SOCI-2336, Criminology, with Professor Fitzgerald are Open Educational Resources (OER).

"Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others." (https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources).

This means you will NOT HAVE TO PURCHASE any supplemental materials for this class. This is an intentional attempt to reduce the cost of Higher Education in the hopes of making it truly accessible to everyone. **The OER materials and PowerPoints for this course are the primary resources for material on the examinations.**

Please, if you have questions regarding the examination material, or any other questions regarding the course, do not hesitate to email me. EMAIL is THE BEST METHOD of contact for me. I keep every email, from every student, in a file in my South Plains College (SPC) email account (efitzgerald@southplainscollege.edu). This allows me to "track" conversations I have with every student. I cannot "save" voicemails, text messages, or Blackboard messages in this fashion, so please use my and your SPC email. Thank you.

Overview of Assignments:

10 Chapter Quizzes:
There are ten twenty-question multiple choice and true/false quizzes. The chapter quizzes are 30-minute timed quizzes and will close at the deadline. Do not click on the link until you are ready to take the test. Practice quizzes and flashcards are available to use as study tools and are taken from the same test bank as the chapter quizzes. If you fail to submit 5 quizzes you may be dropped from the course.

4 Crime Journal Assignments:
You will have a Semester Long Crime Journal Project assignment. It is detailed in a separate handout available on Blackboard in the Course Resources section and in each weekly module when a submission will be due. This handout is currently available and will remain so for the entire semester.

Crime Analysis Research Project:
You will complete one research paper for this course. Details regarding this will be provided in Blackboard within the Course Resources section and in the weekly folder for when the submission is due.

Exams:

- There will be five (5) exams. To avoid scheduling problems, the following exam dates are "set in stone," therefore do not schedule conflicts. <mark>*If there is a conflict with a religious holiday, you must let me know by **June 6, 2024** or you will be expected to complete the exam on the scheduled date.*</mark>
- All exams will be delivered **via Blackboard**, and you will have one attempt to complete the exam. If you miss an exam, a grade of "0" will be recorded for that exam grade and you may take a make-up comprehensive exam at the end of the semester.

Break down of points for the course:

5 Exams @ 100 each =	500 points
4 Crime Journals @ 25 each =	100 points
10 Chapter Quizzes @ 20 each =	200 points
Crime Analysis Paper =	100 points
Total =	900 points

All grades will be posted on Blackboard under the My Grades link.

Feedback: I will grade your Journals and Research project within two weeks. Quizzes and Exams will be graded automatically.

Total Possible Points - 900 points. In addition, grades are NOT automatically rounded up.

Grading scale: A = 810 – 900; B = 720 – 809.99; C = 630 – 719.99; D = 540 – 629.99; F = 0 – 539.99.

This scale is the typical: A = 90%-100%; B=80%-89.99%; C=70%-79.99%; D=60%-69.99%; and F=0%-59.99%.

If you have any questions about any of the course work or anything about the course material do not hesitate to speak to me during office hours, before/during/after class, or via e-mail or Blackboard messaging.

Study materials are provided under each module link on your Blackboard menu panel. Study tools include PowerPoints, Course Outlines and Materials, and Practice Quizzes to help students study the materials for the course and prepare for exams. The practice questions come from the same test bank as some of the questions that will be on your exam. You may take each quiz as many times as you want, and they are not timed. The grades you earn on the Practice Quizzes are not counted in your total points earned, so they do not raise or lower your grade for the course. However, taking the Practice Quizzes may help your exam grades.

Drop Policy:
In addition to the catalog policy of the General Catalog, a record of attendance will be maintained. <mark>**It may be considered that a student may be dropped from the course with an X if they miss a minimum of 2 weeks of class/BB assignments with no communication and/or is earning an F. If absences occur after the final drop date you will not be dropped and will receive the grade you have earned.**</mark>
Attendance will be taken every class period beginning the first day of class and will be used to document attendance.

Extra credit opportunities will be made available during the semester. I recommend that you take advantage of those opportunities as they become available as I will not make extra credit available on individual request.

Remember that the ***official deadlines*** are when the work is ***due,*** but I recommend that you set your ***personal deadlines*** for when you ***do*** your work a couple of days before the official ***due*** date.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.