

## Course Outcomes Guide

**Directions:** Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

**Course/Program Title:** SOC 103

Criminology

**Date:** Fall 2011

**Course/Program Team:** Daniel Beckett Ryan Jeff Morgan DJ Madron

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will develop an informed personal perspective on how our perspective of crime influences public policy.
2. The student will be able to apply sociological, psychological, and biological theories of crime to develop crime reduction strategies in a given community.

### **Assessment** (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Students in the course are assessed through examinations, projects and presentations. Below are all the assessment measures used in the course:

- (1) Students in the course are provided with a topic and required to create a 500 word (about 2 pages given the format described below) argument position essay either in favor of or opposing the issue, and defending that stance (Outcomes 1 and 2).
- (2) Students complete three examinations during the semester (Outcome 1)
- (3) Students complete a research paper (minimum of 6 pages) and presentation (Outcomes 1 and 2)
- (4) A "Crime Group" Presentation is a course requirement. Using data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, the following is covered in the project:
  - 1) A legal description of the crime – the UCR definition and how the State of Maryland defines that particular offense
  - 2) Statistics regarding that particular offense from 2000 to 2009 at the national level (UCR), State of Maryland, Washington County and finally City of Hagerstown
  - 3) Information covering how media presents these types of offenses, any noteworthy current events or historical events related to this crime
  - 4) A synopsis (suggestions/recommendations) on crime prevention methods/techniques to reduce likelihood of becoming a victim (Outcomes 1 and 2)

### **Validation** (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

- (1) Exams
- (2) Position paper
- (3) Research paper
- (4) Group presentation

**Results** (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

N/A-- Results will be determined at the conclusion of the Spring 2012 semester.

**Follow-up** (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

Depending on the results from the Spring 2012 semester, modifications to the assessment tools will be implemented.

**Budget Justification** (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?) N/A