Course Outcomes Guide

Course/Program Title: Criminology SOC-103   **Date:** January 2015

Course/Program Team: Daniel Beckett Ryan and Daniel Madron

Expected Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic structure and functions of the main components of the criminal justice system – law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

2. Understand and apply competing sociological and criminological theories to explain the social construction of crime and deviance, the nature and causes of crime, and the social reaction to crime and deviance.

3. Understand the historical components of the criminal justice system, including social, economic, and political variables in the creation of laws and institutions to regulate individual and collective deviant and criminal behaviors.

4. Formulate theoretical and empirical explanations of various social problems associated with the criminal justice system in the United States (i.e. race and class sentencing disparities, recidivism, controversial drug war policies, police-community relations, privatization of prisons, and white collar crime).

Assessment
        In the spring semester of 2015, a new assessment measure for SOC 103 is being introduced. This change is occurring due to a restructuring of the course and an update to the course outcomes. The assessment will consist of factual, theoretical, and applied questions and will be administered May 2015. The assessment constitutes 10% of the overall grade in the course. Results will be analyzed to address areas of strength and weakness.

Validation:

The course outcomes and assessment tool for Criminology (SOC 103) are consistent and aligned with recommendations from the *American Sociological Association's Task Force on College Level Courses* and the *"*Creating an Effective Assessment Plan for the Sociology Major*"* guide published by the ASA's *Task Force on Assessing the Undergraduate Sociology Major.*

Results
Data from the new assessment will be collected during the Spring 2015 semester.

 Follow-up Data will be collected every semester compared to data from previous academic years to see what areas need improvement. Adjustments/modifications to the assessment tool will be made in areas where deficiencies are apparent.

Budget Justification
Current resources are adequate