Instructor: Eliza Thor, MA  
Email: eliza.thor@huskers.unl.edu  
Zoom office hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm, Thursdays 3-4pm, or by appointment  
Zoom link: https://unl.zoom.us/j/280586440

Course Description
The sociology of crime involves the study of crime and criminal behavior. It focuses on the nature and extent of crime, patterns of crime, and the social reaction to crime. In this course, we will be studying the scientific (i.e., sociological) approach to understanding crime and criminal behavior. Throughout the course, we will be discussing concepts, approaches, and terminology of criminology by way of assigned readings, discussions, relevant videos and other media, and writing assignments.

Course Objectives
- Foster understanding of material through identifying concepts and theories, explaining and interpreting concepts and theories, and comparing and contrasting concepts and theories.
- Advance analytic and critical thinking skills by drawing connections between, categorizing, analyzing, and reflecting on concepts, ideas, and theories.
- Enhance evaluation skills by determining reasonableness, justifying concepts, ideas, or positions, and choosing and critiquing concepts and/or theories.
- Encourage application of information by identifying real-world situations and applications, applying concepts and theories to current events, and providing explanations.

Statement of Course Material or “Trigger Warning”
This course addresses sensitive topics including victimization, physical and sexual violence, mental illness, substance use/abuse, criminal justice contact, racism and discrimination, and violence towards vulnerable populations. If you find such topics objectionable and/or distressing, it is advised that you enroll in another course. No alternative assignments will be given. Below is a short list of hotlines supporting individuals who may need to discuss their experiences/concerns with a professional.

- UNL Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): https://caps.unl.edu (402-472-7450)
- CenterPointe, Lincoln NE: https://www.centerpointe.org (24-hour crisis line: 402-475-6695)
- Voices of Hope, Lincoln NE: https://www.voicesofhopelincoln.org (24-hour crisis line: 402-475-7273)
- Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center: https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/368/Mental-Health-Crisis-Center (402-441-8276)

Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Student Learning Outcomes
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all of its students. To that end, it has designated certain classes as ACE certified. These classes provide and assess specific learning outcomes. As an ACE class, SOCI209 Sociology of Crime will facilitate Learning Outcome #6: Using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior. ACE learning outcomes in this class will be assessed by Chapter quizzes, weekly discussions and reflective writing activities, literature digs, and course projects. This class will:
- Expand the student’s understanding of crime, criminal behavior, and the reaction to crime as social phenomena.
- Foster the student’s ability to view crime from a sociological perspective based on scientific method rather than “common sense.”
• Introduce the student to the ideas, methodology, and terminology used by sociologists and criminologists to study crime.
• Assist the student in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills involved in “doing” criminology.
• Provide the student with the information needed to analyze how crime and criminal justice are associated with social organization and social location, including culture, community, social class, gender, race/ethnicity, and age.
• Facilitate these goals through lecture, readings, media, and class activities.

Required material
Textbook: *Criminology: The Core, 7th edition* by Larry J. Siegel

To access the e-text:
2. Create an account (use your campus email such as *name@huskers.unl.edu* or *name@unl.edu*)
3. Navigate to the “student” tab at the top of the page
4. Type into the search at the top of the page: *Criminology: The Core, 7th edition* by Larry J. Siegel (note: if you use the ISBN numbers above, you will need to click on “View More Purchase Options” at the top of the page to see the Cengage unlimited and e-text options). You can also purchase or rent the physical textbook through Cengage.

There are two main e-text purchasing options:

a) Cengage unlimited access for $119.99 (plus tax)
b) E-text access for $38.99 (plus tax)

You will only need the e-text for this course – Cengage unlimited gives you access to other textbooks and resources with this plan (which may be useful for your other courses), so it is up to you which option to choose. Please let me know if you have difficulty purchasing and/or accessing the e-text!

Important: The physical textbook (i.e., available for rental through Cengage (see payment options) or through UNL Union Bookstore) is also OK if you prefer to read with a physical (rather than online) text. Again, let me know if you are having difficulty accessing either forms of the textbook!

Structure of the Course
SOCI209: Sociology of Crime is an online course during Fall 2021. This means that the class will not meet during scheduled times during the semester. Course materials (e.g., readings, supplemental materials, media) will be organized within weekly Modules in Canvas (i.e., Weeks 1-14). All new Modules (i.e., Weeks 1-14) will include a short introduction video to the weeks’ materials and weekly announcements. Each Module will also include at least one (1) supplemental reading, video, or other media resource. These will be available to you in Canvas during the week’s Module. All assignments (e.g., quizzes, discussion posts) should be submitted through Canvas (i.e., no paper submissions please!). We will be talking more about the structure of the course during the first week and over the course as needed.

Course Requirements
1. *Chapter quizzes (20% of total grade) (140 points possible)*
   Eight (8) book chapter quizzes are due over the course. Each quiz includes either 10 questions (i.e., if one chapter) or 20 questions (i.e., if two chapters). Questions are multiple choice, true/false, and/or fill-in-the-blank and cover relevant book chapter material over the week (e.g., concepts, terms). Quizzes have one attempt only, have a 45- or 90-minute time limit (i.e., if 10 or 20 questions), are open-book, and are due on Sunday by Midnight before the start of the next week. Quizzes are available in Canvas (with instructions) and should be submitted through Canvas. See the course outline for a schedule of quizzes with due dates. Due dates for quizzes are also posted to Canvas within the weekly Modules. *I will automatically award five
(5) bonus points to everyone’s final quiz grade at the end of the course. No late quizzes will be accepted for credit without prior approval.

2. Weekly paragraph summaries (20% of total grade) (30 points possible)
   Thirteen (13) weekly paragraph summaries are due over the course. Weekly paragraph summaries should address either a) one topic that you found interesting from the textbook chapter during the week or b) a summary of the supplemental article and/or media resource provided during the week. Weekly paragraph summaries should be at least five (5) well-developed and clear sentences that address the topic and highlight major concepts, theories, and/or statistics. Make sure to cite your sources in your summaries. “Excellent” paragraph summaries are worth 3 points. “Good” summaries are worth 2 points. “Poor” summaries are worth 1 point. No submission is worth 0 points. Please see the grading rubric posted to Canvas outlining expectations for weekly paragraph summaries. I will drop three (3) of your lowest paragraph summary scores from the final grade, so you are able to miss three weekly summaries without penalty.

3. Course participation (30% of total grade) (70 points possible)
   Participation is divided into three components: a) course surveys, b) weekly discussion board posts, and c) short “literature dig” assignments.
   a. Course surveys: Two (2) course surveys are scheduled (i.e., introduction survey, midterm survey). You will automatically receive ten (10) points for your completed survey. (Note: there may be additional surveys provided over the course for bonus credit). No late survey will be accepted for credit without prior approval.
   b. Weekly discussion posts: During the course there will be small discussion groups consisting of 4 to 6 peers that are designed to discuss course topics, assignments, or “life in general”. You can also use these boards to simply check-in with others and say “hello”. There are 14 weeks available for discussion board posting. Making a discussion post during the week is worth 1 point, for a total of up to 10 points available. In other words, you can miss up to four (4) weeks of discussion posts without penalty.
   c. Literature digs: Four (4) “literature digs” are due over the course. The objective of the “literature dig” is to practice searching for and citing peer-reviewed research related to crime, criminology, or criminal justice using UNL Libraries. Short (i.e., two paragraph) summaries are due with each “dig” that include a) a citation of the article using ASA or APA references formatting (see https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/soci/citinginsoci for a link to ASA and APA citation manuals), b) a one paragraph summary of the article (i.e., highlighting major points), and c) a one paragraph reflection on how the article links to class material (e.g., book chapters, supplemental articles, media resources). A completed “dig” submission is thus about one double-spaced page (i.e., with 1 inch margins and 12 point font). Prompts and instructions for each dig will be provided in their respective Modules. Literature digs will be submitted with a small group of other students in order to share the results of your dig with each other. Peer-reviewed resources can be accessed through UNL Libraries through databases such as JSTOR, EBSCO-host, or Google Scholar. Try to use Sociology journals as much as possible. Digs that do not meet these expectations may be penalized. Each dig is worth 10 points for a total of 40 points.

4. Powerpoint poster project (30% of total grade) (100 points total possible)
   A final powerpoint poster project is due at the end of the course. This poster should address a topic related to crime, criminology, or criminal justice broadly speaking. The project will be due in three (3) installments, and feedback will be provided with each submission. Projects 1 and 2 are worth 25 points each. Project 3 (i.e., the final project) is worth 50 points. My hope is that these projects will encourage your own exploration of topics that interest you in the broad areas of crime and criminal justice, engage your creativity, and leave you with a deliverable that might be valuable in the future (e.g., poster presentation for conference). More detailed instructions on the powerpoint poster projects will be provided later in the course.

**Grading overview**
1. Quizzes (x8) = 10 or 20 points each (140 points possible) (adding +5 bonus to final grade; weight 20%)
2. Paragraph summaries (x12) = 3 points each (30 points possible) (dropping 2 lowest scores; weight 20%)
3. Course participation (30% total grade)
   a. Course surveys (x2) = 10 points each (20 points possible) (weight 5%)
3b. Discussion posts (x14) = 1 point each (10 points possible) (dropping 4 lowest scores; weight 5%)
3c. Literature digs (x4) = 10 points each (40 points possible) (weight 20%)
4. Powerpoint poster projects (x3) = Projects 1 and 2 (25 points each), Project 3 (50 points) (100 points possible) (weight 30%)

See the course outline below for a detailed overview of due dates for all course requirements

**Final grades are weighted as above and assigned as follows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grades</th>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>0-59</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>97-93</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>59</td>
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Final grades are rounded up to the nearest whole number. In other words, an 82.1% and 82.9% are both equal to an 83% or B for the course.

Students can choose to take the course as pass/no pass (i.e., P/NP). If taking this option, the student must earn a C or better grade to earn the “pass”. No incompletes will be given for the course without approval.

**Late work Policy**
With the exception of quizzes and surveys, late work will be accepted up to one week after the initial due date. Every day late will result in a penalty of 10% with a maximum penalty of 30%. If you are aware that you may need to submit an assignment after the posted due date, please let me know and we can work out a solution.

### Course Policies

**Academic Integrity:**
Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an academic institution. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. The University’s [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.unl.edu/studentconduct) addresses academic dishonesty. Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and are granted due process and the right to appeal any decision.

**Commitment to Students with Disabilities:**
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options privately. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible for services and register with their office, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so they can be implemented in a timely manner. SSD contact information: 117 Louise Pound Hall; 402-472-3787.

**Counseling and Psychological Services**
UNL offers a variety of options to students to aid them in dealing with stress and adversity. [Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](https://www.unl.edu/counselingpsychologicalservices) is a multidisciplinary team of psychologists and counselors that works collaboratively with Nebraska students to help them explore their feelings and thoughts and learn helpful ways to improve their mental, psychological and emotional well-being when issues arise. CAPS can be reached by calling 402-472-7450. [Big Red Resilience & Well-Being](https://www.unl.edu/bigredresilience) provides one-on-one well-being coaching to any student who wants to enhance their well-being. Trained well-being coaches help students create and be grateful for positive experiences, practice resilience and self-compassion, and find support as they need it. BRRWB can be reached by calling 402-472-8770.

**Inclusive and Positive Environment:**
I intend to foster a learning environment in which everyone can feel open to share their ideas and participate fully in class. I need your help to do it! The University of Nebraska-Lincoln honors and respects the dignity and differences among all students, staff, faculty, and members of the community at large. As such, discriminating,
threatening, or harmful behavior is not tolerated. We as a University community have the personal and social responsibility to understand (i.e., reflect) and abide by the terms set forth by University equity policies. For more information, visit www.unl.edu/equity. Contact the Sociology department chair, Dr. Jolene Smyth, at jsmyth2@unl.edu or the Dean of Students at 402-472-2021 if you have any concerns regarding this course.

**Technology Issues:**
If you are experiencing a problem with Canvas (e.g., accessing materials, uploading assignments), or with Zoom (e.g., not being able to connect), please let me know as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last minute if you have been having difficulty for some time! Again, please let me know as soon as possible! For any technical or computing questions, you can also contact the UNL Help Desk (http://www.unl.edu/helpdesk).

**Other information**

*Important Fall 2021 academic calendar dates*

- Aug 30: Last day to drop a course for 100% refund
- Sep 3: Last day to drop a course for 75% refund (after this date, dropped courses will be marked with a “W” (i.e., withdraw) on your transcript)
- Oct 15: Last day to change to/from “pass/no pass” (i.e., P/NP) grading option
- Nov 12: Last day to withdraw from a course
Welcome to SOCI209: Sociology of Crime

**Course Outline**
1. Note that I reserve the right to modify the syllabus to meet the needs of the course.
2. Note that all course assignments are due on Sunday before the next week by Midnight. You are encouraged to submit your assignments before Sunday!

*Part 1: Introduction*

**Week 1 Aug 23-Aug 29** - Chapter 1: Crime and Criminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 1</td>
<td>FBI Crime Data Explorer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>City of Lincoln Crime Analysis website</td>
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**Due Sunday Aug 29**

Introduction Survey

Weekly discussion post

**Week 2 (Aug 30-Sep 5)** - Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 2</td>
<td>FBI Crime Data Explorer</td>
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<td>City of Lincoln Crime Analysis website</td>
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<td>United Nations 2020 COVID-19 Crime Brief</td>
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<td>PBS 2020: Murder on the rise in the U.S.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Due Sunday Sep 5**

Quiz: Chapter 1 and 2

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

**Week 3 (Sep 6-Sep 12)** - Chapter 3: Victims and Victimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 3</td>
<td>Pemberton et al. 2019 “Narrative victimology”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lee 2018 “Explaining our fear of crime”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Living Well 2021 “Confronting vicarious trauma”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Due Sunday Sep 12**

Chapter 3 quiz

Literature dig #1

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

*Part 2: Theories of Crime*

**Week 4 (Sep 13 – Sep 19)** - Chapter 4: Rational Choice Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 4</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</table>

**Due Sunday Sep 19**

Poster project 1

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

**Week 5 (Sep 20-Sep 26)** - Chapter 5: Trait Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 5</td>
<td>Columbia Dart Center: Mental Illness and Guns</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Due Sunday Sep 26**

Chapter 4 and 5 quiz

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

**Week 6 (Sep 27-Oct 3)** - Chapter 6: Social Structure Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 6</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</table>

**Due Sunday Oct 3**

Literature dig #2

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

**Week 7 (Oct 4-Oct 10)** - Chapter 7: Social Process Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 7</td>
<td>Crime Watch: The Affluenza Teen</td>
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</table>

**Due Sunday Oct 10**

Chapter 6 and 7 quiz

Paragraph summary

Weekly discussion post

**Week 8 (Oct 11-Oct 17)** - Chapter 8: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Supplemental materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siegel Chapter 8</td>
<td>Spiritual Roots of Restorative Justice</td>
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**Due Sunday Oct 17**

Poster project 2
### Week 9 (Oct 18-Oct 24) - Chapter 9: Developmental Theories: Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Oct 24**  
---|---|---  
Module 9 | Siegel Chapter 9 |  

*Part 3: Crime in Context*

### Week 10 (Oct 25-Oct 31) - Chapter 10: Violent Crime
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Oct 31**  
---|---|---  
Module 10 | Siegel Chapter 10 | Echoes of Columbine, 98 Seconds, Once Upon a Crime: U.S. Police Brutality  

### Week 11 (Nov 1-Nov 7) - Chapter 11: Political Crime and Terrorism
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Nov 7**  
---|---|---  
Module 11 | Siegel Chapter 11 | PBS Frontline: New American Nazis, Capitol insurrection  

### Week 12 (Nov 8- Nov 14) – Chapter 12: Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar, and Green-Collar
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Nov 14**  
---|---|---  
Module 12 | Siegel Chapter 12 |  

### Week 13 (Nov 15-Nov 21) - Chapter 13: Public Order Crimes
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Nov 21**  
---|---|---  
Module 13 | Siegel Chapter 13 |  

### Week 14 (Nov 22-Nov 28) – Work week/Thanksgiving vacation
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Nov 28**  
---|---|---  
None |  |  

### Week 15 (Nov 29-Dec 5) – Chapter 14: Crimes of the New Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Dec 5**  
---|---|---  
Module 14 | Siegel Chapter 14 | Cyberbullying  

### Week 16 (Dec 6-Dec 12) – Final Poster Project
**Readings** | **Supplemental materials** | **Due Sunday Dec 12**  
---|---|---  
None |  | Final Poster Project