WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Criminological Theory
COURSE NUMBER: MAJ 6600

I. RATIONALE:

Theory is a fundamental aspect of human life in which people engage on a regular basis. It is an integral component of academic inquiry and the foundation of the academic discipline. The graduate study of criminal justice must therefore begin with a survey of the leading theorists in the field and a review of both the classic and modern approaches to the analysis of crime and the causes of crime.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Students will recognize the relationships between the theoretical and practical approaches to the study of criminal justice that are associated with the explanations of crime and criminal behavior.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1. Examine and discuss how theory is used in everyday life to make our lives safer, simpler and less uncertain.
A-2. Analyze and discuss how criminal justice practitioners apply theory to operational issues on a regular basis.
A-3. Discuss how an understanding of theoretical paradigms leads to the new ideas in criminal justice agencies.
A-4. List the ways in which inductive and deductive reasoning is used in investigative work.
A-5. Assess how the relationship of theoretical explanation of crime can make a fit with observed criminal behavior.

GOAL B: Students will exercise critical thinking strategies including reasoning, problem solving, analysis and evaluation, and then apply them to criminal justice issues.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1. Review major criminal case studies and apply theories of crime as an explanation of the criminal activities.
B-2. Evaluate the application of selected theories to specific types of crimes.
B-3. Critically review and evaluate criminal justice crime issues from the perspective of selected criminological theories.

Syllabus is sole property of Wilmington University
IDEA OBJECTIVES: E = 1, 2  I = 11

B-4. Recognize how certain criminological theories attempt to address crime issues.

GOAL C: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the variety of criminological theories that are available to explain crime and criminal behavior in a manner that responds to active involvement as a scholarly practitioner.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1. Analyze and discuss the classical theories of crime.
C-2. Analyze and discuss the positivist theories of crime.
C-3. Analyze and discuss the sociological theories of crime.
C-4. Analyze and discuss the contemporary theories of crime.
C-5. Identify and critique the theorists who proposed the various theories of crime.
C-6. Compare and contrast the differences among the theoretical explanations.
C-7. Incorporate the various theorists and theoretical principles in their discussions of crime and criminal behavior.

GOAL D: Foster an environment that encourages students to actively engage in research and critically evaluate, synthesize, and analyze data that is necessary in the decision making process.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

D-1. Search electronic databases to evaluate current research in the area of theories of crime.
D-2. Search electronic databases to analyze current measurements of crime.
D-3. Construct definitive statements on the causes of crime based upon the results of active searches of statistical data.
D-4. Discuss the importance of the role that the results of researched data play in the decision making process of criminal justice agencies.

GOAL E: Students will demonstrate advanced written and oral communication skills.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

E-1 Utilize professional writing skills to analyze and cite appropriate sources (e.g. APA format) to express and convey empirical research.
E-2 Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.
E-3 Organize and develop a team project.