

# Sociology and Criminal Justice

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Willie J. Edwards (Department Head)

Location: Ferguson Social Sciences Building #210, 903-886-5332

Sociology and Criminal Justice Web Site (<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/sociologyCriminalJustice/default.aspx>)

Dr. Julia Meszaros- Sociology Graduate Coordinator

Dr. James "Alex" Purdon - MSAC Coordinator

The mission of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is to provide quality learning experiences to equip students with social, intellectual, leadership and critical thinking skills, preparing them for a global and diverse society.

In addition to the major objective of contributing to the development of an educated person, some of the specific departmental objectives are as follows:

1. prepare students for teaching roles at all educational levels;
2. develop students' skills and knowledge that will enable them to conduct and interpret empirical research;
3. prepare students for professional careers in the fields of sociology and criminal justice;
4. prepare students for PhD programs in sociology and criminology;
5. develop programs designed to provide community services, extending from the local to regional and national levels;
6. provide curriculum support to other departments and university programs.

## Admission

### Sociology

Admission to a graduate program is granted by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the department. Applicants must meet the following requirements for admission in addition to meeting the general university requirements in Sociology.

Students entering the graduate program must satisfy any deficiencies in statistical analysis by appropriate course substitution (determined by the department) or by passing a competency examination prior to enrollment in Sociology 576, Data Analysis in Social Research.

- Sociology Admission Requirements (<https://www.tamuc.edu/programs/sociology-ms/#tamuc-section-144019>)

### Applied Criminology

Admission to a graduate program is granted by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the department. Applicants must meet the following requirements for admission in addition to meeting the general university requirements in Applied Criminology.

- Applied Criminology Admission Requirements (<https://www.tamuc.edu/programs/applied-criminology-ms/#tamuc-section-76529>)

Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam is required of all students.

**Note:** Individual departments may reserve the right to dismiss from their programs students who, in their judgment, would not meet the professional expectations of the field for which they are training.

Applied Criminology MS (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/applied-criminology-ms/>)

Sociology MS (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/sociology-ms/>)

Sociology Minor (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/sociology-minor/>)

Criminal Justice Management Graduate Certificate (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-management-graduate-certificate/>)

Criminal Justice Studies Graduate Certificate (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-studies-graduate-certificate/>)

Homeland Security Graduate Certificate (<https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/grad/colleges-and-departments/humanities-social-sciences-arts/sociology-criminal-justice/homeland-security-graduate-certificate/>)

**CJ 501 - Sem in Police and Law Enf**

Hours: 3

Seminar in Policing and Law Enforcement This course is an advanced approach to policing and law enforcement. The focus of the class will be on the operations and functioning of policing and law enforcement departments at the local, state and federal levels. The course will examine related areas such as personnel, practices, procedures and issues in policing and law enforcement. This course will investigate additional areas such as use of technology in policing, police subculture and community policing.

**CJ 505 - Terrorism**

Hours: 3

Terrorism - Three semester hours This course will provide a theoretical and empirical explanation of terrorism. It will identify various forms and typologies of terrorist activities, their consequences and preventive measures, particularly those that are relevant to the criminal justice system in the United States.

**CJ 514 - Family Violence**

Hours: 3

Family Violence. Three semester hours. (Same as SOC 514) A thorough and critical examination of family violence from a sociological perspective. Topics include the meaning, nature, and types of family violence; biological, psychological, anthropological, and sociological theories which attempt to explain hostility, aggression, and violence among intimate people; the philosophy of non-violence; the consequences of violence; and preventive measures and strategies for dealing with violence in the family. Although the course focuses on the American family, illustrations of family violence from other cultures are provided.

**CJ 515 - Homeland Security**

Hours: 3

Homeland Security - An introduction to various aspects of terrorism and homeland security as both affect the United States today. Much of the focus will be the problems and challenges stemming from 9/11 that create today's world situation. To understand what is going on currently we will examine the historical context of terrorism, national security, emergency management and civil liberties.

**CJ 516 - Counterintelligence**

Hours: 3

This course will introduce the students to the concept of counterintelligence (CI) and its importance in the U.S. today. This course will examine various aspects of CI including what is CI, CI operations (both offensive and defensive), case studies, and CI in the age of the internet.

**CJ 520 - CJ Admin and Mgmt**

Hours: 3

Criminal Justice Administration and Management This course will provide students with a conceptual and theoretical foundation upon which to study criminal justice administration and management through critical evaluation and application of the research literature to present-day criminal justice challenges and concerns.

**CJ 525 - Red Teaming**

Hours: 3

Red teaming is the process of viewing a problem from the perspective of an adversary or competitor in order to serve as a complement to security, vulnerability, risk and strategy assessments. This course will provide students with experience in thinking like an adversary, while also examining the principals, goals, challenges and constraints of red teaming.

**CJ 530 - Seminar in Criminology**

Hours: 3

Seminar in Criminology - Three semester hours This course examines crime and delinquency in America from several theoretical perspectives. The course provides an in-depth investigation into major criminological theories that explain the causation, occurrence and development of criminal behavior. A wide spectrum of criminological theories are introduced, applied and critiqued in this course.

**CJ 531 - Issues in Crim Law and Courts**

Hours: 3

Issues in Criminal Law and Courts - Three semester hours The course will focus on critical thinking related to issues concerning principles of criminal law and court procedures as well as selected practices particularly relevant to the United States. Issues will include: justice for all, freedom and privacy of the individual, cruel and unusual punishment, use of deadly force in law enforcement, trial by jury, election of judges and morality and the law.

**CJ 532 - Juvenile Delinquency**

Hours: 3

The class will consider the subject of juvenile delinquency from various perspectives including psychological, physiological and sociological. Particular attention will be paid to the role of family, the school, and the peer group in promoting delinquency. This course will provide students with the tools to analyze and evaluate juvenile justice policies and programs. The course will explore various topics such as the nature and extent of delinquency, theories of delinquency, research on the causes of delinquency, and strategies for controlling and preventing juvenile delinquency.

**CJ 533 - Gender and Crime**

Hours: 3

This course is designed to explore the important and under-studied intersection between gender/women and crime. We will explore the nature and extent of women as victims, offenders, and workers in the criminal justice system. This course will also allow students to become familiar with criminological theories as they relate to women.

**CJ 534 - Drugs and Society**

Hours: 3

Our focus in the course will be on the social reality of drug use and drug users within contemporary society. It will include a historical analysis of the social construction of drug use, drug users, abuse, and addiction. We will be investigating the complex relationships between individual and group behavior, and social structure. Central concepts such as social learning, labeling, power, and inequality, as well as socio-cultural definitions of drugs, behavior, and the people who use drugs will be the tools of our analysis. Special attention will be given to the complex legal history surrounding drug use, the link between drugs and crime, the impact of the medicalization of human behavior, and varying perspectives on doing something about drugs.

**CJ 565 - Offender Reentry**

Hours: 3

Offender Reentry - Three semester hours Offender reentry is the process of transition of offenders from prisons/jail to the community. The class will provide students with an in-depth analysis of issues impacting offender reentry, including employment, access to various forms of treatment, family reunification, housing issues as well as barriers and impediments to offender reentry.

**CJ 568 - Seminar in Corrections**

Hours: 3

Seminar in Corrections. Three semester hours. A study of popular issues in community-based and institutional corrections with emphasis on organizational goal setting and achievement, program evaluation, client supervision, agency administration, and problem solving. An analysis of current research and its applicability to the criminal justice system and society will be performed.

**CJ 575 - Research Methods in CJ**

Hours: 3

This course will provide students with the fundamentals of conducting and evaluating research in criminal justice. Topics include: defining research problems, ethics in criminal justice research, selecting and measuring variables, stating hypotheses, sampling, and developing experimental research design.

**CJ 576 - Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Hours: 3

This course continues students' exploration of research in criminal justice. In this course, students are exposed to different methods of data collection and the principles of data analysis. Emphasis will also be placed on teaching students how to interpret data as presented in published reports, articles, and books. Prerequisites: CJ 575.

**CJ 577 - CJ Planning and Eval**

Hours: 3

Criminal Justice Planning and Evaluation - Three semester hours The class will acquaint students with scientific techniques used for analyzing criminal justice problems and developing solutions. This course will provide students with the tools to analyze and evaluate criminal justice policies and programs.

**CJ 583 - Criminal Justice Policy**

Hours: 3

Criminal Justice Policy - Three semester hours This course will evaluate various policy dimensions of crime and criminal justice. Students will learn the process through which policy is made, will critically evaluate current criminal justice policies and will study the impact of policy decisions on criminal justice practice.

**CJ 589 - Independent Studies**

Hours: 1-4

Independent Study - Hours: One to four Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. Prerequisites Consent of department head. Note May be repeated when the topic varies.

**CJ 595 - Research Literature and Techniques**

Hours: 3

Students will write a formal research paper designed to broaden students' perspectives and to provide an opportunity for the integration of course concepts. Emphasis will be placed on methods of interpretation, writing, and critical thinking related to criminal justice topics/issues. Prerequisites: CJ 575 and CJ 576 include permission of Department Head/Director/Advisor of Masters Program.

**CJ 597 - Special Topics**

Hours: 1-4

Hours: One to four - Organized class Note May be graded on a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) basis. May be repeated when topics vary

**SOC 500 - Orientation**

Hours: 0

This course provides an orientation to the university and to the online degree program. It will consist of a series of tutorials and other pertinent information that will prove invaluable for students as they navigate the graduate sociology online program.

**SOC 502 - Comparative Sociology**

Hours: 3

An overview of social, cultural, political, economic and other institutional differences in two or more settings. This seminar introduces students to cross-national differences through a study abroad experience. Prerequisites: None.

**SOC 504 - Stu Contemporary Sociolog**

Hours: 3

Studies in Contemporary Sociology. Three semester hours. An in-depth study of contemporary theoretical and methodological issues in an area of study within sociology. Topics to be covered may include: suicide terrorism; teaching sociology; applied sociology; qualitative methodology; and the state of sociology. May be repeated when topics vary.

**SOC 512 - Soc Perspcts Marr/Family**

Hours: 3

Sociological Perspectives on Marriage and the Family. Three semester hours. A critical sociological analysis of the origin, structure, and functioning of the institutions of marriage and family in human society. Four theoretical perspectives in sociology (namely: functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory and symbolic interactionism) will be employed for discussing and evaluating various problems and issues in marriage and family, particularly in the contemporary American society.

**SOC 514 - Family Violence**

Hours: 3

A thorough and critical examination of family violence from a sociological perspective. Topics include the meaning, nature, and types of family violence; biological, psychological, anthropological, and sociological theories which attempt to explain hostility, aggression, and violence among intimate people; the philosophy of non-violence; the consequences of violence; and preventive measures and strategies for dealing with violence in the family. Although the course focuses on the American family, illustrations of family violence from other cultures are provided.

**SOC 515 - Medical Sociology**

Hours: 3

Medical Sociology. Three semester hours. This course will examine research and theory on the changing concepts of health, illness and medical practice as well as place these understandings in socio-historical and comparative context. Topics will include: social epidemiology, the social construction of health/illness, the experience of illness, health professions, alternative medicine and the health care system. Emphasis on how social factors such as gender, race, social class and sexual preference affect both illness and health care. The course will be applicable for students in sociology, criminal justice, social work, and psychology. This course contributes 3 credit hours toward students' fulfillment of degree requirements. There is no lab or prerequisite for this course.

**SOC 516 - Sociology of Education**

Hours: 0-3

Sociology of Education. Three semester hours. A study of the structure of the social organization of the school and the social and cultural forces which influence the school and those who teach and learn in it. The classroom is analyzed as a social system with special emphasis on the role of teachers. The relationships of education to other social institutions such as the family, economy and political system are examined.

**SOC 517 - Teaching Sociology and Criminal Justice**

Hours: 3

This course will assist students in developing and formulating ideas, gaining practice and critically assessing information concerning community college and university teaching. In addition to the coverage of teaching literature within the field of sociology and criminal justice, the course will emphasize the development of teaching pedagogy, syllabus and test construction, teaching philosophy, and allow the student to obtain "hands-on" experience in the college classroom.

**SOC 518 - Thesis**

Hours: 3-6

The student will work on the thesis under the supervision of an advisory committee. Major work will include the development of a prospectus, collection, analysis and interpretation of data and the final writing of the thesis. No credit will be given until the thesis is completed and approved. Graded on a (S) satisfactory or (U) unsatisfactory basis. Prerequisites: Sociology 574, 575, and 576 or permission of Department Head.

**SOC 535 - Readings in Sociology**

Hours: 3

Readings in Sociology. Three semester hours. This graduate seminar explores advanced sociological principles through the use of selected classic and contemporary readings. Students will be expected to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of sociological materials and to analyze and discuss them from divergent theoretical perspectives.

**SOC 553 - Race and Ethnic Diversity**

Hours: 3

An examination of cultural diversity in American life, focusing particularly on Black Americans, Mexican Americans, Native American Indians, and Anglo Americans. Describes dynamics of intergroup relations; the impact of ethnicity and social class on cultural patterns; and the causes and effects of racism and prejudice. Special emphasis is placed on problems and strengths of multicultural education.

**SOC 574 - Sociological Theory**

Hours: 3

This course focuses on the classical foundation of sociology and its contemporary extensions. The course includes an in-depth reading of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, and DuBois as well as works representative of Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Postmodernism, Critical Theory, and other major strands of sociological thought.

**SOC 575 - Advanced Research Methods**

Hours: 3

The coverage of the basic techniques and procedures used in social research process. Special attention given to defining research problems, selecting and measuring variables, stating hypotheses, developing sampling designs and gathering data. Students are exposed to methodological designs such as experimentation, observation, content analysis, evaluation research and survey research.

**SOC 576 - Data Analysis in Social Research**

Hours: 3

Students are exposed to basic techniques of data analysis in social research, particularly by use of computers. Special attention is given to tabulation, statistical testing, and interpretation of data. Analysis of variance, multiple regression, dummy variable regression, path analysis and related topics will be covered with computer application for problem solving. This course is an approved Level II doctoral research tools course.

**SOC 577 - Qualitative Methodology**

Hours: 3

This course provides an introduction to the use of qualitative methods such as ethnographic research, focus groups, historical/comparative research, content analysis and grounded theory. In addition to addressing philosophical foundations, this course provides hands-on practice in the common strategies to access and collect data (e.g. observation, interviewing, archival data); methods of organizing and representing different forms/genres of data for analysis (e.g. transcripts, electronic texts, images, hand-written notes); and strategies to analyze and represent your analyses for academic audiences.

**SOC 589 - Independent Study**

Hours: 1-4

Independent Study. One to four semester hours. Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated when the topic varies. Prerequisite: Consent of Department Head.

**SOC 595 - Research Literature and Techniques**

Hours: 3

Students will write a formal research report based upon primary or secondary data. Emphasis will be given to methods of interpretation and writing a formal paper in sociology. Prerequisites: SOC 574, 575 and 576 or permission of the Department Head.

**SOC 597 - Special Topics**

Hours: 3

Organized class. May be repeated when topics vary.