SOCI 434 – Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control

Instructor: Dr. Tamara Humphrey

Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines the development of crime over the life course. We will consider the factors that impact offending over the life span and consider such questions as: Why do people begin committing crimes? Can we predict with any certainty who will start offending and when? Can we distinguish between offenders who commit violent offenses and those who commit non-violent crimes? Do individuals ever stop committing crimes? Why might lifelong “criminals” stop offending? These questions will be examined using major theoretical perspectives in criminology such as developmental and life course theories of crime, low self-control theory, general strain theory as well as criminal justice system responses to offending. Key pieces of empirical research will also be explored.

This course will provide a strong theoretical backing in criminology and centres on key debates within the field. It will show how the field of developmental and life course criminology has progressed both theoretically and empirically over the last several decades. By the end of the course, students will gain an understanding of the development of crime over the life span. Students will also be able to critically assess theoretical arguments and illustrate whether empirical research supports key claims that have been made within the field of criminology.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:
Minimum third-year standing; and declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or permission of the Department.
Recommended: SOCI 202, and SOCI 206 and/or SOCI 307 recommended prior to SOCI 434

Required Resources May Include: