

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CRIMINOLOGY AND DEVIANCE

Department of Sociology  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

The purpose of the Graduate Program in Criminology and Deviance is to prepare students for professional employment in universities or agencies at the local, state, or federal levels of government. Reaching this goal requires a program with both breadth and depth, and one that emphasizes productive scholarship. This last requirement is facilitated by a maximum degree of student involvement in the research activities of the faculty members responsible for this program.

### Program Requirements

Students choosing a major or minor in this program are responsible for meeting the general degree requirements described in the Graduate Catalog and those set forth in the Department of Sociology's Graduate Student Handbook. In addition, students in the Graduate Program in Criminology and Deviance must satisfy the following specific requirements:

(1) M.A. students majoring in Criminology/Deviance must satisfactorily complete two core courses:

- Sociology 644 – Deviant Behavior; and
- Sociology 646 – Theories of Criminality

and one of the following:

- Sociology 645 – Juvenile Delinquency
- Sociology 647 -- Sociology of Mental Illness
- Sociology 680 -- Topics in Sociology (on a topic related to criminology and deviance)
- Sociology 741 – Corrections
- Sociology 743 -- Sociology of Violence
- Sociology 745 – Sociology of Law

(2) Ph.D. students minoring in Criminology/Deviance must satisfactorily complete two core courses:

- Sociology 644 – Deviant Behavior; and
- Sociology 646 – Theories of Criminality

and two of the following:

- Sociology 645 – Juvenile Delinquency
- Sociology 647 -- Sociology of Mental Illness
- Sociology 680 -- Topics in Sociology (on a topic related to criminology and deviance)
- Sociology 741 – Corrections

- Sociology 743 -- Sociology of Violence
  - Sociology 745 – Sociology of Law
- (3) Ph.D. students majoring in Criminology/Deviance must satisfactorily complete two core courses:
- Sociology 644 – Deviant Behavior; and
  - Sociology 646 – Theories of Criminality
- and three of the following:
- Sociology 645 – Juvenile Delinquency
  - Sociology 647 -- Sociology of Mental Illness
  - Sociology 680 -- Topics in Sociology (on a topic related to criminology and deviance)
  - Sociology 741 – Corrections
  - Sociology 743 -- Sociology of Violence
  - Sociology 745 – Sociology of Law

Exceptions to these requirements will be made only when a course is not taught during a student's enrollment in the program, or if unavoidable scheduling conflicts preclude a student from taking a course. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Graduate Committee, which will consult with the faculty members responsible for the program. If a request is approved by a majority of those faculty members, an appropriate substitute course within the program may be used to satisfy the requirement.

Course Descriptions:

SOC 644. Deviant Behavior (3). A general introduction to the field of criminology/deviance. Topics include an overview of major theories of deviant behavior, a primary focus on major types of deviance, and societal efforts to define and control deviant behavior.

SOC 645. Juvenile Delinquency (3). A comprehensive review and evaluation of major theories, methods and current research in the field of juvenile delinquency. Topics include the juvenile justice system, the extent and nature of delinquent behavior, developmental processes in adolescence, and demographic correlates of delinquency.

SOC 646. Theories of Criminality (3). A comprehensive review and evaluation of major theories, methods, and current research in crime and criminality. Topics include classical and contemporary criminal theories, empirical evaluations of theories, and methodological and policy issues involved in the study of crime.

SOC 647. Sociology of Mental Illness (3). The social, economic, and political forces that change the definition of and response to mental illness across cultures and time.

SOC 680. Topics in Sociology. (3) Systematic study of selected topics in several areas in sociology.

SOC 741. Corrections (3). The history, philosophy, and consequences of punishment; the formal and informal structures of correctional organizations; and the adaptations of offenders and officials to the correctional enterprise.

SOC 743. Sociology of Violence (3). A comprehensive evaluation of theory, research and policy on serious interpersonal violence. Topics include crime trends, demographic variation in victimization and offending and the consequences and societal reactions to violence.

SOC 745. Sociology of Law (3). Empirical and theoretical analysis of models of law, the creation and application of both civil and criminal law, the behavior of legal actors, the use of law to solve social problems, and the use of law across cultures.

(3) Comprehensive Examinations

(a) M.A. Students: Thesis Option (Plan I)

M.A. students who write a thesis are not required to take comprehensive examinations in criminology and deviance.

(b) M.A. Students: Non-Thesis Option (Plan II)

M.A. students who select the non-thesis option will take a four-hour general examination on the basic theoretical models in criminology and deviant behavior, contemporary research findings, and the major issues confronting the field. Examinations must be taken during the examination periods scheduled by the Department of Sociology each year. Non-thesis students also are required to take two-hour examinations in Sociological Theory and in Methods/Statistics.

(c) Ph.D. Students: Minor Area of Concentration

No minor area comprehensive examination is required.

(d) Ph.D. Students: Major Area of Concentration

Doctoral students majoring in criminology and deviance must satisfactorily complete an eight-hour written examination. The exam consists of two four-hour sections. The first section is similar to the general examination required for non-thesis M.A. students; however, for Ph.D. students the quality of answers must exceed the minimum expectations for M.A. students. At the student's option the second four-hour section will either: (a) have the same broad scope as the first section, covering the entire field of criminology and deviant behavior, or (b) focus on a subfield appropriate to the student's interests. While this portion of the examination will be adjusted to specific interests, overly narrow choices will not be allowed. Examples of acceptable interests include: sociology of law, sociology of corrections, juvenile delinquency, and criminological theory. Examples of overly narrow areas include sexual deviance, subcultural theories of crime and delinquency, alcoholism, and Marxian perspectives on crime.

These course and examination requirements, in conjunction with requirements specified by the Graduate College and the Department of Sociology, are the minimal formal expectations. Beyond these, students are expected to construct a study plan to maximize the likelihood of becoming productive professionals in a competitive discipline. To facilitate this goal, faculty members responsible for the Graduate Program in Criminology and Deviance offer numerous topical seminars. Examples of topical seminars include Contemporary Delinquency Research, Sociology of Drug and Alcohol Use, and Sentencing. In addition, students are encouraged to pursue their interests by enrolling in Sociology 685 and 785, Readings in Sociology. This is an excellent way to explore topics not covered in regular seminars (for example, possible thesis or dissertation problems and work on papers intended for presentation at professional meetings). Some limitations on independent study courses should be kept in mind, however. First, these courses may not substitute for the required core courses. Second, they may not be taken in areas covered by regularly scheduled seminars.

Finally, only a limited number of credit hours of independent study work can apply to the minimum degree requirements. Students should consult the Department of Sociology's Graduate Student Handbook for specific information on this limitation.

### Program Planning

It is imperative that students in this program plan their schedules as far in advance as possible. Among other things, they must take departmental and Graduate College requirements into account. For example, the language requirement must be fulfilled before a doctoral student is permitted to take a major area examination within the department. Also, an M.A. or Ph.D. student may not take a major area comprehensive examination, defend a thesis or dissertation proposal, or defend a thesis or dissertation until he or she has passed the required courses in the core curriculum. Beyond that, the student should note carefully the following considerations.

First, thesis and dissertation students should identify their research topics at the earliest possible date. It is strongly recommended that thesis topics be identified by the end of the second semester of M.A. work and proposals be defended during the third semester of full-time course work. Dissertation topics should be identified by the end of the third semester of doctoral studies and proposals be defended during the fifth semester of full-time course work. Second, thesis and dissertation committees must consist of at least two faculty members in the criminology and deviance program. Such committees should be selected during consultation with one's major advisor.

Third, doctoral students majoring in this program are expected to complete their written examinations during the fourth or fifth semester of full-time course work.

Finally, students should assume that all written examinations will cover the amount and quality of material appropriate for their respective levels of study. Thus, the expectations for doctoral students majoring in criminology and deviance are significantly higher than those for M.A. students majoring in the area. Thus, while the general examination required of M.A., and Ph.D. majors will normally be similar, grading standards will differ according to each student's status in the program.

### Summary

The Graduate Program in Criminology and Deviance has two important goals. First, its core curriculum requirements and examination policies are designed to insure that the student will acquire a thorough knowledge of the major issues and theories of criminology and deviance. Second, its diversified seminar offerings and flexible courses of independent study are designed to encourage the student to develop several areas of expertise within criminology or the sociology of deviance. Attaining both goals is essential for becoming a productive professional.

CRIMINOLOGY AND DEVIANCE FACULTY

Stephen A. Cernkovich, Professor  
Ph.D., 1975--Southern Illinois University  
Juvenile Delinquency; Criminology; Measurement

Jorge Chavez, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., 2006--University at Albany SUNY  
Criminology; Violent Behavior; Crime Across the Life Course; Mental Health; Childhood Maltreatment.

Stephen Demuth, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., 2000--Pennsylvania State University  
Courts and Sentencing; Criminology; Research Methods

Peggy C. Giordano, Distinguished Research Professor  
Ph.D., 1974--University of Minnesota  
Juvenile Delinquency; Criminology; Sociology of Deviance; Adolescence

Joseph E. Jacoby, Professor  
Ph.D., 1976--University of Pennsylvania  
Corrections; Criminology; Mental Illness; Sociology of Deviance; Law

Rekha Mirchandani, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., 1998--University of North Carolina  
Sociological theory; Law and Society; Sex and Gender

Danielle Payne, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., 2007--Ohio State University  
Criminology; Adolescent Risky Behavior; Geography of Crime and Delinquency

Raymond Swisher, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., 1999--University of North Carolina  
Violent Behavior; Incarceration; Family and Life Course; Neighborhood Effects