



**MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)**

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**COURSE OUTLINE FORM**

**1. SCHOOL: ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES      DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**2. COURSE CODE/TITLE: MODERN CRIMINOLOGY THEORY**

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore the major theories and perspectives that have shaped our understanding of crime in the modern era. We will examine the historical development of criminological thought, critically analyze key theories, and discuss their implications for understanding and addressing contemporary criminal behavior.

**4. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- a) Develop a comprehensive understanding of the major theoretical frameworks within modern criminology.
- b) Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theories in explaining various types of crime.
- c) Analyze the relationship between crime, social structures, and individual characteristics.
- d) Examine the role of social inequalities and power dynamics in shaping criminal behavior.
- e) Discuss the ethical and practical implications of different criminological theories for criminal justice policy and practice

**5. LECTURER NAME: MR. KITIYO SIMON TEL. 0740760138**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 23/01/2024**

**6. CLASS REP. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. \_\_\_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Module 1: Introduction to Modern Criminology</b>	
<b>1</b>	Week 1: The history of criminological thought: from classical to postmodern perspectives.
<b>2</b>	Week 2: The nature and measurement of crime: official statistics, victimization surveys, and self-reported crime.
<b>Module 2: Individual-Level Theories</b>	
<b>7</b>	Week 3: Biological and psychological theories: exploring the role of genetics, personality, and mental illness in criminal behavior.
<b>8</b>	Week 4: Rational choice theory: understanding crime as a cost-benefit analysis.
<b>Module 3: Social-Structural Theories</b>	
	Week 5: Strain theory: examining the relationship between social strain and criminal behavior.
	Week 6: Social control theory: analyzing the role of social bonds and social institutions in preventing crime.
	Week 7: Conflict theory: understanding crime as a product of social inequalities and power struggles.
<b>Module 4: Contemporary and Critical Theories</b>	
	Week 8: Feminist criminology: examining the gendered nature of crime and criminal justice.
	Week 9: Critical race theory: analyzing the role of race and ethnicity in shaping criminal behavior and criminal justice responses.
	Week 10: Postmodern criminology: challenging traditional notions of crime and questioning the power structures that define it.
<b>Module 5: Applications and Policy Implications</b>	
	Week 11: Applying criminological theories to real-world problems: crime prevention, rehabilitation, and restorative justice.
	Week 12: The future of criminology: emerging trends and challenges in the field.
<b>FINAL WRAP UP</b>	

**7. ASSESSMENT STRATEGY:** The course will be delivered mainly through lectures. The lectures will include interactive class discussions and group works which will be later complemented with individual presentations on relevant research topics chosen by students and

approved by the lecturer. Relevant handouts will be given to complement the lectures. Tutorial problems will be given out and later solved and discussed in class for student's self-assessment. Take away assignments will assist students to do more individual or group research on topics relevant to the course.

## **8. REFERENCES:**

### **Core Reading Materials**

Mehrajuddin; (1980), Criminal Justice System: Crime, Police and Criminological Theories Correction. The Academy Law Review. Vol. IV Nos. 1 & 2.

Mehrajuddin; (Jan-Mar 1981), Crime and Correctional. Civil and Military Law Journal Vo. 17, No. 1

### **Other Reading Materials**

Coffery; A.R. (1974), Administration of Criminal Justice: A Management's System Appr.

Dwivedi; Jawhar Lal, Evolution of Criminal Justice Administration in India.

Iyer; V.R.K. (1980), Perspective of Criminology: Law and Social Change.

**9. HEAD OF DEPARTMENT-----SIGNATURE:-----**  
**----- DATE:-----**



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2021/ 2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

**DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES**

**COURSE CODE: DCR 107**

**COURSE TITLE: MODERN CRIMINOLOGY THEORY**

**DATE: 17/5/24**

**TIME: 1100-1300HRS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions**

*This paper consists of TWO printed pages. Please turn over*

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (30 MARKS)**

### **QUESTION ONE**

1a) Explain the application of the following terms as used in the modern criminology theories

- i. Crime
- ii. Suitable target
- iii. Motivated offender
- iv. The absence of guardianship
- v. Corporate crime

**(10 Marks)**

b) Discuss the routine activity theory

**(10 Marks)**

c) Briefly explain the causes of increased crime Kenya today.

**(10 Marks)**

### **SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS**

#### **QUESTION TWO**

2a) Explore the role of genetics, personality, and mental illness in criminal behaviour.

**(10 Marks)**

b) Identify the different types of prisons in Kenya.

**(10 Marks)**

#### **QUESTION THREE**

3) Discuss the ethical and practical implications of different criminological theories for criminal justice policy and practice.

**(20 Marks)**

#### **QUESTION FOUR**

4a) Discuss the general strain theory.

**(10 Marks)**

b) Identify the **five** responses to strain according strain theory by Robert Merton 1938.

**(10 Marks)**

#### **QUESTION FIVE**

5a) Analyze the role of race and ethnicity in shaping criminal behavior and criminal justice responses.

**(10 Marks)**

b) what are the emerging trends and challenges in the of criminological theories.

**(10 Marks)**

**END//**

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