



### **Course Description**

#### **CCJ3032 | Crime and the Media | 3.00 credits**

An examination of the inter-relationship among the mass media, crime, and criminal justice. Includes media and the social construction of crime and criminal justice; media effects on attitudes toward crime and justice; and media as a cause of crime.

### **Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will be introduced to the concepts of the social construction of crime and justice via media by:

1. Comparing Stanford Lyman and Thomas Luckman's concept on media's role in the social construction of reality
2. Comparing Stanford Lyman and Marvin Scott's concepts on the sociology of the absurd
3. Describing Stanford Lyman's perspective
4. Reviewing Marvin Scott's sociological views

**Competency 2:** The student will review crime and justice content in the news and entertainment media by:

1. Examining how perpetrators are portrayed in the movies that involve crime
2. Analyzing how victims and witnesses are characterized in the movies that involve crime
3. Discussing how public attitudes toward crime are shaped
4. Assessing society's attitudes towards crime

**Competency 3:** The student will review possible effects news media may have on the processing of criminal cases by:

1. Discussing the high-profile cases
2. Analyzing the media's reporting of high-profile cases
3. Researching the public's attitude toward high-profile cases and criminals

**Competency 4:** The student will analyze the media's influence on the level of violence and crime in society by:

1. Defining media causal mechanism
2. Discussing copycat syndrome
3. Reviewing the media's influence on high-profile cases and its role in preventing or encouraging repeat incidents

**Competency 5:** The student will analyze the media's influence on public attitudes and perceptions of crime and criminality by:

1. Defining crime and criminality
2. Distinguishing between fact and opinion
3. Identifying stereotypes and myths
4. Understanding the development of imagery

**Competency 6:** The student will relate media to criminological theory by:

1. Defining criminological theory
2. Examining genetic explanations resulting in the labeling of criminals
3. Analyzing examples within the film industry
4. Investigating family victimization by the media
5. Analyze psychological theory
6. Reviewing psychological theories
7. Analyzing examples within the film industry
8. Describing the use of popular media as a basis for the defense

**Competency 7:** The student will evaluate the role of the media about social- environmental theories by:

1. Analyzing movies and documentaries
2. Exploring poverty's role in crime
3. Defining "underclass"

**Competency 8:** The student will examine how the criminal justice system is depicted by the media by:

1. Analyzing pre-selected documentaries and docudramas involving crime
2. Analyzing the popularity of the “crime” television shows
3. Comparing dramas to documentaries
4. Debating the interrelationship between the First Amendment and the media in the courtroom

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning