

Faculty	Management and Social Sciences	
Department	Sociology	
Course Title	TRADITIONAL AND FORMAL MECHANISMS OF CRIME CONTROL	
Year of Study	4	
Course Code	CSS 405	
Credit Hours	2	
Contact Hours	30	
Mode of Delivery	Classroom Lectures	
Mode of Assessment		Weight%
Continuous Assessment		30%
Final Examination		70%
Total		100%
Course Lecture/Instructor	Mr. A. A. AJIBADE	
Course Description	This course offers an in-depth exploration of the traditional and informal mechanisms of crime control within Nigerian society. Through the examination of institutions such as kings, leaders, cults, shrines, and oaths, students will gain insights into the historical and cultural methods employed for maintaining social order and addressing criminal behavior. The course aims to foster a nuanced understanding of the interactions between traditional and formal systems of crime control.	
Course Objectives	At the end of this course students should have an in-depth knowledge of the traditional and informal mechanisms of crime control within Nigerian society. Through the examination of institutions such as kings, leaders, cults, shrines, and oaths, students will gain insights into the historical and cultural methods employed for maintaining social order and addressing criminal behavior. The course aims to foster a nuanced understanding of the interactions between traditional and formal systems of crime control.	
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this course students will have an in-depth knowledge of the traditional and informal mechanisms of crime control within Nigerian society. Through the examination of institutions such as kings, leaders, cults, shrines, and oaths, students will gain insights into the historical and cultural methods employed for maintaining social order and addressing criminal behavior. The course aims to foster a nuanced understanding of the interactions between traditional and formal systems of crime control.	
Teaching and Learning	The class will meet for two hours each week. Class time will be used for a combination of lectures and practical sessions	
Detailed Course Content	have an in-depth knowledge of the traditional and informal mechanisms of crime control within Nigerian society. Through the examination of institutions such as kings, leaders, cults, shrines, and oaths, students will gain insights into the historical and cultural methods employed for maintaining social order and addressing criminal behavior. The course aims to foster a nuanced understanding of the interactions between traditional and formal systems of crime control.	
Course Content Sequencing		
Weeks	Detailed Course Outline	Allocated Time
Week 1	Introduction to Traditional and Informal Crime Control Mechanisms Overview of the course objectives, structure, and assessment methods. Discussion on the significance of traditional crime control mechanisms in Nigerian society. Comparison between formal and informal systems of crime control.	2 hours

Week 2	<p>Kings and Traditional Leadership in Crime Control Examination of the role of traditional kings and leaders in maintaining law and order. Analysis of customary law and its enforcement by traditional authorities. Case studies illustrating the authority and limitations of traditional leaders in crime control.</p>	2 hours
Week 3	<p>Cults and Secret Societies as Crime Control Agents Exploration of the historical context and functions of cults and secret societies. Discussion on the dual nature of cults as both crime control mechanisms and potential sources of criminality. Ethical and legal considerations surrounding the activities of cults.</p>	2 hours
Week 4	<p>Shrines, Oracles, and Spiritual Sanctions Study of the use of spiritual beliefs and practices for crime control. Analysis of the role of shrines and oracles in resolving disputes and deterring criminal behavior. Ethical dilemmas and cultural sensitivities associated with spiritual sanctions</p>	2 hours
Week 5	<p>Oaths and Sworn Testimonies Overview of the use of oaths and sworn testimonies in traditional justice systems. Examination of the cultural significance and social implications of oath-taking. Legal implications and challenges in integrating traditional oaths within formal legal proceedings.</p>	2 hours
Week 6	<p>Community Engagement and Restorative Justice Introduction to restorative justice principles within traditional contexts. Analysis of community involvement in resolving conflicts and addressing crime. Comparative assessment of the effectiveness of restorative justice and punitive approaches.</p>	2 hours
Week 7	<p>Customary Dispute Resolution Mechanisms Exploration of customary methods for resolving conflicts and disputes. Case studies illustrating the application of customary dispute resolution mechanisms. Examination of the tensions between traditional and formal legal systems.</p>	2 hours
Week 8	<p>Gender and Traditional Crime Control Discussion on gender dynamics in traditional crime control mechanisms. Analysis of the role of women in maintaining social order and resolving disputes. Evaluation of the challenges and opportunities for gender-sensitive crime control approaches.</p>	2 hours
Week 9	<p>Modern Challenges to Traditional Crime Control Examination of the impact of modernization, urbanization, and globalization on traditional mechanisms. Analysis of conflicts arising from the intersection of traditional and formal justice systems. Strategies for adapting and preserving traditional crime control mechanisms in contemporary society.</p>	2 hours

Week 10	Legal Pluralism and Harmonization Study of legal pluralism and its implications for crime control in Nigeria. Exploration of efforts to harmonize traditional and formal legal systems. Case studies highlighting successful approaches to integrating traditional justice into the formal legal framework.	2 hours
Week 11	Reflective Review and Future Prospects Review of key concepts, theories, and case studies covered throughout the course. Discussion on the potential roles of traditional crime control mechanisms in modern governance. Final reflections on the relevance and challenges of incorporating traditional approaches within a changing society.	2 hours
Week 12		2 hours
Week 13		2 hours
Week 14	Examination	

Recommended Materials

Garland, D. (2001). "The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society". Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Sherman, L. W. (1993). "Defiance, Deterrence, and Irrelevance: A Theory of the Criminal Sanction". *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 30(4), 445-473.

Kelling, G. L., & Wilson, J. Q. (1982). "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety". *Atlantic Monthly*, 249(3), 29-38.

Tonry, M. (2004). "Thinking about Crime: Sense and Sensibility in American Penal Culture". New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Pratt, T. C., & Cullen, F. T. (2000). "The Empirical Status of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime: A Meta-Analysis". *Criminology*, 38(3), 931-964.

Feeley, M. M., & Simon, J. (1992). "The New Penology: Notes on the Emerging Strategy of Corrections and Its Implications". *Criminology*, 30(4), 449-474.

Zimring, F. E. (2011). "The City That Became Safe: New York's Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control". New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Chambliss, W. J. (1967). "A Sociological Analysis of the Law of Vagrancy". *Social Problems*, 14(1), 67-77.

Liska, A. E., & Warner, B. D. (2018). "Why Are the Police in Charge at the Scene? The Determinants of Arrests versus Citations at Traffic Stops". *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 55, 1-11.

Beccaria, C. (1764). "On Crimes and Punishments". Translated by H. Paolucci. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill. (Original work published in 1764).

