

Introduction to Criminal Justice (CJSA 1322)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 lecture hours)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Course Description

History and philosophy of criminal justice and ethical considerations; crime defined; its nature and impact; overview of the criminal justice system; law enforcement; court system; prosecution and defense; trial process; corrections.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Introduction to Criminal Justice* by Robert M Bohm and Keith N. Haley, 6th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers, ISBN 9780073527956
2. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to define and contrast the criminal justice system and its three major components.
2. The student will be able to explain the historical and philosophical foundations of the modern criminal justice system.
3. The student will be able to differentiate between the need to balance the rights of the individual with the interests of society.

Course Outline

- A. Welcome to College:
 1. Introduction of faculty and students
 2. Who am I?
 3. What am I doing here?
- B. LIT
 1. Policies
 2. Academic calendar
 3. Physical facilities
- C. Library Resources
 1. Location
 2. Data Searches
- D. Crime and Justice in the United States
 1. Defining the system
 2. Criminal Justice the Non System
 3. Two Models of Criminal Justice
 - a. The Crime Control Model
 - b. The Due Process Model
- E. Crime and Its Consequences
 1. Definitions of Crime
 2. Elements of Crime
 3. Measurements of Crime
 4. Building a Schedule
- F. Costs of Crime
- G. Explaining Crime
 1. Introduction to Criminological Theory
 2. Explaining Crime
 3. Labeling Theories of Crime
- H. The Rule of Law
 1. Two Types of Law
 - a. Criminal Law
 - b. Civil Law
 2. Creating Criminal Laws in the U.S.
 3. The Rights of the Accused
 4. The Bill of Rights
 5. Protecting the Accused
- I. History and Structure of Law Enforcement
 1. The English Common Law System
 2. The Development of American Law Enforcement
 3. Federal Law Enforcement

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Course Syllabi

- 4. The Department of Homeland Security
- 5. American Private Security
- I. Policing : Roles, Styles, and Functions
 - 1. The Role of the Police
 - 2. Police Functions
 - 3. Community Policing
 - 4. Terrorism and Homeland Security
 - 5. Law Enforcement Response to Terrorism
 - 6. How Prepared is the U.S. to Defend Against Terrorism
- J. Policing America: Issues and Ethics
 - 1. The Police and the Public
 - 2. Police Recruitment and Selection
 - 3. The Selection of a Law Enforcement Executive
 - 4. Professionalizing Law Enforcement
- K. The Court System
 - 1. The American Court Structure
 - a. The Federal Courts
 - b. The State Courts
 - 2. Key Actors in the Court Process
 - 3. From Arrest to Arraignment
 - 4. The Criminal Trial
 - 5. The Plea Bargaining Process
- L. Sentencing, Appeals, and the Death Penalty
 - 1. Sentencing Guidelines
 - 2. The Appeals Process
 - 3. Personal Characteristics of Judges
 - 4. The Death Penalty
 - a. History of the Death Penalty
 - b. The supreme Court/Gregg Case
- M. Institutional Corrections
 - 1. History of Corrections
 - 2. Incarceration Facilities
 - 3. Institutional Security, Services and programs
- N. Prison Life, Inmate Rights, Release and Recidivism
 - 1. Living in Prison
 - 2. Inmate Society
 - 3. Correctional Officers
 - 4. Inmate Rights and Prison Reform
 - 5. Constitutional Rights and Limits of litigation
 - 6. Release and Recidivism
- O. Community Corrections
 - 1. Community Corrections
 - 2. Probation
 - 3. Parole
 - 4. Intensive Supervision
 - 5. Halfway Houses
- P. Juveniles Justice
 - 1. Historical Development of Juvenile Corrections
 - 2. The Processing of Juvenile Offenders
 - 3. Correctional Programs for Juveniles
- Q. The Future of Criminal Justice in the United States of America
 - 1. The Future of Law Enforcement
 - 2. The Future of corrections
 - 3. Special Crime Problems of the 21st Century
 - 4. Criminal Justice in the Age of Terrorism

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 1. 3-4 Unit Tests 75%
- 2. Comprehensive Final Exam 10%

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Course Syllabi

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| 3. Course Assignments | 5% |
| 4. Course Project | 10% |

Course Requirements

1. Students will complete a written report.
2. Students will prepare and present an assigned project.
3. Students will complete unit tests.
4. Students will complete the Final Exam on a designated date.

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. Tests. Students that miss a test are not allowed to make up the test. Students that miss a test will receive the score of the next scheduled exam. Students who miss two major exams cannot pass the course
6. Attendance Policy. Two absences are allowed. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times, it will be equal to one (1) absence. Excessive absences will result in 2 points being deducted from their final grade.
7. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
8. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Course Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reference
Week 1	Course introduction and policies	
Week 2	Chapter 1 Crime and Justice in the U.S.	
Week 3	Chapter 2 Crime and its Consequences.	pp. 26-58
Week 4	Chapter 3 Explaining Crime	
Week 5	Chapter 4 The Rule of Law	pp. 98-139
Week 6	Chapter 5 History and Structure of American Law Enforcement Exam I Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	pp. 142-203
Week 7	Chapter 6 Policing: Roles, Styles and Functions	pp. 204-246
Week 8	Chapter 7 Policing America: Issues and Ethics	pp. 60 - 97
Week 9	Chapter 8 The Administration of Justice	
Week 10	Chapter 9 Sentencing, Appeals, and the Death Penalty Exam 2 Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	pp. 340-374
Week 11	Chapter 10 Institutional Corrections	pp. 375-425
Week 13	Chapter 12 Community Corrections	pp. 458-502
Week 14	Chapter 13 Juvenile Justice	pp. 503-543
Week 15	Chapter 14 The Future of Criminal Justice in the U.S.	pp. 546-584
Week 16	C.J. and Age of Terrorism, Course Review, Final Exam Review, Final Exam	

Contact Information:

Varies by Instructor