

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Sam Houston State University
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CJ 261: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
Fall, 2017 Online

Professor: Dr. Jihong Solomon Zhao
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Semester/Year: Fall, 2017

Credit Hours: 3
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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the criminal justice system in the United States. The course is designed to familiarize students with the facets of the criminal justice system, the sub-systems and how they interrelate, processing of offenders, punishment and its alternatives, and the future of the criminal justice system. Particularly, three major components of the system are discussed (police, court, and corrections).

Objectives:

This class is a general introduction to criminal justice system and will cover the workings of law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- understand the factual knowledge about the laws, procedures, and policies in the criminal justice system,
- learn fundamental principles, the major theories and philosophies behind the criminal justice system,
- evaluate the current criminal justice system,

Reading:

Masters, R. et al. (2013). *CJ: Realities & challenges*. 2nd Edit. McGraw-Hill (ISBN: 978007802652).

Attendance: Students are referred to the Sam Houston State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2006-2017 for the official university policy on class attendance. Students are expected to attend course lectures on a regular basis. Excessive absences will probably adversely affect a student's grade because some test material will be presented through lectures that are not in the textbooks.

Academic Honesty: All students at this University are expected to engage in academic pursuits on their own with complete honesty and integrity. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the university.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

- **Absolutely no texting in class is allowed**

Disability Student Policy: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Services for Disabled Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.htm#holyday>

Withdrawals: Students wishing to withdraw are cautioned to follow formal procedures outlined by the University. Consult the Sam Houston State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2001-2012 for official policies under “tuition and fees refund policy” and “dropping courses.”

Incompletes: Except for the gravest of emergencies, a grade of “incomplete” will not be allowed for this course. Any missing grades, whether for examination or assignments, will be assumed to be zeros and will be averaged as such.

Reading Assignments: Each student is expected to have completed the reading assignments before each class session. Reading the assignments before each class session will enhance the student's understanding of daily lectures.

Evaluation:

Exams cover both reading assignments and video lectures. Each exam consists of 40 multiple choice questions and 10 True/False questions with a total of 100 points. Giving a make-up exam is at instructor's discretion with valid excuse provided by students. If your absence from an exam is not excusable, your grade for that exam will be zero. There are three exams with a total of 300 points and 5 assignments with a total of 50 points (10 points each assignment). The total points for this class is 350.

Grading Scale:

Points	Letter Grade
315 or above	A
280 to 314	B
245 to 279	C
210 to 244	D
209 or below	F

Giving a make-up exam is at instructor's discretion with valid excuse provided by students. If your absence from an exam is not excusable, your grade for that exam will be zero.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic
1-2	8-23 to 9-1	Course introduction Chapter 1 – What is the criminal justice system Assignment #1: Liberal versus conservative public policies on crime (For detailed information on this requirement, please read the assignment document). Assignment due by midnight, 9/2, 2017.
3	9-5 to 9-8	Chapter 2 – Types of crime
4	9-11 to 9-15	Chapter 3 – Causes of crime Assignment #2: Criminological theories and its application in the modern society. (For detailed information on this requirement, please read the assignment document). Assignment due by midnight, 9/16, 2017.
5	9-18 to 9-22	Chapter 4 – Criminal law and defenses
6	9-25 to 9-29	Chapter 5—Overview of policing and the FIRST EXAM (Exam 1 will be open on 9/29 and closed by midnight on 9/30)
7	10-2 to 10-6	Chapter 6 – Policing operations Assignment #3: The police and the policed (For detailed information on this requirement, please read the assignment document). Assignment due by midnight, 10/7, 2017.
8	10-9 to 10-13	Chapter 7 – Legal and special issues in policing

9	10-16 to 10-20	Chapter 8 – The courts
10	10-23 to 10-27	Chapter 9 – Pretrial/trial and Review and the SECOND EXAM (Exam 2 will be open on 10/27 and closed by midnight on 10/28)
11	10-30 to 11-3	Chapter 10 – Sentencing Assignment #4: Will the treatment based facilities work? (For detailed information on this requirement, please read the assignment document). Assignment due by midnight, 11/4, 2017.
12	11-6 to 11-10	Chapter 11 – Overview of corrections
13	11-13 to 11-17	Chapter 12 - Jails and Prisons Assignment #5: Illegal gambling: What kinds of policy may work? (For detailed information on this requirement, please read the assignment document). Assignment due by midnight, 11/18, 2017.
14/15	11-20 to 12-1	Chapter 13 – Community corrections Chapter 14 – Understanding and helping victims
16	12-4 to 12-5	FINAL EXAM