

**CRIJ2361.09- Online**  
**Introduction to the Criminal Justice System**

**Fall 2017**

**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**

**Professor:** Fabia Mendez      **Class Rm:** No classroom  
**Office Hrs:** Online M-F 8-5

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**TEXTBOOK:** Cole, Smith and DeJong. The American System of Criminal Justice, 14<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
Cengage Learning. 2015. ISBN: 978-1285458991

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course designed to familiarize you 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.

This class will make extensive use of Blackboard to facilitate learning and communication. Lecture materials and links to resources will be posted on the class site. You are expected to take personal initiative in self-assessing your understanding of course material by taking learning checks that are available on the class site. In addition, discussion assignments will be given across the semester that will require you to read and post material to the discussion board.

There will be a quiz with each assigned chapter. The quiz consist of items drawn at random from the test bank. The quiz can be taken at any time during the week the unit is assigned.

Frequent and regular activity in this class will be essential for successful completion.

**Course Policies**

**ATTENDANCE:** As an online course your attendance is measured by the level of activity on the Blackboard site. You should log into the course site at least three times per week and maintain regular postings and replies on the discussion boards.

**GRADING:** Grades will be assigned on a percentage basis on the total of 600 points.

Quizzes (15 x 20 pts)	300
Discussions (15 x 20 pts)	300

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Exams will be taken individually and will not require a make-up policy.

**Assignment Schedule**

Date	Reading	Online Discussion
Aug. 27 – Sept. 2	Unit 1	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “FBI: US Crime Rates Fell Again in 2010” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjkyE8yOiCE&amp;t=20s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjkyE8yOiCE&amp;t=20s</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Crime Rates Fall <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 01
Sept. 3 - 9	Unit 2	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Daterape Drug Story” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2udrpuNxcMM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2udrpuNxcMM</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Daterape Drug Story <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 02
Sept. 10 - 16	Unit 3	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Kelly Thomas beat to death by police” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvB8-8x_y5k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvB8-8x_y5k</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Kelly Thomas beat to death by police <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 03
Sept. 17 - 23	Unit 4	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Innocent People Fall Victim to Civil Forfeiture” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg-2eXhuKdk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg-2eXhuKdk</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Innocent people fall victim to civil forfeiture <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 04
Sept. 24 - 30	Unit 5	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Discuss:</b> Importance of law enforcement functions <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 05
Oct. 1 - 7	Unit 6	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “LA’s Crime Fighting Females” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAtwrgHTsb8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAtwrgHTsb8</a> <b>Discuss:</b> LA’s Crime Fighting Females <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 06
Oct. 8 - 14	Unit 7	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Local Government Attorney Tom Brandt Discusses Civil Rights Suit Against the City of Dallas” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVLjgPpV714">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVLjgPpV714</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Civil Rights Suit Against the City of Dallas <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 07
Oct. 15 - 21	Unit 8	<b>Read:</b> Presentations

		<b>Watch:</b> “What is the Plain View Doctrine” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPQXvepIRo&amp;list=PL05B47E771BC5888B">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPQXvepIRo&amp;list=PL05B47E771BC5888B</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Plain View Doctrine <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 08
Oct. 22 - 28	Unit 9	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Courting Disaster – Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOjqBopTtog">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOjqBopTtog</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 09
Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	Unit 10	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “What is Prosecutorial Misconduct” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sckB4puM3c">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sckB4puM3c</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Prosecutorial Misconduct <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 10
Nov. 5 - 11	Unit 11	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Wrongful Conviction” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t07wbonK7g">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t07wbonK7g</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Wrongful Convictions <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 11
Nov. 12 - 18	Unit 12	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow?” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnqjDVhjM0w">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnqjDVhjM0w</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 12
Nov. 19 - 25	Unit 13	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “The U.S. Prison Population: The Largest in the World” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUt_fiB6A_Y">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUt_fiB6A_Y</a> <b>Discuss:</b> The U.S Prison Population <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 13
Nov. 26 – Dec. 2	Unit 14	<b>Read:</b> Presentations <b>Watch:</b> “Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement” <a href="http://news.yahoo.com/video/filner-sentenced-probation-house-arrest-015400601.html">http://news.yahoo.com/video/filner-sentenced-probation-house-arrest-015400601.html</a> <b>Discuss:</b> Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 14
<b>FINAL EXAM WEEK</b> Dec. 3 – 7	Unit 15	<b>Read:</b> Presentations

		<b>Watch:</b> “CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center’s Microsoft Vocational Program” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJx4cU2v0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJx4cU2v0</a> <b>Discuss:</b> CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center <b>Assess:</b> Quiz 15
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## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will be able to do the following:

### Learning Objectives

<b>Chapter 1</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss how public policies on crime are formed</li> <li>2. Recognize how the crime control and due process models of criminal justice help us understand the system</li> <li>3. Be able to explain: “What is a crime?”</li> <li>4. Describe the major types of crime in the United States</li> <li>5. Analyze how much crime there is and understand how it is measured</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 2</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe who is likely to be victimized by crime</li> <li>2. Discuss the impacts of crime on society</li> <li>3. Identify the justice system’s responses to the needs of crime victims</li> <li>4. Describe the theories put forward to explain criminal behavior</li> <li>5. Analyze crime-causation theories and apply them to different groups of offenders</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 3</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the goals of the criminal justice system</li> <li>2. Discuss the different responsibilities of federal and state criminal justice operations</li> <li>3. Analyze criminal justice from a system perspective</li> <li>4. Identify the authority and relationships of the main criminal justice agencies, and understand the steps in the decision-making process for criminal cases</li> <li>5. Describe the criminal justice “wedding cake” concept</li> <li>6. Discuss the possible causes of racial disparities in criminal justice</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 4</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the bases and sources of American criminal law</li> <li>2. Describe how substantive criminal law defines a crime and the legal responsibility of the accused</li> <li>3. Describe how procedural criminal law defines the rights of the accused and the process for dealing with a case</li> <li>4. Analyze the United States Supreme Court’s role in interpreting the criminal justice amendments to the Constitution</li> </ol>
<b>Chapter 5</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe how policing evolved in the United States</li> <li>2. Discuss the main types of police agencies</li> <li>3. Analyze the functions of the police</li> <li>4. Describe how the police are organized</li> </ol>

5. Analyze influences on police policy and styles of policing
6. Discuss how police officers balance actions, decision making, and discretion
7. Describe the importance of connections between the police and the community

## Chapter 6

1. Discuss why people become police officers and how they learn to do their jobs
2. Describe the elements of the police officer's "working personality"
3. Analyze factors that affect police response
4. Describe the main functions of police patrol, investigation, and special operations units
5. Analyze patrol strategies that police department employ

## Chapter 7

1. Describe the new technologies that facilitate crime, assist police investigations, and affect citizens' rights
2. Discuss the issues and problems that emerge from law enforcement agencies' increased attention to homeland security
3. Analyze the policing and related activities undertaken by private-sector security management
4. Discuss the ways police can abuse their power and the challenges of controlling this abuse
5. Identify the methods that can be used to make police more accountable to citizens

## Chapter 8

1. Know the extent of police officers' authority to stop and search people and their vehicles
2. Understand when and how police officers seek warrants in order to conduct searches and make arrests
3. Know whether police officers can look in people's windows or their backyards to see if evidence of a crime exists there
4. Analyze the situation in which police officers can conduct searches without obtaining a warrant
5. Understand the purpose of the privilege against compelled self-incrimination
6. Understand the exclusionary rule and the situations in which it applies

## Chapter 9

1. Describe the structure of the American court system
2. Analyze the qualities that we desire in a judge
3. Identify the ways that American judges are selected
4. Describe the pretrial process in criminal cases
5. Discuss how the bail system operates
6. Analyze the context of pretrial detention

#### Chapter 10

1. Describe the roles of the prosecuting attorney
2. Analyze the process by which criminal charges are filed, and what role the prosecutor's discretion play in that process
3. Identify the other actors in the system with whom the prosecutor interacts during the decision-making process
4. Discuss the day-to-day reality of criminal defense work in the United States
5. Describe how counsel is provided for defendants who cannot afford a private attorney
6. Analyze the defense attorney's role in the system and the nature of the attorney-client relationship

#### Chapter 11

1. Describe the courtroom workgroup and how it functions
2. Discuss how and why plea bargaining occurs
3. Analyze how juries are chosen
4. Identify the stages of a criminal trial
5. Describe the basis for an appeal of a conviction

#### Chapter 12

1. Describe the goals of punishment
2. Identify the types of sentences that judges can impose
3. Discuss what really happens in sentencing
4. Analyze whether the system treats wrongdoers equally

#### Chapter 13

1. Describe how the American system of corrections has developed
2. Analyze the roles federal, state, and local government play in corrections
3. Discuss the law of corrections and how it is applied to offenders and correctional personnel
4. Describe the direction of community corrections
5. Explain why the prison population has more than quadrupled in the last three decades

#### Chapter 14

1. Analyze the philosophical assumptions that underlie community corrections
2. Discuss how probation evolved and how probation sentences are implemented today
3. Describe the types of intermediate sanctions and how they are administered
4. Analyze the key issues facing community corrections at the beginning of the twenty-first century

#### **Chapter 15**

1. Describe the three models of corrections that have predominated since the 1940s
2. Discuss how a prison is organized
3. Analyze how a prison is governed
4. Describe the role of correctional officers in prison
5. Discuss what it is like to be in prison
6. Analyze the special needs and problems of incarcerated women
7. Describe programs and services that available to prisoners
8. Discuss the nature of prison violence

### **University Policies and Services**

Students should refer to the following sites for updated language on the following policies and services.

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND

FACILITIES: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf)