

CRIJ2361.09B- 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

E-Mail: fmendez@shsu.edu

TEXTBOOK: Cole, Smith and DeJong. The American System of Criminal Justice, 14th 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. Because we are on an expedited semester schedule, I have adjusted the schedule for the class. All units will be open from Wednesday 10/18 until Tuesday 12/5. You may work on the units at your own pace as but all assignments are due at 11:59PM on 12/5.

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

Reading	Online Discussion
Unit 1	Read: Presentations Watch: "FBI: US Crime Rates Fell Again in 2010" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjkyE8yOiCE&t=20s Discuss: Crime Rates Fall Assess: Quiz 01
Unit 2	Read: Presentations Watch: "Daterape Drug Story" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2udrpuNxcMM Discuss: Daterape Drug Story Assess: Quiz 02
Unit 3	Read: Presentations Watch: "Kelly Thomas beat to death by police" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvB8-8x_y5k Discuss: Kelly Thomas beat to death by police Assess: Quiz 03
Unit 4	Read: Presentations Watch: "Innocent People Fall Victim to Civil Forfeiture" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg-2eXhuKdk Discuss: Innocent people fall victim to civil forfeiture Assess: Quiz 04
Unit 5	Read: Presentations Discuss: Importance of law enforcement functions Assess: Quiz 05
Unit 6	Read: Presentations Watch: "LA's Crime Fighting Females" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAtwrgHTsb8 Discuss: LA's Crime Fighting Females Assess: Quiz 06
Unit 7	Read: Presentations Watch: "Local Government Attorney Tom Brandt Discusses Civil Rights Suit Against the City of Dallas" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVLjgPpV714 Discuss: Civil Rights Suit Against the City of Dallas Assess: Quiz 07
Unit 8	Read: Presentations Watch: "What is the Plain View Doctrine" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPQXvepIRo&list=PL05B47E771BC5888B

	<p>Discuss: Plain View Doctrine</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 08</p>
Unit 9	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “Courting Disaster – Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOjqBopTtog</p> <p>Discuss: Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 09</p>
Unit 10	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “What is Prosecutorial Misconduct” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sckB4puM3c</p> <p>Discuss: Prosecutorial Misconduct</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 10</p>
Unit 11	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “Wrongful Conviction” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t07wb0nK7g</p> <p>Discuss: Wrongful Convictions</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 11</p>
Unit 12	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow?” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnqjDVhjM0w</p> <p>Discuss: Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 12</p>
Unit 13	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “The U.S. Prison Population: The Largest in the World” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUt_fIB6A_Y</p> <p>Discuss: The U.S. Prison Population</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 13</p>
Unit 14	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement” http://news.yahoo.com/video/filner-sentenced-probation-house-arrest-015400601.html</p> <p>Discuss: Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 14</p>
Unit 15	<p>Read: Presentations</p> <p>Watch: “CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center’s Microsoft Vocational Program” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJx4cU2v0</p> <p>Discuss: CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center</p> <p>Assess: Quiz 15</p>

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will be able to do the following:

Learning Objectives	
Chapter 1	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss how public policies on crime are formed2. Recognize how the crime control and due process models of criminal justice help us understand the system3. Be able to explain: "What is a crime?"4. Describe the major types of crime in the United States5. Analyze how much crime there is and understand how it is measured
Chapter 2	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe who is likely to be victimized by crime2. Discuss the impacts of crime on society3. Identify the justice system's responses to the needs of crime victims4. Describe the theories put forward to explain criminal behavior5. Analyze crime-causation theories and apply them to different groups of offenders
Chapter 3	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the goals of the criminal justice system2. Discuss the different responsibilities of federal and state criminal justice operations3. Analyze criminal justice from a system perspective4. Identify the authority and relationships of the main criminal justice agencies, and understand the steps in the decision-making process for criminal cases5. Describe the criminal justice "wedding cake" concept6. Discuss the possible causes of racial disparities in criminal justice
Chapter 4	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the bases and sources of American criminal law2. Describe how substantive criminal law defines a crime and the legal responsibility of the accused3. Describe how procedural criminal law defines the rights of the accused and the process for dealing with a case4. Analyze the United States Supreme Court's role in interpreting the criminal justice amendments to the Constitution
Chapter 5	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe how policing evolved in the United States2. Discuss the main types of police agencies3. Analyze the functions of the police4. Describe how the police are organized5. Analyze influences on police policy and styles of policing6. Discuss how police officers balance actions, decision making, and discretion7. 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

Chapter13

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