

CRIJ2361.07- Online
Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Spring 2018

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Professor: Fabia Mendez

Class Rm: No classroom

Office Hrs: Online M-F 8-5

Or by

appointment

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TEXTBOOK: Cole, Smith and DeJong. The American System of Criminal Justice, 15th Ed.
Cengage Learning. 2015. ISBN: 978-1305633742 or 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
Jan. 22 - 28	Unit 1	Read: Presentations Watch: “FBI: US Crime Rates Fell Again in 2010” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SajY3BAPCbc Discuss: Crime Rates Fall Assess: Quiz 01
Jan. 29 - Feb. 4	Unit 2	Read: Presentations Watch: “Daterape Drug Story” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2udrpuNxcmM Discuss: Daterape Drug Story Assess: Quiz 02
Feb. 5 - 11	Unit 3	Read: Presentations Watch: “Kelly Thomas beat to death by police” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyClcWLIA0E Discuss: Kelly Thomas beat to death by police Assess: Quiz 03
Feb. 12 - 18	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
Feb. 19 - 25	Unit 5	Read: Presentations Discuss: Importance of law enforcement functions Assess: Quiz 05
Feb. 26 - Mar. 4	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
Mar. 5 - 11	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
Mar. 19 - 25	Unit 8	Read: Presentations Watch: “The Fourth Amendment: Plain View Doctrine” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tL6I2bLLqg

		Discuss: Plain View Doctrine Assess: Quiz 08
Mar. 26 - Apr. 1	Unit 9	Read: Presentations Watch: “Courting Disaster – Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOjqBopTtog Discuss: Budget Cuts Take Heavy Toll on L.A. Courts Assess: Quiz 09
Apr. 2 - 8	Unit 10	Read: Presentations Watch: “What is Prosecutorial Misconduct” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sckB4puM3c Discuss: Prosecutorial Misconduct Assess: Quiz 10
Apr. 9 - 15	Unit 11	Read: Presentations Watch: “Wrongful Conviction” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t07wbonK7g Discuss: Wrongful Convictions Assess: Quiz 11
Apr. 16 - 22	Unit 12	Read: Presentations Watch: “Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow?” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnqjDVhjM0w Discuss: Is Mass Incarceration the New Jim Crow Assess: Quiz 12
Apr. 23 - 29	Unit 13	Read: Presentations Watch: “The U.S. Prison Population: The Largest in the World” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUt_fiB6A_Y Discuss: The U.S Prison Population Assess: Quiz 13
Apr. 30 – May 6	Unit 14	Read: Presentations Watch: “Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement” http://news.yahoo.com/video/filner-sentenced-probation-house-arrest-015400601.html Discuss: Ex-San Diego Mayor Ordered to Home Confinement Assess: Quiz 14
May 7 - 10	Unit 15	Read: Presentations Watch: “CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center’s Microsoft Vocational Program” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lheJx4cU2v0 Discuss: CCA’s Lee Adjustment Center Assess: Quiz 15

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will be able to do the following:

Learning Objectives

Chapter 1

1. Discuss how public policies on crime are formed
2. Recognize how the crime control and due process models of criminal justice help us understand the system
3. Be able to explain: "What is a crime?"
4. Describe the major types of crime in the United States
5. Analyze how much crime there is and understand how it is measured

Chapter 2

1. Describe who is likely to be victimized by crime
2. Discuss the impacts of crime on society
3. Identify the justice system's responses to the needs of crime victims
4. Describe the theories put forward to explain criminal behavior
5. Analyze crime-causation theories and apply them to different groups of offenders

Chapter 3

1. Describe the goals of the criminal justice system
2. Discuss the different responsibilities of federal and state criminal justice operations
3. Analyze criminal justice from a system perspective
4. Identify the authority and relationships of the main criminal justice agencies, and understand the steps in the decision-making process for criminal cases
5. Describe the criminal justice "wedding cake" concept
6. Discuss the possible causes of racial disparities in criminal justice

Chapter 4

1. Describe the bases and sources of American criminal law
2. Describe how substantive criminal law defines a crime and the legal responsibility of the accused
3. Describe how procedural criminal law defines the rights of the accused and the process for dealing with a case
4. Analyze the United States Supreme Court's role in interpreting the criminal justice amendments to the Constitution

Chapter 5

1. Describe how policing evolved in the United States
2. Discuss the main types of police agencies
3. Analyze the functions of the police
4. Describe how the police are organized
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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

DISABLED 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.html#holyday>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND

FACILITIES: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf