

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE 101
THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

BULLETIN INFORMATION

CRJU 101 - The American Criminal Justice System (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

A survey of the principles and methods in criminology and criminal justice inquiry. Required for the criminology and criminal justice major

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an introduction and overview of the American criminal justice system and illustrates how criminological expertise is used in policy making and other problem solving contexts. This course introduces students to topical issues in the discipline of criminology and criminal justice; and it immerses students in the methodological, theoretical and cultural traditions of criminological and criminal justice research. The course materials focus on an array of interdisciplinary issues in historical and contemporary contexts in society including: impact of politics and government; racial and ethnic issues in criminal justice; cultural and political impact of immigration; impact of legal rules and legal environment; among others. Last, this course has an interdisciplinary emphasis wherein the intersection between disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, political science, geography and criminology and criminal justice are emphasized.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Criminal Justice 101, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the major components of the American criminal justice system.
2. Explain the current challenges faced by the criminal justice system in a diverse world.
3. Explain how criminology and the criminal justice system are influenced by various social sciences such as sociology, political science, and geography.
4. Explain how current events shape institutional norms.
5. Identify significant historical developments in the criminal justice system and how they impact policies.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural diversity shapes social and criminal justice behavior.
7. Explain how race, gender, and class impact justice in the criminal justice system.
8. Discuss how criminal justice policies impact different communities (racial, ethnic, and religious) and shape their relationships with other institutions.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Cole, George F. & Smith, Christopher E. (2010). The American System of Criminal Justice, 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

2. Book Website: www.ichapters.com OR www.CengageBrain.com

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS

1. **Four Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions; *the last exam may be cumulative*. The exams are designed to measure whether students understand important conceptual, historical, and theoretical ideas relating to the criminal justice system. Exams require students to demonstrate understanding of the core components of the criminal justice system, the relevance of historical figures and developments to the criminal justice system, and the impact of social and cultural forces upon the criminal justice system.
 - a. Exam One: Crime and the Criminal Justice System---basic concepts and functions of the criminal justice system; historical, social, and cultural development of the criminal justice system in America; intersections of race, class, and gender in the criminal justice system; use of technological innovations in criminal justice.
 - b. Exam Two: Police--- development and history of policing; challenges faced by modern police organizations; organizational structure and theories of policing; policing and diverse communities (race and ethnicity, immigrant populations, etc.); constitutional issues in policing
 - c. Exam Three: Courts----social and political influences on sentencing; racial and cultural impact of sentencing policy; ethical considerations for attorneys and prosecutors; race-conscious remedies.
 - d. Exam Four: Corrections—history of corrections; alternatives to incarceration (electronic monitoring and other emergent technologies); prisoner rights (including conditions of confinement, religion, medical care); history and theories of prisons and prison culture (Beccaria, Bentham, Rousseau, etc.); probation and parole (rights and responsibilities, conditions of release, community reentry).

2. **Three Reflection Essays:** These assignments are short essays that require students to reflect on how specific historical, political, and cultural forces affect and influence the criminal justice system. By reflecting on selected course material and examples from the lectures, text, and class discussions, students examine how race, class, gender, and cultural diversity affect social and criminal behavior; they also examine the role these factors play in the criminal justice system. Reflection essay assignments ask students to think about the interplay between social issues and the criminal justice system.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

Week 1	<u>Class 1:</u>	Syllabus
<u>Part1: Crime and the Criminal Justice System</u>		
	<u>Class 2:</u>	Crime & Justice in America, Chapter 1 Subject: History of criminal justice in America
Week 2	<u>Class 3:</u>	Crime & Justice in America, Chapter 1

		Subject: Confronting contemporary problems (immigration, racial conflict, diverse cultures)
	<u>Class 4:</u>	Victimization & Criminal Behavior, Chapter 2 Subject: Types of crime; crime statistics (UCR, NCVS); Intimate partner violence
Week 3	<u>Class 5:</u>	The Criminal Justice System, Chapter 3 Subject: State and federal issues in criminal justice
	<u>Class 6:</u>	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Chapter 4 Subject: The Constitution
Week 4	<u>Class 7:</u>	Film: Once Were Warriors Subject: Intimate Partner Violence Exam 1 Class 8 Exam 1, Part 1: Crime and the Criminal Justice System Reflection Essay Due
<u>Part 2: Police</u>		
Week 5	<u>Class 9:</u>	Police Chapter 5
	<u>Class 10:</u>	Police Officers and Law Enforcement Operators, Chapter 6 Subjects: History and organizational structure of policing
Week 6	<u>Class 11:</u>	21st Century Challenges in Policing Chapter 7 Subjects: Theories of policing
	<u>Class 12:</u>	Police & Constitutional Law, Chapter 8 Subjects: Community relations- racial and cultural considerations
Week 7	<u>Class 13:</u>	Film: Traffic Challenges faced in modern policing (drug trafficking, ICE)
	<u>Class 14:</u>	Review/Special Topic (if time permits) Impact of immigration Reflection Essay Due
Week 8	<u>Class 15:</u>	Exam 2, Part 2: Police
<u>Part 3: Courts</u>		
	<u>Class 16:</u>	Courts & Pretrial Processes, Chapter 9 Subject: Constitutional issues involving the 5th, 6th, and 7th Amendment
Week 9		Addressing racial and gender discrimination in the legal system; remedying discrimination
Week 10	<u>Class 17:</u>	Prosecution & Defense, Chapter 10 Subject: History of courts and Constitution; role of prosecutors
	<u>Class 18:</u>	Plea Bargaining and Trials, Chapter 11

