

CRIM 101.D70 - INTRO TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE– SUMMER 2016

Course Dates: July 11 to July 29

Professor: Carrie Trojan, Ph.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

Office: Sociology Dept. - #110

Email: carrie.trojan@wku.edu

Office Phone: 270-745-2645

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the origins, development, structure and contemporary issues facing the criminal justice system and its role in the societal response to crime. This course is designed to prepare students for upper level criminology or related courses pertaining to penology, victimology, and law by providing an introduction to the most fundamental concepts of the overall system.

The majority of the course will focus on the three central components of the criminal justice system – the police, the courts and the law, and the correctional system – and the fundamental issues within each field. In addition, we will examine other aspects of the system such as the juvenile system and contemporary issues facing the criminal justice system in the 21st century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Be able to discuss the origins, development, and current structure of the criminal justice system;
- Understand in detail the three central components of the criminal justice system - the police, the courts and the law, and the correctional system;
- Understand community and institutional responses to crime, and both formal and informal means of social control;
- Understand more substantive and complicated issues associated with the criminal justice system, such as police discretion, police-community relations, expectations and limitations of the role of each agency in crime control, accountability within the system, and changing trends in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
- Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.
- Communicate effectively using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching a normally semester long course over only a few weeks is always a challenge. It requires a careful balance between ensuring students are exposed to the same amount of material and the practical time constraints imposed by the short term. As such, I have streamlined the course to focus on the most relevant issues.

The course is taught entirely online. *Students are responsible for making sure that they are spending their time wisely.* All lectures are posted on Blackboard. At the end of each week, students will take an examination over the material for the week *through Blackboard.* The exam structure is explained below.

REQUIRED TEXT

There isn't one...

EXAMINATIONS

There will be **3** examinations for the course – all will be taken through blackboard. ***The exams will be timed and students will have 1 ½ hours to complete it.*** The exam will consist of multiple choice, True/False, and a few short essay questions. The exams are NOT proctored and you can take them at home. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

You are responsible for securing reliable internet access for the exams. That said, to prevent your work from being lost (in case blackboard crashes or you lose your internet connection), you should constantly save your answers to each question by clicking the save answer button next to each question.

*Please note the following: I have set the exams on blackboard to allow you to re-enter the exam if you are suddenly kicked offline. As such the instructions will state “you can save this exam and resume it later” - **that is not the case.** Once you click begin, you have 1 ½ hours to complete the exam and the clock will continue to run even if you exit the exam - so when you start you must finish. I have used this setting in blackboard, as opposed to forced completion, because it should allow you to re-enter the exam if you temporarily lose your internet (and if you have been saving your answers, they should still be there). If I do not use this option, I would have to manually delete your prior attempt to allow you complete the exam. ***So just to clarify - ignore that instruction; when you start the clock starts and you must finish in the allotted time frame.****

The exam will be available at the start of each week. You can take the exam anytime during the week, but must finish by 11:59 PM on Friday. There will be no comprehensive final exam for the course.

WORDS OF CAUTION...

Although these examinations are taken on your own outside of class, and by default are open book/notes, I advise students not to attempt to take the exam without some studying. You only have 1 ½ hours to complete the exam and will run out of time if you try to look up every answer in your notes; you will do much better if you spend some time reviewing prior to each exam.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There are two brief writing assignments. The first assignment will ask students to read a brief article and then simply answer 5-6 questions that I pose about the article. The second assignment will ask students to watch two short online videos and again answer a few questions that I pose about the videos. These assignments are very straightforward and are designed to help students compensate for low exam scores - so please treat them seriously!

The guidelines for both assignments are posted on the blackboard page and you will also find the links to submit them via blackboard. *Please submit a word or word compatible file for both assignments!!!* The due dates are listed in the course outline. *If you submit the assignment late, 5 points will be deducted for every hour beyond the deadline.*

FROM THE OFFICE FOR STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodation directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

GRADING:

Students will be graded on a point system. *As a rule, incompletes are not given in this course. An incomplete would only be given if a student was physically incapable of completing required work due to hospitalization, incapacitation, or other extreme circumstances.*

Item	Points	Grading Scale
Exam 1	100	A = 90 – 100%
Exam 2	100	B = 80 – 89%
Exam 3	100	C = 70 – 79%
Assignment #1	25	D = 60 – 69%
Assignment #2	25	F = Below 60%
Total	350	

COURSE SCHEDULE

**This is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.*

Date	Topics Covered
Week 1 7/11 to 7/15	Criminal Justice as Social Control Crime in Society The Police in America - Part 1 Exam 1 must be submitted by Friday 7/15 by 11:59 PM Writing Assignment #1 is due by Friday 7/15 by 11:59 PM
Week 2 7/18 to 7/22	The Police in America - Part 2 Legal Concepts and the Courts Exam 2 must be completed by Friday 7/22 by 11:59 PM
Week 3 7/25 to 7/29	Corrections Probation and Parole Exam 3 must be submitted by Friday 7/29 by 11:59 PM Writing Assignment #4 is due Friday 7/29 by 11:59 PM