

CRIM 101 – Introduction to Criminal Justice SPRING 2023

Meeting Time: ONLINE
Room: ONLINE
Professor: Lauren Ossello
Office Hours: By appointment
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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 core 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 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.

Note: The material from this course is covered in CRIM 499: Senior Seminar, which is required for CRIM majors. You are advised to save your notes/materials for the course to assist you when you take the senior seminar.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required text (available at the university bookstore or online)

Lab, Steven, et al. (2018). *Criminal Justice: The Essentials* (5th ed.) Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 9780190855871

EXAMINATIONS

There will be **4** examinations for the course. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The first two exams will be worth 100 points each and the last two exams will be worth 200 points each. All tests will be taken through Blackboard.

*As a rule, make-up examinations are not given except for EXTREME circumstances (e.g., hospitalization) for which I must be notified in a timely manner and physical proof of the reason for the absence must be provided. **There will be no opportunity to make up the last examination.***

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be one research paper assigned in this course. The guidelines for this research paper is available on the Blackboard course page and you will submit the assignment through blackboard. A rubric for this paper is also available under the research paper content folder in Blackboard. The research paper will be worth 200 points of the student's final grade. **As a rule, late assignments will not be accepted.**

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to engage in assignments throughout the semester through Blackboard. There will be one assignment posted for each of the 8 chapters. Each assignment will be worth 25 points of the students' final grade. Please review the rubric in the Content folder for the assignment posts to ensure you get all points possible on each post. All assignments will be completed and submitted through Blackboard.

QUIZZES

Each of the 8 chapters will have a quiz associated with it. All quizzes will be completed on Blackboard. Each quiz will be worth 12.5 points.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is representing the ideas of another as your own. Any idea, concept, statement or summary that is taken from or guided by a published source (including internet websites) must be properly cited in all writing assignments. Students are expected to conform to the highest ethical standards regarding academic integrity. Plagiarism will **NOT BE TOLERATED** and will be **DEALT WITH MOST HARSHLY.** **Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.** When in doubt – cite a source!! **A computer software program – Turnitin – may be used to check for plagiarized material.**

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.

ONLINE CLASS INFORMATION:

- ALL assignments, quizzes, papers and tests will open up on the first day of the semester (January 17).
- ALL assignments, quizzes, papers and tests will remain open until the final week of classes (May 5). You may work through the class at your own pace.
- **ALL assignments, quizzes, papers and tests MUST be completed and turned in by MAY 3, 2023.**
- It is helpful, in my experience as both a student and as a teacher, to prepare an outline to ensure that an adequate amount of time is being devoted to the course. To this end, the course outline for my face to face course is attached to this syllabus. You are **NOT** required to follow this course outline as part of the online section of this course; however, for those who need a structure, this is a good schedule to follow.
- Please note that I am available and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you have throughout the course.
- All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](tel:270-745-5004) (voice), [270-745-3030](tel:270-745-3030) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](tel:270-288-0597) (video).
- All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Grading Scale

Test 1	100 points
Test 2	100 points
Test 3	200 points
Test 4	200 points
Research Paper	100 points
Quizzes	100 points (8 quizzes at 12.5 points each)
Assignments	200 points (8 posts at 25 points each)
Total	1000 points

**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*

A – 900 – 1000 points

B – 800 – 899 points

C – 700 – 799 points

D – 600 – 699 points

F – Below 600 points

*****SAMPLE*** Course Outline**

Week	Course Outline	Due
1	Syllabus; Chapter 1	
	Chapter 1	
2	Chapter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1 Quiz Chapter 1 Assignment
	Chapter 2	
3	Chapter 2	
	Chapter 2; Review for Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 Quiz Chapter 2 Assignment
4	TEST 1 (Chapters 1 and 2)	
	Chapter 3	
5	Chapter 3	
	Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 Quiz Chapter 3 Assignment
6	Chapter 4	
	Chapter 4	
7	Begin research on Research paper	
8	Chapter 4; Review for Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4 Quiz Chapter 4 Assignment
March 13-17	SPRING BREAK – No CLASSES	
9	TEST 2 (Chapters 3 and 4)	
	Chapter 5	
10	Chapter 5; Guest Speaker	
	Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 Quiz Chapter 5 Assignment
11	Chapter 6	
	Chapter 6	
12	Chapter 6; Review for Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 Quiz Chapter 6 Assignment
	TEST 3 (Chapters 5 and 6)	
13	Chapter 7	
	Chapter 7	
14	Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 Quiz Chapter 7 Assignment
15	Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Paper
	Chapter 8; Review for Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 Quiz Chapter 8 Assignment
16	FINAL TEST (Chapters 7 and 8)	