

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

CRIM 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall Semester 2018

YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Holli Drummond, Professor of Sociology

I have been teaching in the department of sociology at WKU since 2004. My most recent rotation of courses include this course, CRIM 332 – Juvenile Delinquency, CRIM 446/546 – Gender, Crime, and Justice, CRIM 430 – Systems of Juvenile Justice, & managing departmental interns (CRIM 439 & SOCL 489). This is the second time I am offering CRIM 101 online! Further, I have a passion for the study and discussion of society's influence on crime/delinquency and formal justice systems. I look forward to discussing these topics with you.

In addition to a Master's degree in Criminal Justice (University of Alabama, 1999), I earned a PhD in Sociology, with an emphasis in Criminology, from the University of Georgia in 2004. I have published research investigating both pathways to delinquency among juveniles as well as evaluations of the juvenile justice system. Recently, my colleague Dr. Donielle Lovell and I investigated Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice Systems of 2 KY counties at the request of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Finally, I am a member of a number of groups seeking quality justice for local at-risk juveniles.

In my "free" time, I enjoy traveling with my husband, keeping up with our three young children – six-year-old boy and three-year-old boy/girl twins, and exploring SoKY!

How to address me: While performing the role of instructor, I prefer the more traditional/formal title, Dr. or Prof Drummond. Please avoid referring to me as Ms. Drummond or Mrs. Drummond.

How to get in touch: holli.drummond@wku.edu. Because email is the best means to communicate with me, I will typically respond to emails quickly (i.e., **typically** within 24 hours, **during the week**). If you sent your message on a week-day and I haven't responded by day 2, please feel free to send another email or give me a call (270-745-2259). **While I am getting to know you and beginning to associate you with this course**, I would appreciate it if your email subjects would contain reference to our course (i.e., Introduction to Criminal Justice....CRIM 101, etc.) so that I might identify and prioritize them.

My Campus Location, Phone Number, and Office Hours: If you would like to stop by and see me in person, my office is located at 108 Grise Hall on WKU's Main Campus. If you would like to give me a call, I can be reached at 270-745-2259 especially during my office hours, M&W from 11:30 until 12:30. Though these are also the best times to reach me by phone (if preferred), I also welcome individual appointments (whether virtual, via phone, or f2f). To set up an individual appointment, please send me an email.

COURSE DETAILS

Course Description: This course provides an overview of the origins, development, structure, and contemporary issues facing the criminal justice system and its role in the societal response to crime. The intent is to prepare students for upper level criminology or related courses pertaining to penology, victimology, and law by introducing 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 stretch our understanding of the system by considering key issues testing the functionality of American justice systems in the 21st century. These topics are highly debated hence the goal is to engage in evidence-based inquiry into the subject.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the successful student will:

- 1) Be able to discuss the origins, development, and current structure of the criminal justice system;
- 2) Understand in detail the three central components of the criminal justice system-the police, the courts and the law, and the correctional system;
- 3) Understand community and institutional responses to crime, and both formal and informal means of social control;
- 4) 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, the successful students should:

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

NECESSARY MATERIALS

1) Required Texts:

Mallicoat, S.L. (2017). *Crime and Criminal Justice: Concepts and Controversies*. LA: Sage. ISBN 978-1-4833-1873-8.

This course participates in The WKU Store's Day One Access program. This program is designed to provide immediate access to required materials for all students at prices cheaper than any other option (check the "textbook" link within bb to access the text).

Required materials will be delivered to you automatically by enrolling in this course unless you choose to opt-out. By participating in this program,

The WKU Store will bill your Student Billing account, and you will see a charge appear under this Term along with Tuition and Fees (“Account Summary by Term” under the Student Services tab) labelled as “The WKU Store Purchases” after the Add/Drop period. So, opt-out prior to the end of the drop add period if you don’t want to participate in this e-book version. For more information on this program or to opt-out of participation, go to our information page, <http://www.wkustore.com/t-day-one-access.aspx>.

2) Computer & Internet.

Because this is an online course, make sure you have access to a functioning computer with reliable internet access in order to ensure completion and submission of materials at the date and time required. Students are responsible for completing all assignments as they are due, no “failed technology” exceptions will be given.

3) Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat.

All text documents submitted should be in Microsoft Word or rtf format. If you send a file that is not .doc, .docx, or rtf OR a corrupted file, I cannot count those as “turned in” assignments. I will post documents in word or in pdf form. Please make sure you the ability to open files in the following format: .doc, .docx, and .pdf.

4) Functioning Email.

As mentioned above, the primary means of personal communication in this course is via email. Students will need an email address that functions consistently throughout the semester.

5) Basic knowledge of Blackboard.

Blackboard is the course management software used by WKU. You will find all course information there. I encourage you to spend some time during the first week browsing around the site and becoming familiar with the format.

6) A minimum of 6 hours per week.

Students receive 3 hours of college credit for this course. Thus, if this course was f2f (face-to-face), we would spend three hours in class per week. These 3 hours are simply the amount of time we would spend “in class” and

doesn't include "preparation time." Thus, I expect each student to commit an average of 6 hours per week in pursuit of course goals.

YOUR GRADE

Exams (4 throughout the semester each worth 20% of your grade--80% total). You will have 4 separate exams (each covering 1/4th the material in the course). This includes the "final exam" as Exam 4 is the last/final exam (however just like Exam 1, 2, & 3, only 1/4th of the course material is covered on Exam 4). These exams will draw from your "text book" & article readings, plus any videos you are required to view. Exams are administered via blackboard and will be open for a specific window of time. You may use your books and lecture materials for exams 2-4 however exam #1 is "closed book" and must be taken at a testing center. The exams are timed, you are given 55 minutes to answer 50 multiple choice/TF questions.

As stated above, the first exam must be taken at a testing center but all other exams can be taken from a computer of your choice. For those exams, it is important that you note that your "time" begins THE MOMENT you open the exam in blackboard. Thus, I advise you to open the exam only when you are ready to take it because the clock cannot be reset. You should also consider opening the exam on a "reliable" computer (i.e., one which is not going to lose internet connection or reboot in the middle of the exam).

Though exams 2-4 for this course are considered open book, it has been my experience that students do not do better on online-open book exams than taking the exam "closed book" in a face-to-face course. This is because students using the open book option frequently run out of time before they have finished. Therefore, to be successful on exams, I encourage you to study for them as if they were closed book but keep your books handy for quick reference. Again, NO EXTRA TIME WILL BE GIVEN if you "time out."

Chapter Quizzes (5 required each worth 1% of your grade – 5% total):

To provide reinforcement for textbook material prior to exams, 13 chapter quizzes are provided. While students can take as many quizzes as s/he wishes, the top 5 quizzes will count in final grade calculations.

Four Reaction Papers (10% total – 2.5% each reaction paper):

To deepen your understanding of debatable topics regarding the American Criminal Justice System, I have selected a “controversial issue” for each of the 13 chapters covered this semester. This material includes a video and article supplement to the textbook chapter assigned. While students will not be tested over this material, each student will prepare an “essay” response paper – 1-2 page, typed, double spaced – in response to four of the Controversial Issues (**one per module**). See the “Assignment schedule” within the “start here” folder for more detailed information regarding these papers.

Final “Career Connections” Paper (5% total): Each chapter presents a spotlight on an essential profession associated with the Criminal Justice System and/or study of crime. When presenting the material for each chapter, I spend time encouraging you to take in that information as well as provide you additional material to consider. Your final paper requires you to select one career and address how the course has enhanced your understanding of that profession. More information about this assignment (including a grading rubric) can be found on our bb site.

EXTRA CREDIT

Who doesn’t like to begin with a little extra credit ;) While this course will not use the “discussion board” feature commonly included in online courses, I have set up a “get to know you” forum in the “discussion board” folder. In other words, we will have only one “discussion chat” this semester. That chat will occur during the first few days of class.

To earn 5 points of extra credit (to be applied at the end of the semester where needed most): Use this forum to introduce yourself to your fellow classmates. I encourage you to begin by telling us about some of your hobbies/interests or a particularly favorite book or movie. Suggested format:

- First tell us 3 “interesting” things about yourself and 1 thing you feel the most proud of.
- Next, answer ONE of the following questions:
 - What expectations do you have of this course? What do you hope to get out of it?
 - What questions and/or concerns do you have going into this course?
 - What is the most complex task you've done using a computer or the Internet?

- What on-line learning experiences have you had previously?
- What independent study experiences have you had previously?
- Finally, answer ONE of the following questions:
 - What are your future career goals?
 - Do you believe this course will help you achieve your career goals, how so?
 - If you could change one thing about the juvenile or criminal justice system in America, what would it be?

You should post your introduction in the “get to know you” forum (see my entry for an example) no later than 11:59 pm Sunday Aug 27th.

Grade Composition in Review:

Four MC exams (80%--20% each)-----400 points;
 Five Chapter Quizzes (5%--1% each)-----25 points;
 Four “Controversial Issues” Reaction Papers (10%--2.5% each)-----50 points;
 Final “Career Connections” Paper (5%)-----25 points.

Total: 500 points

Letter grades will be given according to the traditional grading scale: 500-448=A; 447-398=B; 397-348=C; 347-298=D; 297 and below=F

COURSE POLICIES

Disability Services—Official University Policy:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu .

Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title XI/Discrimination and Harassment

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Academic Honesty:

Academic Honesty is a very important issue. I expect all assignments and work submitted to be completed by the person enrolled in the course. If I discover that any of your work has been plagiarized from another source (published in print, online, or copied from another student), the work in question will receive a zero. Further, plagiarism may result in failure of the course and referral of the matter to the graduate committee. Please be aware I use the TurnItIn software to check suspicions of academically dishonest behavior. For more information, please visit this site <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>.