

# **CRIM 101 – INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

## **ON DEMAND**

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### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

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.

### **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.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

This course is taught entirely through blackboard. All lectures, additional readings, videos and assignment guidelines are posted on the blackboard course page. In addition, you will submit assignments and take exams through blackboard.

If you are unfamiliar with blackboard, have questions about how to submit an assignment, or have any questions about On Demand courses, there is a student support tab on the course menu. That tab will provide you with a variety of tools and tutorials to help you familiarize yourself with online learning.

The course is designed to fully mimic the normal semester based course. You are given the same amount of material as during a standard semester and are graded according to the same standards. Therefore, upon completing this course - at your own pace - you will still have the same level of knowledge and be expected to display the same mastery of the material as students who take the course over a 15 week semester.

The material for the course is divided into four modules. Each module covers the material from 3 to 4 chapters of the text. Each module has its own folder on the blackboard course page that contains a supplementary lecture that clarifies and expands upon the material covered in your textbook. There is a separate link in the course menu for the three required writing assignments. A separate link can be seen on the course menu labeled 'exams' that contains the four examinations for the course. All examinations are timed and proctored. There is no comprehensive final for this course.

As with any independent learning course, you are free to work at your own pace. However, you must complete the modules in order. Refer to the course outline below for additional information on when assignments should be completed.

**Finally, when you are formally registered for the course, please send me a quick email to notify me!**

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### ***Required text***

Pollock, J.M. (2012). *Crime & Justice in America: An introduction to criminal justice* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Newark, NJ: Anderson. ISBN: 978-1-4377-3512-3

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

There are three writing assignments for the course. The first writing assignment that you should complete in Module 1 is a reflection paper over an assigned article. Guidelines for that assignment and the rubric that will be used for grading are posted on the course page.

The second writing assignment requires you to compile an annotated bibliography on one of several selected topics. A number of topics will be provided and you may pick any one of them that you choose. I will cover in a brief writing lecture how to find sources using the WKU library databases online, how to format sources in APA citation style, and how to identify peer-reviewed journal articles. I have also posted several examples of student work on the course page that you can use as a model.

Note: for the annotated bibliography **only**, you will get a 'do-over'. In other words, if you fail to earn ALL points for the assignment, I will send you a file with necessary revisions.

*If you make those revisions in a satisfactory manner, then you have the chance at earning full credit for this assignment.*

The final writing assignment will require you to watch one of several videos over different topics and write a reflection paper using the specific guidelines/discussion prompts for that video. The topics and guidelines for each individual video are posted on blackboard. *This should be the last thing you do for the course, since you will have to draw on the material covered in the totality of the course to complete it.*

There are three videos that can simply be accessed through the video link provided or via the Internet. There are a few additional options that are only available through Netflix or Hulu. However, *you do not need access to those streaming services simply for this course.* While you can sign up for a free month with either service, you can simply choose to complete this assignment over one of the other topics which will have the video available. I simply wanted to include them as options for students who already have access to those streaming services.

*\*Please note: the videos on Netflix and Hulu were available as of this writing (summer 2018); because those services change content they may not remain permanently available. If you cannot find the video, then it has been taken down and you should choose another option for this assignment.*

You are expected to give these assignments the attention that they deserve and show to me that you (1) understand the material, (2) have engaged in critical reflection of the issue, and (3) can integrate the concepts covered in the lectures and text with what you learn from the assignment.

Though not required for the course, there will be opportunities for bonus points in several of the modules. These exercises are not required, but I would do them...free points! (And you may learn something, which is kind of the point of college....)

#### **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.**

#### **EXAMINATIONS**

There will be **4** examinations for the course. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short essay questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points and

there will be 5 bonus questions on each exam. There is no comprehensive final for the course.

The examinations are **timed** and students will have 2 hours to complete the examination. You **may not use notes, your text, or any other materials during the test**. The examinations are also **proctored** and each exam must be taken at a designated Testing Center. There are testing centers on the WKU campus and many others around the nation. For more information on finding a testing center close to you and how to schedule an appointment visit the [On Demand website](https://www.wku.edu/ondemand/exams.php) at <https://www.wku.edu/ondemand/exams.php>

Because all examinations are proctored you must contact a designated testing center to schedule an appointment in advance of the examination. You cannot simply show up at a testing center expecting to take the exam, as the examinations are also password protected.

### 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. **If you are having trouble in the course, contact me as soon as possible so that we can identify how you can improve.***

Item	Points Possible
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Reading Reflection Paper	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Documentary Reflection Paper	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>

A = 495 – 550 points  
B = 440 – 494 points  
C = 385 – 439 points  
D = 330 – 384 points  
F = below 330 points

### COURSE OUTLINE, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

**\*ALL READINGS OUTSIDE OF THE TEXTBOOK ARE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD**

	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b>MODULE 1</b>	Criminal Justice as Social Control	Chapter 1 Shelton (2006) and complete brief exercise for bonus points!
	Crime in Society	Chapter 2
	Theories of Criminal Offending	Chapter 3
	Writing Assignment 1: Reading reflection paper	Read: Kozinski (2015) and complete reading reflection paper as per guidelines
<b>MODULE 2</b>	Police in America	Chapter 4
	Police Operations	Chapter 5
	Police and the Legal Process	Chapter 6 Read: Kassin (1997) and complete brief exercise on blackboard for bonus points!
<b>MODULE 3</b>	Law and Society	Chapter 7
	Courts in America	Chapter 8
	Due Process: Arrest through Sentencing	Chapter 9
	The Juvenile System	Chapter 10
<b>MODULE 4</b>	The Function of Corrections	Chapter 11
	Prisons and Jails	Chapter 13 *Watch two videos (they are marked in the lecture) on supermax prisons and complete brief exercise for bonus points!
	Probation, Parole and Re-Entry	Chapter 12 & 14
	The Death Penalty	
	Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System and the Insanity Defense	
<b>ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS</b>	Annotated Bibliography	Can be completed at any point in the course.
	Documentary Reflection Paper	Should be completed AFTER all other work in the modules are completed.