Fall 2022

Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIM:101-701 (46672)
Web-based course delivery

Instructor: Crystal Bohlander

Email: crystal.bohlander@wku.edu I check email every weekday.

Offices: Grise 123 (Monday and Friday), Normal 109 (Wednesday)

Office Hours: M&W 1:00 to 5:00 pm, as well as other times by appointment. I will be in GH 123 on Mondays & Normal Hall 109 on Wednesdays. To schedule an appointment, please email me.

Zoom Link
https://wku.zoom.us/j/6970335147 Meeting ID: 697 033 5147 This is ALWAYS the Zoom link to use to meet with me. By using the same link each time, students do not have to search for it each time we meet. Zoom is a great way to speak with students located across the globe.

I enjoy speaking to my students. I want to help you have a successful semester and to meet your personal goals. Please reach out to me anytime!

Crystal Bohlander

Department of Sociology and Criminology

Fall 2022

Background and Context

The first lesson I hope to teach is that I am excited to have you in class and genuinely see us as a team. Now that you are my partner in learning, we have a joint investment. My course work prepared me for a successful career in the court system. College academics also informed me as a community member, volunteer, taxpayer, and voter. It is my hope that this course is as relevant to your own life. Reading and thinking about crime and punishment can be a fascinating way to explore our personal values and those of our community. As social scientists, we examine criminal justice data and behaviors of offenders and legal professionals. Share with me how the course can help meet your personal goals. I am very flexible and happy to include topics of special interest within the scope of our topic. So, if you cannot wait to chat about the death penalty or legalization of marijuana or "defund the police" or my favorite Supreme Court justices or what Homeland Security is up to these days, speak up! The fun of this is that we have many avenues we can choose to pursue within our general topic boundaries.

Examining cases and historical shifts in criminal justice is as compelling as fiction. Folks never seem to tire of new "CSI" shows or detective novels and love courtroom dramas. The eternal struggles around 'good and bad' in real life are even more fraught with strange twists and unintended consequences for exploration. In class, we are free of the constraints of political affiliation or job title. **We come as social scientists to define and measure what is happening now (statistics and data collection/analysis), research how that came to be, and explore courses of action likely to increase the achievement of justice and public safety in the future.** Share your thoughts openly. Ask questions. Respectfully challenge the material. Look for new options. Develop an operational understanding of this complex system. Assess strengths and weaknesses of the American Criminal Justice system with an eye toward improvement and public policy.

We have a huge stake in criminal justice, if we are interested in it as a career or not. Think about the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement in America or Daniel Cameron's prosecutorial decision making in the Breonna Taylor case in Louisville, Kentucky. Millions of lives are impacted by criminal justice public policy and **our** money is used to execute those policies through law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections. The US spends nearly $300 billion annually to police communities and incarcerate 2.2 million people. The societal costs of incarceration—lost earnings, adverse health effects, and the damage to the families of the incarcerated—are estimated at up to 3 times the direct costs, bringing the total burden of our criminal justice system to as much as $1.2 trillion and more. (For context, this approaches the as the *GDP of Canada*.) Having a basic understanding of Criminal Justice in America will make us more prepared to participate meaningfully in the systems that touch the lives of so many.

Welcome!

Course Overview

This is a survey of the American criminal justice system, including police, courts, and corrections. By the end of the semester, students will:

- Be able to define "crime" and describe the agencies and professional roles associated with the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of crime in America.
- Learn about the collection of crime and justice data, review statistical information from legitimate sources, and compare data across groups.
- Develop a working understanding of the flow of a criminal case from offense through correctional oversight.
- Understand the impact of selected US Supreme Court cases on the criminal justice process.
- Develop a basic understanding of criminological theories related to behaviors associated with crime and other antisocial acts.
- Compare and contrast approaches to adult and juvenile offenders.
- Demonstrate learning through a variety of assignment types that match the interest and strengths of our class.
- Articulate the main strengths and opportunities for improvement in the current American criminal justice system.

Successful students will spend approximately 3 hours outside of class for each hour formal class time (9 hours per week total). This includes the weekly readings, videos, and assignments.

DISCLAIMER: Some content may be difficult. Class discussion and materials may include violence, social injustice, criminal activity, and other challenging or difficult topics.

Quick Links:

- **Academic Calendar**: https://www.wku.edu/registrar/academic_calendars/
- **Tutoring:** The Learning Center- located in the Downing Student Union, 1st floor, room 1082. tlc@wku.edu (270) 745-5065
- **Math Lab** https://www.wku.edu/math/mathtutoringlab.php Contact the Math Tutoring Lab & Testing Center Coordinator, Jill Price, at 270-745-2141 or jill.price@wku.edu

Technology Notes

WKU has a [technology service desk](#) that can be contacted via phone, text, or online. Their physical location is Jody Richards Hall, first floor. **Blackboard** (Bb) is the Learning Management System used by WKU. Students can expect to find access to course materials and discussions within the Bb site. It is important to check Bb frequently (at least 3 times each week).

- **Firefox** and **Chrome** are compatible with Blackboard. Edge does **not** work well with Blackboard. Please do **not use Google Docs.**
- When emailing a peer or faculty, **download and forward the document** as an attachment, rather than as a link. I cannot open links, so I cannot grade assignments I receive as a link.
- A note about **document naming**: To help you stay organized, I recommend the following naming conventions: Class + Assignment + Last Name. For example, *CRIM 101 Book Report Bohlander.*

All assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard; this helps maintain records of submission. If you are attempting to submit something and the technology is failing, you may (and should) email me the assignment as a safeguard. Some students have had issues submitting files from cloud-based storage or Microsoft OneDrive. The best solution is to save the file as an .docx or .rtf to a computer or storage device (like a flash drive) and then upload to Blackboard from that device.

Textbook

"Crime and Criminal Justice: Concepts and Controversies 2nd Edition by Stacy L. Mallicoat

All students will need the book to successfully complete the course. Students will access the book online through a platform called "Vantage" that was created by your textbook publisher, Sage. This is offered as part of the "First Day Access Program" through the WKU Bookstore.

Students who opt out of First Day Access will lose access to their Vantage course and be unable to read or complete assignments. They will need to purchase Vantage access on their own at regular price and rejoin the Vantage course to resume work.

- Vantage ebook platform registration: [Click here for step-by-step registration directions](#) or [click here for a video tutorial](#).
- Video Tutorials for Vantage: [Click here for Student Videos](#)
- **All tech questions should be directed to Vantage** https://sagevantage.softwareassist.com/ or call (800) 818 – 7243 ext. 7080

Extra Credit

Students can earn extra credit the following ways:

- Submitting **recommended exam item**/questions.
  - These are primarily intended to encourage students to consider the content of upcoming exams with a curious mind, and to provide feedback to the instructor before the exam about content students find sufficiently impactful that it merits a possible place on the exam.
  - Due via email to the instructor no later than <u>48 hours prior</u> to the start of the Module Exam.
  - The student can earn <u>one point per recommended exam item</u>, up to a <u>total of three</u> per module. To qualify, the student must construct an exam question or prompt as if they were the instructor. The full language of the item, including the foils (incorrect responses), and the rationale for the student's selection of correct response, must be present. If the proposed item is an essay prompt, the student should clearly indicate the components required for a response to be considered complete.
- Completion of optional bonus items on exams.

Grading

Students earn a letter grade based on the percent of total points earned this semester.

Assessment	Description	Possible Points
Discussion Boards	Students choose 8 of the 10 discussion board prompts offered. Students create an original response to the prompt, often requiring further research. All sources must be cited in APA format. Students must respond to 2 peers for full points. Some content will not show until a student posts a discussion response. These are all **due before 11:59 pm on Sunday to allow students to take advantage of the weekend.**	80
Quizzes	11 Quizzes offered at 15 points per quiz. Complete via Blackboard prior to midnight on Friday. I drop the lowest quiz grade, so you are graded on 10 of the 11 quizzes offered. **Quizzes and knowledge checks are due before midnight on Sunday.**	150
Exams	4 Exams at 100 points per exam. Expect a mix of multiple choice and essay or short answer items on the exams. The content is **not** cumulative. **Exams are available on Fridays from 7:00 am to 11:59 pm. Dates listed in course calendar.** *Exam One: Foundations of Criminal Justice Chapters 1-6; Exam Two Policing Chapters 7-8; Exam Three Courts Chapters 9-10; Exam Four Corrections Chapters 11-12*	400
Exploring CJ Module Two Assignment	Students choose one assignment from a list provided. Choose Your Own CJ Adventure assignment Due date 10-23-22 See BB site for full details.	75
Court Observation Module Three Assignment	Students will attend a court hearing and will document the experience in the form of a court observation report. Due date 11-18-22. See BB for details.	75
Outside reading Module Four Assignment	Choose one book from list. Read book and complete the associated written assignment posted on BB. Due date 12-4-22	75
Vantage Knowledge Checks	Students complete Vantage *knowledge checks* as part of your student textbook. The site will calculate the percent of these you successfully complete. I will spot check these for quality. Nonsense entries will be disqualified. I recommend completing these as you read the chapters assigned.	100
Scale	**Late Assignments** 5 points will be deducted per day an assignment is late. Vantage knowledge checks cannot be completed past the date due. A= 855 to 955 points B=759 to 854 C= 664 to 758 D= 568 to 663 F= 0 to 567	**955** total points

Assignments by Module

Module One: Successful Planning for a Successful Semester

There is no specific assignment for this Module; however, students are encouraged to use this time to obtain a book for the outside reading, make necessary plans to successfully attend a court hearing, and to choose the Module Two Assignment option that is the best fit. I am happy to discuss the assignments privately with any student.

Module Two: Exploring CJ Topics Assignment-75 points: Helpful Information

Due before midnight Friday, October 23, 2022. Turn in through BlackBoard.

The goal is to allow students to take a deeper look at topics within criminal justice of individual interest. Students will choose one of the multiple options available. **Students have a complete list of topics on BB from which to choose.**

Students will submit materials via BB to be graded. No grade will be assigned until materials are submitted via BlackBoard. Do not email assignments, unless specifically asked to do so.

Module Three: Court Observation Assignment-75 points: Helpful Information

Due before midnight Friday, November 18, 2022.

While the textbook and lecture materials discuss the operations of a typical courtroom in America, academic discussion alone can only reveal part of the story. To enhance the experience of students this semester, each student will be required to complete a court observation and report. Class attendees will choose a courtroom to visit. Courtrooms are typically open to the public. Juvenile proceedings are one exception to this.

- Student must choose a court to visit. Each student MUST attend court for a minimum of 2 hours. Ideally, students will spend four to six hours observing court. You can attend court in Bowling Green at the Warren County Justice Center, 1001 Center Street, BG KY 42101. This is less than one mile from campus. **You can also choose to attend court in your hometown or another location.** Night court is an option in some larger cities. You may attend any level from local traffic court to Court of Appeals to Supreme Court hearings.
    - Kentucky court dockets are available here https://kcoj.kycourts.net/dockets/ . **Choose** the **county** near the top and **then choose the date** you would like to go to see cases. Typically, court will start at 9:00 am for the morning docket and again at 1:00 pm for the afternoon docket.
    - I am happy to help students locate a court near their home. Contact me for assistance.

- Only take what is needed inside the judicial building. Set phones to silent. Ask the deputy at the metal detector to direct you to the courtrooms. <u>Take notes about what you see and hear</u>. Pay attention to the people around you. Do not speak to jurors. Bailiffs are the best to ask if you have a question. Be polite and always represent WKU professionally.
- The report should be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman Font, double-spaced and 3-5 pages in length. The report shall include at least one court procedure, policy, or practice about which the student would like to know more or better understand, and at least one thing the student would like to discuss or learn, based on this court observation. **Review the rubric posted on BB for the assignment for complete details. The Court Observation Report must be turned in through BB before midnight Friday, November 18, 2022.**

Module Four: Book Response-75 points: Helpful Information
Due before midnight Friday, December 4, 2022.

Students will choose **one** book to read from the following list to read. Students will read the book and respond to the questions and writing prompts provided by the instructor. Many students will obtain a book through the [WKU Library](#) or a local library. Students who have a question or need assistance locating a book can contact me for assistance.

- American Prison by Shane Bauer
- The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
- The Cemetery Road Murders by Wes Swietek
- The Madame of Clay Street by Mark Lucas
- Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration by Reuben Jonathan Miller
- Picking Cotton by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton
- Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, The History of an Idea by Mitchell Duneier

Criminology Statistics and Research
The following information is useful to students throughout this course, as well as others in this Department. Using reliable sources strengthens a student's arguments and work products. To do so effectively, one must vet the reliability of the source. Consider the position and credibility of each source or author. Check the date to make sure it is current. Address any possible bias. Never start an academic project with Google or other search engine designed for non-academic searches. A better place to begin is one of these:

- https://www.wku.edu/library/ The "everything" search bar is found on the main page. One can also live chat 24 hours a day with a librarian from this page.
- https://libguides.wku.edu/c.php?g=271515 Core Sociology and Criminology Databases are found here. Students can email Sean Kinder, the Criminology Library Liaison, from

this page. He can help students find sources that are high quality and peer reviewed. He can help you find the books and other resources you need. Contact him for assistance.

Students need to understand what is meant by **"empirical data."** Merriam-Webster[1]: *Based on observation or experience; capable of being verified or disproved by observation or experiment empirical laws.* We want to use empirical data in our work.

Crime and Justice in America

The United States' primary source for criminal justice statistics is the Bureau of Justice Statistics https://bjs.ojp.gov/ It is one of the thirteen federal Executive Branch agencies focused on the collection and analysis of information for statistical purposes. The mission of BJS is special to CRIM because it collects, analyzes, and publishes information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.

- https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/victims Your book discusses the **National Crime Victim Survey**. I recommend that you learn more about it at this link.

Juvenile Justice

Start here for research and data on juvenile justice in **America**: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/dat.html A component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP works to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and protect children.

Start here for research and data on youth in **Kentucky**:

- KY Court of Justice https://kycourts.gov/Court-Programs/Family-and-Juvenile-Services/Pages/Performance-Measures.aspx

- KY Youth Advocates The 31st edition of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* features the latest data on 17 measures of child well-being, showing how outcomes for children across the commonwealth have changed over a five-year period. This data book focuses on advancing race equity, with an examination of racial disparities and the longstanding systemic barriers that contributed to them, alongside policy and practice solutions to address these disparities. DOWNLOAD NOW

---

[1] https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/empirical#:~:text=Definition%20of%20empirical,observation%20or%20experiment%20empirical%20laws

Academic Dishonesty

Scholars create work that is unique and original to each project and/or assessment. When this does not happen, it can be referred to as academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and/or cheating. Here are some common forms of academic dishonesty:

- Using someone else's words, ideas, or sentence structure as one's own without proper citation.

- Stealing, borrowing, or buying a text and claiming it as one's own. This includes copying information from the internet or hiring someone to write something.

- Submitting the same assignment or a significant part of the same assignment for more than one class (AKA double dipping).

Most instructors respond to academic dishonesty in one or more of the following ways: assigning a 0 for the assignment, assigning an F for the course grade, and/or reporting the student to the Office of Student Conduct. This could lead to the student being asked to leave the university.

This one of the most serious infractions a student can commit, and **I take it very seriously**. All written assignments (no matter the length or weight) will be checked for plagiarism. Meeting with the instructor, a staff member of The Writing Center, and/or consistent citation can help a student avoid committing academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#) for more information.

Land Acknowledgement

We honor and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples on whose land this university was built. This region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee and Cherokee East tribes.

We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the Jonesville History Project, "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."

Names and Pronouns

In this class, we will respect each other by using one's stated name and pronouns. If your name is different than what is on record with WKU, please let us know the first day of class so I may

change the roster and we can use the correct name. Communicate your pronouns the first day of class, if you so choose. You may also email me privately if you wish to discuss further.

ADA NOTICE

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, Room 1074. The 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 IX MISCONDUCT/ASSAULT STATEMENT

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). 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.

RESOLVING COMPLAINTS ABOUT GRADES

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook for additional guidance.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the class in a timely manner if they desire. A student who drops the class without completing proper paperwork will earn a failing grade. The last day to withdraw from this course can be found on the Registrar's webpage. The only

exception to this is someone who has a catastrophic life event that compromises their ability to complete the course (prolonged hospitalization, for example) after the withdrawal date.

MENTAL HEALTH HELP

WKU Counseling Center: The WKU Counseling Center is an on-campus center located in Potter Hall and is staffed with qualified, certified counselors and therapists. Their number is 270-745-3159.

Therapist Finder: Psychology Today has an objective therapist finder tool at this website.

Crisis Lines:

- **The National Hope Line** provides free 24/7 confidential crisis support: call or text 1-877-235-4525.
- **The Crisis Text Line** provides free 24/7 crisis support in the U.S.: text HOME to 741741
- **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) Note: Dating violence is a form of domestic violence. See this website for more details.
- **211:** Like 911, 211 is a quick number to call when you are seeking a specific type of service. 211 can link you to community-based services wherever you are.

OTHER ON-CAMPUS HELP

On-Campus Sexual Assault Resources: These can be found on the Title IX website.
Legal Support: WKU provides affordable legal support for students through Student Legal Services.
All-Gender Restroom Finder: This is a map that lists the locations of all-gender bathrooms on campus.
Food Security Resources: This link connects you with food security resources on campus.

WKU Covid Policy

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. In accordance with WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive. The COVID 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 federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill