

Introduction to Criminal Justice

CRIM 101:300 | Winter 2022/2023

BASIC CLASS INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kyle Maksuta
Time: Online (Asynchronous)
Location: Online
Email: kyle.maksuta@wku.edu
Office: Grise Hall 111
Office Hours: By Appointment

REQUIRED BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Rennison, Callie Marie and Mary Dodge. (2021). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity, and Change 4th Edition*. SAGE.

ISBN: 9781544398730

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general introduction to the criminal justice system, including the historical development of our system in the United States, featuring the fundamentals of the system and legal foundations, as well as the contemporary system of processing cases. We will examine different theoretical models for describing criminal behavior. The class will also cover ethical considerations for criminal justice professionals. We will devote attention to examining the structure and function of police organizations, the day-to-day responsibilities of police officers, some of the methods and challenges of police officers, and constitutional considerations for policing. As we move into the function of the courts, we will discuss the structure and function of the courts, identify members of the courtroom workgroup and their responsibilities, and end the section with sentences and punishments available to the court. Following that, we will cover corrections, including distinctions between jails and prisons, the world behind bars, and community corrections. Finally, we will take on specialty topics, such as juvenile justice, drug abuse, sex trafficking, terrorism, and immigration.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the historical development of the American criminal justice system;
2. Discuss stages of the criminal justice process from arrest to sentencing to correctional options;
3. Explain the role of the police, including challenges, ethical considerations, limitations, and purpose;
4. Identify the major players in the courtroom and their roles, limitations, and authority;

5. Differentiate between probation and parole, jail and prison;
6. Identify special issues and populations within the criminal justice system, including juvenile offenders, female offenders, gangs, elderly offenders, and mentally ill offenders; and
7. Improve written communication skills through the submission of written assignments.

THREE WEEK COURSE STRUCTURE

As a three-week course, it is important to manage your time accordingly. I have provided a course schedule at the bottom of the syllabus with a suggested completion dates for assignments. Please refer to the schedule as it will outline when different modules and assignments will be released.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Unit Quizzes (25% of final grade)

Each unit in this course will be accompanied with one quiz. These quizzes will cover the main concepts presented in each chapter. You will need to complete the unit quiz before you can move onto the next unit. There will be a total of 12 quizzes across 12 units.

Module Reading Reflections (25% of final grade)

You are required to complete four module reflections, one for each module. These will be due at the end of a module. Instructions are provided for the reflection in Blackboard where you submit your reflection. You can locate each reflection within its respective module folder.

Exams (50% of final grade)

There will be 4 exams in this course, one for each module. Each exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and/or essay questions based off lecture and assigned readings. Overall, exams are worth 50% of your final grade.

GRADING

Grading Breakdown	Percent of Overall Grade
Unit Quizzes	25%
Reading Reflections	25%
Module Exams	50%

Grading Scale:

A	= 90-100%
B	= 80-89%
C	= 70-79%
D	= 60-69%
F	= below 60%

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Participation: Attendance is tracked in this course and is part of your final grade. You are expected and required to participate in your team discussions, complete quizzes, and all other interactive aspects of this course. You are expected to communicate with me if you are unable to participate. You must check for course announcements regularly as this is the best way for me to communicate with you quickly and succinctly.

Instructor Availability and Office Hours: I will be available for my scheduled office hours unless told otherwise. You do not need to schedule an appointment to come see me, however, I strongly encourage if you would like to meet with me during my scheduled office hours that you reach out if it is to discuss anything outside of what is covered in class, including mentoring, research opportunities, or other extracurricular community engagement work. If you require a meeting outside of my scheduled office hours, please email me so that we can schedule a time that works for the both of us.

Late/Missed Assignments: Late or missed assignments will be docked 10% points for each day they are late, unless you provide a legitimate excuse. If you expect to miss an assignment or exam, it is your responsibility to make me aware of this. Depending on the circumstances, accommodations will be made.

Academic integrity: Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty), will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment. I will also submit a report to the university Office of Student Conduct where the student may face more serious punishments (suspension, expulsion etc.) Please familiarize yourself with the Undergraduate Academic Regulations (ignorance is no excuse!):
<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php> / <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/>

E-mail Etiquette: I will only accept emails from your WKU email account! (abcd@wku.edu) Additionally I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. If you have not heard from me after 5 business days, please reach out again. When emailing please include in the subject line the course number and time/date of the class. Furthermore, please use spell check and watch for grammatical errors.

Students with disabilities and ADA Accommodations: 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/Discrimination & Harassment: 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, Deborah Wilkins, 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.

Covid Statement: 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 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 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

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services: The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Required Reading	What's Due?
Week 1 December 12 -18	Foundations of Crime and Criminal Justice & Introduction to Law Enforcement	Textbook Chapters 1-5	Units 1-3 Quizzes Due 12/15 by 11:59pm CST Module 1 Reading Reflection Due 12/15 by 11:59pm CST Module 1 Exam Due 12/16 by 11:59pm CST
Week 2 December 19-25	Introduction to Law Enforcement & The Courts	Textbook Chapters 4-9	Units 4-6 Quizzes Due 12/19 by 11:59pm CST Module 2 Reflection Due 12/19 by 11:59pm CST Module 2 Exam Due 12/20 by 11:59pm CST Units 7-9 Quizzes Due 12/23 by 11:59pm CST Module 3 Reflection Due 12/23 by 11:59pm CST Module 3 Exam Due 12/24 by 11:59pm CST
Week 3 December 26-30	Corrections	Textbook Chapters 10-12	Units 10-12 Quizzes Due 12/29 by 11:59pm CST Module 4 Reflection Due 12/29 by 11:59pm CST Module 4 Exam Due 12/30 by 11:59pm CST