

## CRIM 101 – INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FALL 2024

*Professor:* Brandi Greenfield, MA, CSW  
*Office Hours:* Please email for appointment

*Email:* brandi.greenfield@wku.edu

### **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 introducing the most fundamental concepts of the overall system.

Most 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.

**This content reflected in this syllabus may change, and there will be announcements made on Blackboard to reflect these changes. However, if all goes according to plan, this should be a good guide for what to expect in this course.**

### **CONTACTING ME:**

You are welcome to email me. I have a full-time job outside of this course as a therapist, and a family, and will work to answer you as quickly as possible. However, I'm happy to set up a meeting and help you as needed. **Let me know who you are, what you need, and how to best reach you.** Therapists do LOVE communication! 😊

### **COURSE OUTCOMES AND DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Be able to discuss the origins, development, and current structure of the criminal justice system
- Understand community and institutional responses to crime, formal and informal means of social control
- Be able to identify and utilize the writing style of criminological research through written assignments
- Be able to apply criminological concepts in written form
- Understand and analyze 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, and accountability within the system.
- Be able to identify peer-reviewed researchers' arguments and findings in written form.
- To develop a working knowledge of the definition and measurement of crime as well as the primary crime data sources and the patterns and trends that those sources reveal.
- To develop a familiarity with and be able to critically evaluate the major historical and current explanations (theories) of crime in society

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES (COLONNADE):**

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.

## **WARNING!**

All material for this course is considered my intellectual property. As such, do NOT share, distribute or post any course material such as notes, lectures, your assignments, study guides or exams, **to any website, social media platform**, etc. If you do post or disseminate any course material in any manner, I will seek academic disciplinary action. (Read as: I know these websites exist, so I better not find my stuff on them!)

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required text** (available at the university bookstore or online)

Lab, S.P. et al. (2019). *Criminal Justice: The Essentials* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780197546963.

The text is a **very basic text**. As such, there are additional readings for the course and all are posted on Blackboard.

## **ATTENDANCE**

While this is an asynchronous online course, regular participation and engagement are crucial for your success. You are expected to log in to the course platform to check for updates, participate in discussions (or whatever is due that week), and complete assignments. Assignments, quizzes, various submissions, and discussion posts have specific deadlines. Timely submission is critical. Late submissions will be penalized unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Regular communication is encouraged. I also understand you are human (I had 2 kids during the course of my degree pursuits. Life happens). Use text or email to stay in touch. I am a therapist in my normal day to day, but I cannot read minds. Participation should reflect your own work and understanding. Adhere to the college's academic integrity policy. *Students are also expected to approach this class prepared, having read the required material and ready to engage in discussion and debate.*

## **NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY FOR THIS COURSE**

To participate effectively in this course, you will need a reliable computer or laptop and a stable internet connection. Ensure that you have access to the course platform, Blackboard, and that you are using an up-to-date web browser like Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. Basic word processing software, such as Microsoft Word, and a PDF reader like Adobe Acrobat Reader, are also required. You'll also need PowerPoint to do presentations. All course materials, assignments,

and communications will be available through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check Blackboard for updates and announcements. Additionally, ensure that you have the necessary software installed and updated, including video conferencing tools like Zoom for optional live sessions or office hours, as well as any specific software mentioned in the course requirements. Regularly checking your email and the course platform will help you stay informed about any technical requirements or updates. If you encounter technical issues, please contact IT (<https://www.wku.edu/its/service-desk>). I can't help you on the tech side.

### **USE OF GENERATIVE AI TECHNOLOGY**

In general, I expect that the work you submit in this class will be your own, original work, and you are not authorized to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as (ChatGPT), except in the following context: you may utilize these tools to enhance your learning experience. In other words, generative AI can be helpful in expanding ideas, providing additional information, and exploring potential resources. The writing and words should be YOURS, but you can employ AI to help organize your thoughts. When employed in the writing assignment, you MUST describe how you used AI and it MUST be cited. Again, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as (ChatGPT) may be used on a limited basis for (brainstorming or gathering ideas) with appropriate citation, but not for the origination of the writing text of this paper. If you are unsure if you are using AI tools appropriately in this course, I encourage you to visit with me. Examples of how to cite AI tools are available at <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>. **Detection resources will be utilized.**

### **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, including the use of AI, 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 and true/false questions. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The final exam is not comprehensive. There are also a few bonus questions on each exam (because Dr. Trojan taught me to be merciful and kind when I was where you are). Exams will open and close on the same day (12:01am-11:59pm). Exams are very time limited, so know your stuff! You won't have time to look them up as you go.

*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. Make-up examinations may be in all essay formats. **There may be no opportunity to make up the last examination.***

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

*All assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by the date listed at 11:59PM!* As a rule, late assignments will not be accepted. I will check to see when assignments are submitted, as it is only fair to those who adhere to the requirements. **All assignments must be .doc/docx format unless it is an assignment that uploads directly to Blackboard (like discussion board submissions)!** Seriously – do not send me a file that I will have to convert. I won't do it, and it will be considered a nonexistent submission.

## DISCUSSIONS

Initial posts are due by the date listed, leaving time for classmates to reply. I will take note of when they were posted, so please do not be late as it is unfair to classmates who are working to get their replies in. Replies are due by the date on the assignment, as well. Late initial posts and replies will not be accepted and a zero will be given on the assignment. **TWO ACADEMIC SOURCES ARE REQUIRED IN INITIAL POSTS, AND ONE IN REPLIES. THESE MUST FOLLOW APA 7<sup>TH</sup> STANDARDS FOR BOTH IN TEXT AND REFERENCES.**

**Please follow APA 7th Edition standards, including the following: cover pages, text specifications (font, size, spacing, and margins), page numbers, headings, references, and in-text citations. I don't need necessarily need a running head, but the rest will be helpful for you to get into the habit of using anyway.**

## GRADING

Students will be graded on a point system. Students should make every effort to keep track of their grade throughout the semester and seek help if the student believes he/she is doing poorly in the course. **The point system below is FINAL.** Rubrics are especially helpful and included.

*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 extreme circumstances.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Points</b>
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Exam 4	50
Criminal Justice Journal Entry	30
Policy Debate Discussion Board	30
Case Law Analysis	40
Community Policing Project	40
Justice in the Court System	30
Prison Reform Proposal	40
Corrections Reform Proposal	40
Juvenile Delinquency Trends	30
G&TC Case Study	40
Policy Analysis Discussion	40
Ethical Dilemma Scenario	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

A = 450 - 500 points
B = 400 - 449 points
C = 350 - 399 points
D = 300 - 349 points
F = below 300 points

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*\*The schedule below is subject to change at discretion of the instructor. All assignments are due on the date listed by 11:59PM.*

Section 1	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings	Due Dates	Notes
Dates: 8/19 to 9/8	~Introduction to the Criminal Justice ~ Crime, Criminal Justice, and Policy ~ Issues of the Law	~Chapters 1-2	* Criminal Justice Journal Entry due 8/25 * Policy Debate Discussion Board posts due by 8/29, responses due by 9/1 * Case Law Analysis due 9/8	<b>*Mon. 9/2 – Labor Day</b>
<b>Sunday 9/8</b>	<b>Test 1 will open and close</b>			
Section 2	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings	Due Dates	
Dates: 9/9-9/29	~ Policing and Law Enforcement ~The Court System ~Institutional Corrections	~Chapters 3-5	*Community Policing Project due 9/15 * Justice in the Court System due 9/22 *Prison Reform Proposal due 9/29	
<b>Sunday 9/29</b>	<b>Test 2 will open and close</b>			
Section 3	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings	Due Dates	
Dates: 9/30-10/20	~Community Corrections ~ Juvenile Justice System	~Chapters 6-7	*Corrections Reform Proposal due 10/6 *Juvenile Delinquency Trends due 10/20	<b>*Mon. 10/7-10/8 Fall Break</b>
<b>Sunday 10/20</b>	<b>Test 3 will open and close</b>			
Section 4	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings	Due Dates	
Dates: 10/21-11/25	~ Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice ~ Criminal Justice and Public Policy ~Research Methods in Criminal Justice ~Review, Study, Final	~Chapter 8	* Globalization and Transnational Crime Case Study due 10/27 *Policy Analysis Discussion due 11/3 *Ethical Dilemma Scenario due 11/10	<b>*Thanksgiving 11/27 &amp; 29</b>
<b>Wednesday 12/4</b>	<b>Test 4 will open and close</b>			

**Other Important Dates:**

August 26: Last day to add a class, last day to drop with no grade, last day for 100% refund:

August 30: Last day to opt-out of Big Red Backpack and last day to charge WKU Store purchases to university bill.

September 2: last day to receive 50% refund

September 9: last day to receive 25% refund

October 28: Last day to drop a class with a grade of W (fee applies)

Students who stop attending class before the 60% point will be assigned an FN rather than an F

**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, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

**Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement**

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 the Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.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.

**Clue:** This criminal was a talented musician. He played the saxophone and other instruments.

**ADA Accommodation Statement**

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](mailto: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.

**Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the

basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/) under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

### **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](http://www.wku.edu/tlc).

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