

Introduction to Criminal Justice

CRIM 101 | On-Demand

BASIC CLASS INFORMATION

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

REQUIRED BOOKS AND RESOURCES

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

ISBN: 9781544398730

This course utilizes first day access. This means the textbook for this course are made available in digital format through the LMS (Blackboard), and the cost will be reflected on your student account. You can opt out of this program. Please keep an eye out for an email from the bookstore when the course starts explaining this.

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.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Quizzes (25% of final grade)

Quizzes accompany each of the 12 units in this course, with one quiz per unit, adding up to a total of 12 quizzes. These quizzes are designed to test your understanding of the key concepts covered in each unit. The format of the quizzes will include multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Module Reflection Journal/Exercise (25% of final grade)

A central part of this course is your active engagement with module readings. Unlike traditional journal entries, these module reflections can be completed through a range of mediums. Each reflection should focus on a key concept from the module readings. You will define this concept and apply it to a real-world scenario. You will complete a total of 4 reflections throughout the course, one for each module. While you have flexibility in when you complete each reflection, it must be submitted before the corresponding module's exam.

Exams (50% of final grade)

The course includes 4 exams - one for each module. These exams consist of various question types such as true/false, multiple-choice, matching, short answer, and essay questions, derived from lectures and assigned readings. Altogether, these exams contribute to 50% of your final course grade.

GRADING

<u>Grading Breakdown</u>	<u>Percent of Overall Grade</u>
Quizzes	25%
Module Reflections	25%
Exams	50%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = below 60%

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Instructor Availability and Office Hours: I hold regular office hours, and you are welcome to drop in without an appointment. However, if you wish to discuss matters beyond course content, like mentoring, research, or extracurricular activities, I recommend reaching out in advance. Should you need to meet outside of my office hours, please email me so we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

Late/Missed Assignments: Please be aware that late assignments will incur a penalty of 10% per day. If you have a valid reason for missing an assignment or exam, let me know in advance whenever possible. Depending on the specific circumstances, we can discuss potential accommodations.

Academic integrity: Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty, including use of AI), 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/>

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Language Learning Models (LLM) in this Course: In this course, we recognize and encourage the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, as helpful aids in your academic journey. These tools can be utilized for various tasks such as formatting assistance, the development of paper outlines, and the editing process of your assignments. AI technology is a powerful tool that can enhance your understanding and help streamline your workload. However, while these tools are available for your assistance, it is crucial to remember that they are to complement your academic efforts and not replace your original work. Therefore, copying and pasting content directly from AI sources is strictly prohibited. The primary goal of this course is for you to engage in independent critical thinking, apply course material, and produce original content. AI tools should aid this process and not substitute for your individual contribution. Infringement of these guidelines can lead to penalties as per the academic misconduct policy of the institution. Your responsibility is to ensure that the work you submit is genuinely your own, reflecting your understanding and your voice. Be sure to make the best, ethical use of AI tools to enhance your learning experience!

E-mail Etiquette: Please use your WKU email account (abcd@wku.edu) for all correspondence related to this course. I aim to respond to emails within 48 hours. If you haven't received a reply after 5 business days, feel free to follow up. When sending an email, make sure the subject line contains the course number and the time/date of the class. Remember to check your message for

spelling and grammatical errors before hitting send. Clear, professional communication is appreciated!

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.

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.