
CCJ2020 Introduction to Criminal Justice
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Florida State University
Spring 2021

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Virtual Course Meeting Days and Times

Lecture

CCJ2020-04- Tuesday, 9:45-11:00am

Discussion Sections

CCJ2020-05- Thursday, 9:45-11:00am

CCJ2020-06- Thursday, 11:35-12:50pm

CCJ2020-07- Thursday, 1:20-2:35pm

Important: You should attend (virtually, via Zoom) each Tuesday lecture session and the Thursday discussion section that you are registered for. You may not switch discussion sections or join a discussion section other than the one that you are enrolled in.

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of the history, trends, research, and theories of the United States' criminal justice system's response to crime in American society. This requires that you develop an understanding of police, courts, and corrections, which make up the three core elements, or branches, of the United States criminal justice system. Emphasis will be placed on the operations and challenges faced by each of the three branches and ways in which these challenges can be overcome. The course includes an examination of past and current criminal justice policies and practices. By the end of this course, you will be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the history, structure, current status, and key issues facing criminal justice policy, practice, theory, and research.

The main objectives of this course are:

1. To describe the prominent theories of crime causation, as related to criminal justice policies and practices.
2. To describe different strategies for the intervention and prevention of criminal behavior.
3. To describe the primary methods of crime and criminal justice data collection.
4. To describe the history and development of the criminal justice system.
5. To describe the current structures and operations of the criminal justice system.
6. To identify the primary challenges facing criminal justice professionals and the system.
7. To evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
8. To examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and the present criminal justice system.
9. To discuss the role of social factors in contemporary problems or personal experiences relating to the criminal justice system.
10. To analyze claims about social phenomena.

Required Course Materials

Textbook and Articles

Schmallegger, Frank. *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century*. Fifteenth Edition.

ISBN: 978-0134749754

Required articles for some topic areas will be available in the Modules section of your discussion section's Canvas site.

Computer

You must have regular access to either a desktop or laptop computer for this course. Some Canvas features and course materials may not work well on phones or tablets, therefore completing course assignments on a computer is critical.

Your computer must have working, reliable, and stable camera, speaker, and microphone capabilities.

Internet

You must have consistent access to a working, reliable, secure, and stable internet connection for this course.

Course Grading, Structure, and Policies

Grades in this course will be determined by your performance on four exams, three Critical Thinking Writing Assignments, and the University-required Liberal Studies Writing Assignment. Under no circumstances will late assignments be accepted. All course assessments (this includes exams and writing assignments) must be received before the assigned due date and time to receive credit; no exceptions will be made to this policy. To avoid any technology-related issues that may result in the late submission of your work, please be sure to allow enough time before each deadline to submit your assignments.

Final course grades will not be curved or rounded. I will not negotiate your grade(s) at the end of the semester. **Individual extra credit opportunities or assignments will not be given to improve course grades or replace required assignments or exams.** The total number of points earned on the exams and writing assignments will determine your final grade in the class, no exceptions. To calculate your final course grade, add the total number of points you earned, divide that number by the total number of possible points (500), and multiply by 100 (total points earned / total points possible * 100 = final grade percent).

Grading Scale

A 94-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 59% and below
A- 90-93%	B 84-86%	C 74-76%	D 64-66%	
	B- 80-83%	C- 70-73%	D- 60-63%	

Exams

Exams must be completed in Canvas before the specified due date. It is your responsibility to login and take the exam on time. Exam times will not be extended because of poor Internet connections, computer-related issues, Canvas-related issues, etc. Exams must be completed

within the allotted class time, will be timed, and the exam must be completed in one sitting (once you begin taking the exam, it must be completed). All exams will be taken during a scheduled Tuesday lecture session time block. A maximum of 100 points can be earned on each exam.

Exams may only be taken one time; re-takes are not permitted. Exams can only be taken on a different date if you have a valid, documented, University-approved reason for missing the scheduled date. If you miss an exam, you must let your Professor or Graduate Teaching Assistant know within 24 hours of the missed exam. Make-up exams will consist of essay questions, will be administered at a date/time of the Professor's choosing, and must be completed via Canvas. **If you miss the scheduled make-up exam date/time, you will be given a zero.** No exceptions will be made.

Critical Thinking Writing Assignments

The Critical Thinking Writing Assignments are designed to help refine your mastery of the course material and to strengthen your critical thinking skills. Detailed guidelines, which include the prompt and grading rubric, will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas. The assignments must be submitted through the Canvas Turnitin link before the scheduled due date. Writing assignments submitted after the due date or those submitted via email/hardcopy/fax will not be accepted (**you will receive a zero on the assignment if it is submitted after the deadline or via a means other than the appropriate and designated Canvas submission link**). Re-writing assignments after submission is not permitted. No exceptions will be made. A maximum of 15 points can be earned on each Critical Thinking Writing Assignment.

Liberal Studies Writing Assignment

The Liberal Studies Writing Assignment is a standard and mandatory assignment for all students taking CCJ2020 courses. Writing assignments must be submitted on time through the submission link on Canvas. Writing assignments submitted after the due date or those submitted via email/hardcopy/fax will not be accepted (**you will receive a zero on the assignment if it is submitted after the deadline or via a means other than the appropriate and designated Canvas submission link**). Re-writing the assignment after submission is not permitted. Turning in a paper that was submitted in a prior semester is a violation of the FSU Honor Code, will result in a zero for the assignment, and will be reported to the University. No exceptions will be made. A maximum of 55 points can be earned on the Liberal Studies Writing Assignment.

Course Structure

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, this course will be administered synchronously and entirely remotely. We will simulate as much of a traditional class experience as possible, even though we will not be on campus. This means that the course is scheduled to have live meetings twice per week—one lecture session and one discussion section.

To do well in this course, it is critical for you virtually attend and participate in each lecture and discussion session and read all assigned material. Course materials will be made available in the *Modules* section of your discussion section Canvas site. Exams and links to submit writing assignments will be made available in the *Assignment* section of your discussion section Canvas site. You should be proactive and review the entire course syllabus and course calendar regularly, to ensure that you are aware of all upcoming assignments.

First Day Attendance

FSU's mandatory first day attendance policy will apply to remote learning courses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that students must make contact with their instructor on the first day of classes. You **must** indicate that you are present on the first day in order to remain in the course; otherwise, you will be dropped from the class.

Attendance

In order to do well in this course, you must virtually attend (via Zoom) each lecture and discussion section and take detailed notes. If you miss a lecture or discussion section, be sure to get detailed notes from one of your classmates; **under absolutely no circumstances will the Professor or Graduate Teaching Assistant's notes be given out.** The virtual lecture and discussion sessions may not and will not be recorded for later viewing. Some material covered in the lectures or discussion sections will not be found in the assigned readings; therefore, it is imperative to virtually attend each lecture, remain attentive, and take notes.

Required Readings

The dates on the course calendar indicate the days that we will be discussing the topic/reading. It is critical for you to read the assigned material before each class so that you are prepared to discuss and ask questions. **It is your responsibility to read all material as some exam questions may come solely from the assigned readings.** The required readings can be found on the course schedule on Canvas. If the readings change, an announcement will be made in class and posted on Canvas.

Virtual Classroom Environment and Zoom Etiquette

You should treat our Zoom class meetings as though we were in a traditional face-to-face classroom setting. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please listen carefully while your Professor, Graduate Teaching Assistant, and classmates are speaking and be respectful of their thoughts and opinions. To reduce disruptions, please place all cell phones on silent or turn them off, please do not engage in telephone conversations, send text messages, browse the internet, or use social media during class time. You should only use your computer for watching/listening to lectures and taking notes during class time.

Please remain "muted" while on Zoom unless you are asking a question or responding to a question. You should plan to have your camera turned on during class time—be sure you are seated in a quiet and distraction-free location. Please note that some of the topic areas that we will be discussing may not necessarily be appropriate for younger children (i.e., police use of force, capital punishment, and solitary confinement). If you are being disruptive, you will be removed from the Zoom classroom without warning, no exceptions.

Course Communication and Email Policy

You should check our course Canvas sites (there is one for the lecture session and one for your discussion section) and your FSU email daily. Updates and important information will only be sent to your FSU account and shared via announcements on Canvas. When emailing your Professor or Graduate Teaching Assistant, please be sure to indicate your discussion section number. Emails must be respectful, include a subject, contain proper greetings and grammar, and include your full name.

Any questions about grades **must** be asked during a scheduled Zoom virtual appointment. Due to FERPA law, your Professor and Graduate Teaching Assistant cannot and will not discuss any specifics about your grade through email (or on the phone).

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>).

Academic Success

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more. Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program University Center A, Room 4100, (850) 644-7161, Available 24/7/365, Office Hours: M-F 8-5 <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling Center, Askew Student Life Center, 2ndFloor, 942 Learning Way (850) 644-8255 <https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services Health and Wellness Center, (850) 644-6230 <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Americans With Disabilities Act

Download PDF Version

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
- (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and
- (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc.) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services

874 Traditions Way

108 Student Services Building

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice)

(850) 644-8504 (TDD)

oas@fsu.edu

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas/>

Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes to the syllabus or course schedule will be announced in class and sent out via e-mail.

Liberal Studies for the 21st Century

The *Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program* at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for the E-Series and thus is designed to help you become an interdisciplinary and flexible thinker; a lifelong learner; and a team builder. In addition, this course has been approved for the Liberal Studies disciplinary requirement and thus is designed to help you become a:

- Critical analyzer of quantitative and logical claims
- Clear, creative, and convincing communicator; and critical reader
- Thoughtful patron of and participant in cultural practices
- Critical appraiser of theories and the facts that support them
- Flexible and productive members of society and independent learners