



Florida State University
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
CCJ 2020-0004 - Introduction to Criminal Justice
Semester: Fall 2025
Location: RBB 0108
Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 9:45am to 11:00am

Professor: Bryan Holmes	Graduate Assistant: Yewon Yoo
Office: CRM 201A	Office: CRM 201
Office Hours: M/W 12:00pm to 1:30pm	Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

Students will gain an understanding of basic social and behavioral concepts and principles through the study of the criminal justice system. Against this backdrop, a range of topics will be covered. For example, police organization and behavior, the courts, the juvenile justice system, corrections, philosophies of punishment, and offender reintegration, are all included in the curriculum for the semester. Emphasis will be placed on how the criminal justice system operates, the different problems with the criminal justice system, and ways in which these problems can be overcome. By the end of this course, you will be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the main issues that are directly relevant to criminal justice theory and research.

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are:

- Discuss the prominent theories of crime causation, as related to criminal justice policies.
- Describe the history and development of the American criminal justice system.
- Describe the current structures and operations of the American criminal justice system.
- Identify and describe different strategies for intervention and prevention of criminal behavior.
- Identify the primary challenges facing criminal justice professionals.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the American criminal justice system.
- Examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and the present.
- Discuss the role of social factors in contemporary problems or personal experiences.
- Analyze claims about social phenomena.

Course Materials

Required Textbook

Peak, Kenneth J. and Tamara D. Herold. (2023). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process*. SAGE Publications, Inc (5th Edition).

Attendance Policy

Attendance will not be taken every class but it will be taken sporadically via in-class assignments. These in-class assignments will be graded as pass/fail. Advanced notice and documentation is required if you are to miss class for an excused purpose (e.g., conference travel, sports-related travel, religious holiday). Absences for illness, emergencies, or family-related matters must be communicated to the professor by email prior to the scheduled class time. For detail on how in-class assignments are included into grading, see the In-Class Assignments section in the Course Assignments section below.

Course Assignments

Exams

There will be four exams. All exams will be administered in person, in class. Exams will be multiple choice. The first three exams will only cover the material covered during that section of the class (i.e., foundations of criminal justice, police, courts). The final exam *will be comprehensive* (contain information from the entire semester; foundations of criminal justice, police, courts, and corrections). See the schedule below for exam dates (subject to change). If a student is unable to complete an exam on the scheduled date, they should contact the professor **at least** 24 hours in advance. Students who miss an exam without a formal excuse will receive a 0. The final exam will be administered on December 9th, 2025 from 7:30am to 9:30am EST (this time slot is determined by FSU, not the professor, and is inflexible).

Weekly Quizzes

After class each Thursday, there will be a quiz available on CANVAS. The quizzes will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions based on the topics covered in class that week. The purpose of these weekly quizzes is two-fold: (1) engage you all in the material outside of the classroom setting and (2) help prepare you for the exams. On weeks where there is an exam, there will be no quiz (unless otherwise stated). Quizzes will be due by Tuesday at 9:45 AM EST (the start of class) the following week. Quizzes not turned in on time will receive a 0 and there will be no opportunity to make up missed weekly quizzes.

In-Class Assignments

In class assignments will be done sporadically and unannounced throughout the semester. These in class assignments will count for 10% of your final grade. Six in-class assignments will be collected throughout the semester mostly as a proxy for attendance. One in-class assignment will be dropped (i.e., you can miss one in-class assignment and still get the full 10% for attendance). Each assignment will be worth 2% of your final grade.

Extra Credit

There will be one opportunity for extra credit – available to all students. No extra credit opportunity will be specific to a student, please do not ask.

Course Grading

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Exam One	17%
Exam Two	17%
Exam Three	17%
Final Exam	24%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
In Class Assignments	10%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equal to or Greater than
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59

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.

Course Schedule

Week #	Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	8/26/2025	Fundamentals of Criminal Justice	Chapter 1
	8/28/2025		
Week 2	9/2/2025	Foundations of Law and Crime	Chapter 2
	9/4/2025		
Week 3	9/9/2025	Theory and Measuring Crime	Chapter 3
	9/11/2025		
Week 4	9/16/2025		
	9/18/2025	Exam One	
Week 5	9/23/2025	Police Organization	Chapter 5
	9/25/2025		
Week 6	9/30/2025	Police at Work	Chapter 6
	10/2/2025		
Week 7	10/7/2025	Police Methods, Challenges, & The Constitution	Chapter 7
	10/9/2025	Policing & The Constitution	Chapter 8
Week 8	10/14/2025		
	10/16/2025	Exam Two	
Week 9	10/21/2025	Court Organization	Chapter 9
	10/23/2025		
Week 10	10/28/2025	Bench and the Bar	Chapter 10
	10/30/2025		
Week 11	11/4/2025	Court Methods and Challenges	Chapter 11
	11/6/2025		
Week 12	11/11/2025	No Class - Veterans' Day	
	11/13/2025	No In-Person Class (Reading will be Assigned)	
Week 13	11/18/2025	Exam Three	
	11/20/2025	The Inmates World	Chapter 12
Week 14	11/25/2025	Prisons	Chapter 13
	11/27/2025	No Class - Thanksgiving	
Week 15	12/2/2025	Corrections in the Community	Chapter 14
	12/4/2025		
Final Exam	12/9/2025	7:30am to 9:30am	

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 written 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 student's 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/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/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 Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act

FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with the academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet the integral requirements of the course. 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, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in an 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>

Confidential Campus Resources

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, Rm. 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Florida State University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) primary mission is to address psychological needs and personal concerns, which may interfere with students' academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. The following in-person and virtual (tele-mental health) services are available to all enrolled students residing in the state of Florida:

1. Individual therapy
 2. Group therapy
 3. Crisis Intervention
 4. Psychoeducational and outreach programming
 5. After hours crisis-hotline
 6. Access to community providers for specialized treatment
- Call 850-644-TALK (8255) for more information on how to initiate services.

Counseling and Psychological Services
250 Askew Student Life Center
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-TALK (8255)
Walk-in and Appointment Hours:
M-F 8 am – 4 pm
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services

Services at UHS are available to all enrolled students residing in Florida:
The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment. Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness

(CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence prevention. For more information, go to uhs.fsu.edu.

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
960 Learning Way
Tallahassee, FL 32306
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

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.