
CCJ2020 Introduction to Criminal Justice
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Florida State University
Spring 2022

Professor: Dr. Julie Brancale

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Office: 201B Criminology & Criminal Justice Bldg

Office Hours: T 8:30-9:30am & 11:30am-1:00pm
R 8:30-9:30am or by appointment
via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Sami Rasmussen

Email: snrasmussen@fsu.edu

Office: 114D Criminology & Criminal Justice Bldg

Office Hours: T 11:10am-12:10pm & 2:45-3:45pm
W 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment
via Zoom

Course Meeting Information

Tuesday Lecture

CCJ2020-08 1:20pm-2:35pm (HCB314)

Thursday Discussion Sections

CCJ2020-09 11:35am-12:50pm (BEL116)

CCJ2020-10 1:20pm-2:35pm (HCB314)

CCJ2020-11 3:05pm-4:20pm (BEL116)

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. The course 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 key theories of crime, 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*. Sixteenth Edition. ISBN: 9780135770580

Required articles for some topic areas will be available on Canvas.

The dates on the course calendar indicate the days that we will be discussing the reading. It is critical for you to read the 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 readings.

Computer and Internet

You must have regular access to a working, reliable, secure, and stable computer and internet connection for this course. Some Canvas features and course materials may not work well on phones or tablets, therefore completing course assessments and downloading material on a computer is critical.

Course Structure, Grading, and Policies

This course consists of two distinct but connected face-to-face meetings each week. On Tuesdays, we will meet as a large class for the lecture portion of the class. This meeting is designed to introduce you to key topics, concepts, and perspectives. The lecture session will be led by your professor. On Thursdays, you will be broken up into smaller groups for discussion sections. The discussion sections are designed to reinforce the reading and lecture material. The discussion section will be led by your teaching assistant.

Attendance

Attendance and grades are strongly positively correlated, therefore, to do well in this course, you must attend each lecture and discussion session and take detailed notes. Some material covered in class will not be found in the assigned readings; therefore, it is imperative to attend each lecture and discussion session, remain attentive, ask questions, and take notes. If you miss a lecture or discussion session, be sure to get notes from one of your classmates; under no circumstances will your professor or teaching assistant's notes be given out. In addition, while we welcome questions and discussions during office hours or scheduled appointments, we will not re-lecture material if you miss class.

You must only attend the Thursday discussion section that you are registered for. You cannot switch discussion sections after drop/add or attend a section other than the one you are officially enrolled in.

Classroom Environment and Etiquette

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please listen carefully while your professor, teaching assistant, and classmates are speaking and be respectful of their thoughts and opinions. 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 will be asked to leave class if these policies are violated.

Course Communication and Email

Course materials will be available in the *Modules* section of your discussion section Canvas site. Links to submit assignments will be available in the *Assignment* section of your discussion

section Canvas site. Important updates will be posted in the *Announcements* section of your discussion section Canvas site.

You should check our course Canvas site and your FSU email daily. Updates and important information will only be sent to your FSU account and shared via announcements on Canvas. Emails sent to your professor and teaching assistant must be respectful, include a subject with your discussion section course number, contain proper greetings and grammar, and include your full name at the end. Any questions about grades must be asked during a scheduled appointment. Your professor and teaching assistant cannot and will not discuss any specifics about your grade through email or on the phone.

Grades

Grades in this course will be determined by your performance on the following course assessments: four exams, one fact sheet, and one Liberal Studies Writing Assignment. Each of the assessments are briefly described below; more information will be provided in class and on Canvas throughout the semester. Late assessments will not be accepted; all assessments 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. Your papers will be scanned through Turnitin (a plagiarism detection tool) and those with high similarity scores will be investigated and addressed in accordance with the FSU Honor Code.

Exams

Exams are designed to assess your mastery of the course material and will be completed during the lecture session meetings and on the university-scheduled date during final exam week. Each exam can only be taken one time; re-takes are not permitted. Exams can only be taken on a different date if you have a valid and university-approved reason for missing the scheduled date. If you miss an exam, you must let your professor or teaching assistant know within 24 hours of the missed exam. The exam must be made-up within one week of the missed exam. Make-ups (which include any exam not taken during the regularly scheduled class time) will consist entirely of essay questions and will be administered at a date/time of the professor's choosing. No exceptions will be made. A maximum of 100 points can be earned on each exam.

Liberal Studies Writing Assignment

The Liberal Studies Writing Assignment is a standard and mandatory assignment for all students taking CCJ2020. Your writing assignment 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 75 points can be earned on the Liberal Studies Writing Assignment.

Fact Sheet

A fact sheet is a one-page document that contains the most relevant information about a particular topic. The goal is to provide facts and key points about a topic in a clear, concise, and easy-to-understand way. In developing a fact sheet, using the course material and outside research, you will decide what is most important about a topic, organize it, and communicate it in your own words. You may select any topic covered in class for your fact sheet, however, it must be pre-approved by your professor or teaching assistant. A portion of your grade on the fact sheet will come from your submission of a proposal that describes which policy you have selected and why. The fact sheet must be submitted via Canvas by the specified due date and time. Late fact sheets or those submitted via a means other than Canvas will not be accepted, no exceptions will be made. Redoing the assignment after submission is not permitted.

A maximum of 40 points can be earned on the fact sheet.

Course Grades and Grading Scale

Final course grades will not be curved or rounded. Individual extra credit opportunities or assignments will not be given to improve course grades or replace required assignments or exams. Your grades are not negotiable; the total number of points earned on the quizzes, exams, fact sheet, and writing assignment will determine your final course grade, no exceptions.

Exams	4 x 100 = 400 points
Liberal Studies Writing Assignment	1 x 70 = 75 points
Fact Sheet	1 x 40 = 40 points
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Total	515 points

Final grades will be assigned according to the following point ranges:

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%	

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and subject to change with advance notice.

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."

<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 Dean of Students office to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course. To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS)
 - (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type
 - (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations.
- A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

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

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.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services

874 Traditions Way

108 Student Services Building

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	Counseling & Psychological Services	University Health Services
University Center A, 4100	Askew Student Life Center	Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-7161	(850) 644-8255	(850) 644-6230
https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap	https://counseling.fsu.edu/	https://uhs.fsu.edu/
Available 24/7/365 Office Hours: M-F 8-5		

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

All safety protocols and procedures that were utilized during the Fall 2021 semester will continue during the Spring 2022 semester. As stated by the Chancellor of the State University System of Florida and the Chair of the Board of Governors stated, we all share responsibility to remain vigilant and do our part to keep our communities safe and minimize the impact of COVID-19.

- Medical-grade face masks, such as N95 or KN95 masks, will be expected on campus. Cloth masks are less effective against the highly transmissible variants such as Delta and Omicron.
- PCR testing will continue to be available to all FSU students, faculty, and staff at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. You can find more information at uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing.
- COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots will continue to be offered and available during the spring semester to any interested students, faculty, and staff and to their eligible dependent children. We encourage everyone to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine/booster to help mitigate the spread of the virus. Spring vaccination clinic dates will be posted at vaccine.fsu.edu when available.
- You can learn more about the university's efforts and view the COVID-19 dashboard at stayhealthy.fsu.edu.

Recording Class Lectures

Students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for a class in which the student is enrolled for personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by the instructor as part of a university course intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab or recitation sessions; student presentations (whether individually or part of a group); class discussions (except when incidental to the lecture); clinical practica and presentations involving patient histories and other protected health information; academic exercises involving student participation; test or examination administrations; field trips; and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and recordings may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of FSU's Student Code of Conduct and will possibly have legal consequences. Students who record class lectures are asked to do so in ways that do not make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.