

CCJ 2020: Introduction to Criminal Justice
College of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Florida State University

Tu/Th 11:35am – 12:50pm

WJB 2004

Spring 2023

Professor: Dr. Kim Davidson

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Office: 201C Criminology & CJ Bldg

Office Hours:

Tuesdays – 9:00am – 10:30am

Thursdays – 9:00am – 10:30am

or by appointment via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Maeve Donnelly

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Office: 201 Criminology & CJ Bldg

Office Hours:

TBD

or by appointment via Zoom

Course Description

This course will provide an understanding of the various facets of the criminal justice system and the related historical trends, research, and policymaking. We will discuss the three branches of the criminal justice system – police, courts, and corrections – including the challenges faced by these institutions and their complex interactions with one another. In addition to examination of these institutions, we will broaden our view to look at how societal and political forces shape these systems over time, defining and redefining what behaviors we deem criminal and how we punish those behaviors. We will evaluate policies implemented across the criminal justice system, paying special attention to unintended consequences of these policies and the many difficulties that accompany policy implementation. By the end of the semester, you will be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the interconnected facets of the criminal justice system, identify historical and existing shortcomings and inequalities of justice institutions, and brainstorm potential solutions for problems across the criminal justice system.

Course Objectives

1. To understand historical trends & changes in approach to the American criminal justice system.
2. To describe theories of crime causation and the policy implications of those theories.
3. To identify primary sources and methods of data collection in the criminal justice system and the issues that accompany them.
4. To describe the current operations of the criminal justice system, including the three primary branches (i.e., police, courts, and corrections).
5. To understand the complex and changing relationships between criminal justice institutions and actors.
6. To evaluate the effectiveness of the American criminal justice system and specific policies within its institutions.
7. To identify and understand the challenges faced by criminal justice professionals and other significant actors within the system.
8. To recognize and understand how social, political, and cultural conditions and changes impact criminal justice institutions over time.
9. To analyze the quality of evidence and the strength of claims made about the criminal justice system and its institutions.
10. To compare and contrast various approaches to crime prevention and intervention, analyzing their benefits and drawbacks.

Texts & Materials

There is no required textbook for this course, but there will be required readings, videos, etc. Required readings/materials will be posted in Canvas. Please come to class prepared to take notes. Those who do not attend class will miss material that will be needed to successfully complete exams.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will not be taken at every class, but it will be taken sporadically and without announcement through reading quizzes, written reactions, and group tasks. These in-class quizzes, reactions, and group tasks will be graded pass/fail (i.e., if you turn in a quiz, reaction, or group work, you will get full attendance points for that day). 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**. Multiple absences for these reasons will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Two absences will be excused (i.e., two in-class quizzes/reactions/group tasks will be dropped).

Use of Electronic Devices

Cell phones are distracting to your learning, my teaching, and your fellow students. Please turn off or silence your cell phone before class begins, and phones should be away during class. Laptops are allowed in the classroom, but should be used for note taking and other class-related assignments *only*. Browsing social medias, online shopping, working on other assignments, etc. will not be tolerated. If you use your laptop for non-class tasks, I will ask you to put your laptop away. If the issue continues, you will be asked to refrain from using your laptop during class for the rest of the semester. This policy does not prohibit students with documented disabilities from using assistive technologies.

Grading

Exams:

There will be three exams during this course. A final exam will be given during Finals Week during the time assigned for this class. Exams will count for 55% of your final grade. Exams will be cumulative. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam for a university sanctioned reason, please notify me ASAP. If you are ill or other circumstances cause you to miss an exam, notify me as soon as possible and prior to the exam. Requests for taking a make-up exam require documentation of events such as illness, family emergency, or a university sanctioned activity. Make-up exams will consist of essay questions and must be scheduled with the Professor or the Teaching Assistant as soon as possible.

Liberal Studies Writing Assignment:

The Liberal Studies Writing Assignment is a standard and mandatory assignment for all students taking CCJ2020 courses. For this assignment, you will be asked to respond to a given prompt. Assignments will be turned in on Canvas and must be submitted on time within the Canvas system. Assignment submitted via email/hardcopy/etc. will not be accepted. Students will not be permitted to rewrite assignments after submission and/or grading. The prompt, requirements, and grading rubric will be provided in the first few weeks of the semester.

Final Project – Infographic:

Early in the semester, you will pick a topic for your infographic project. You will have wide discretion in picking a topic – any subject area that we will cover during the semester is acceptable. I will be available to discuss topic options with you, help you narrow your focus, etc. as you make your choice. The goal of this project is to create an infographic that communicates critical information someone would need to understand a pressing issue in the criminal justice system. Someone who is unfamiliar with the topic should be able to quickly read your infographic and gain deep understanding of the issue.

Further information about this assignment will be given to you throughout the semester, including requirements and grading rubrics. As part of this project, you will be required to turn in an annotated bibliography that includes a minimum of 6 relevant, peer-reviewed sources. We will discuss this requirement during the semester, including how to find peer-reviewed sources to use in your annotated bibliography and your infographic. You will also complete a peer review assignment, providing feedback to two of your peers on their infographic project. In total, this assignment will count for 25% of your grade (5% annotated bibliography, 5% peer review, 15% final infographic project). Additional guidelines for these assignments will be given prior to the due dates.

Attendance:

Attendance, which will be taken through sporadic and unannounced in-class activities or assignments, will count for 10% of your final grade. Twelve in-class activities will be collected throughout the semester to grade attendance. Two in-class activities will be dropped (i.e., you can miss two in-class activities and still get the full 10% for attendance). Each activity will be 1% of your final grade. Students who are present for 11 attendance checks will get 1pt (1%) of extra credit. Those present for all 12 attendance checks will get 2pts (2%) of extra credit.

Late Assignments:

All students will be given 3pts (3%) of extra credit at the start of the semester. You can trade in those 3pts for the ability to turn in an assignment late one time during the semester. If you use your single use “late pass,” you can turn in the chosen assignment up to 3 days late (i.e., if it was due on Monday at 11:59pm, you have until Thursday at 11:59pm; if it was due Friday at 11:59pm, you have until Monday at 11:59pm). This can only be done once per semester and you will lose the 3pts of automatic extra credit if you choose to use this single use assignment extension. No other late assignments will be accepted beyond this single use option. This is not available for exams or extra credit opportunities.

Extra Credit:

There will be at least one opportunity for extra credit provided during the course. Extra credit opportunities will be shared in class only. Extra credit opportunities will not be given to students on an individual basis.

Grade Breakdown & Grading Scale

EXAMS	55%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam (Exam 3)	20%
WRITING ASSIGNMENT	10%
Liberal Studies Writing Assignment	10%
FINAL PROJECT	25%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Peer Review	5%
Final Project	15%
IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	10%

Grading Scale

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

Policy on Student Responsibilities and Classroom Conduct

1. Students are responsible for attending all classes, taking notes, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the professor.
2. Any changes to the course schedule and/or syllabus will be announced in class. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the professor throughout the semester.
3. Students must contact the professor or TA as soon as possible if they anticipate missing multiple classes due to events such as chronic illnesses, travel related to team sports, or other university activities. The professor will determine the minimal attendance and participation required in order to meet course responsibilities.
4. Behaviors that disrupt either the professor or other students are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class, cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class), and will be addressed by the professor.

Important Note on Assignments Submitted via Canvas

Assignments submitted via Canvas must be submitted as either a .pdf, .doc, or .docx. Links provided to a OneDrive folder, Google Drive folder, Google Docs page, etc. will not be accepted for credit. An actual file must be submitted for all assignments. Please double check all submissions to Canvas assignment folders. Failure to notice that you submitted an incomplete assignment, blank pages, an assignment for another class, etc. will not be an accepted reason for an extension on the due date.

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.

Public Health Protocol

Medical-grade face masks, such as KN95s and N95s, are recommended given their greater effectiveness against the new variants of COVID. As our President has informed the university community, FSU suggests the use of face-coverings, particularly for those unvaccinated or recently potentially exposed to COVID. In regions where virus rates are high, the CDC recommends that even vaccinated individuals wear masks in public indoor spaces, like classrooms, especially where social distancing is not possible. The best way to protect against serious illness is to be fully vaccinated, but not everyone among us can be. Because these variants can infect even vaccinated individuals and can be spread by them to others, it poses a special threat to members of the community with underlying health conditions. For these reasons, FSU expects each member of the community to comply with the public health protocols our President set forth on December 31, 2021, including (1) getting fully vaccinated and boosted, (2) being tested for the virus if you have symptoms, (3) staying home and away from others if you are sick, and (4) wearing medical-grade masks in public indoor spaces. Please remember that you should NOT attend class in person if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are quarantining after exposure. Finally, please bear in mind that the COVID-19 situation is fast-moving, and that university guidance on the issue may change at any time.

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>)

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; and,
- (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.

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 alternative format upon request.

For 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>

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.

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.

Department of Student Support & Transitions

Supports, connects, and empowers all students as they navigate their academic and personal journeys. We welcome students and family members to connect with the Department of Student Support and

Transitions if you are experiencing a crisis or just need someone to talk through a problem or experience you are having at Florida State University. <https://dsst.fsu.edu> or contact dsst@fsu.edu

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

Counseling & Psychological Services

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

University Health Services

Health and Wellness
Center
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.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.