



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course Number and Section(s): CCJ 2020-0006

Course Name: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Semester and Year: Spring 2024

Class Location: HCB 0205

Class Days: Monday & Wednesday

Class Time: 3:05pm to 4:20pm EST

Professor: Bryan Holmes

Email: bholmes4@fsu.edu

Office: 201A Criminology & CJ Bldg.

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00pm to 1:30pm
or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jasmyn Stevens

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Office: 201 Criminology & CJ Bldg.

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the various parts of the criminal justice system. We will discuss the three main tenets of the criminal justice system – police, courts, and corrections – and the challenges faced by these institutions. We will also examine how individual, situational, environmental, and political forces shape these systems. We will evaluate policies implemented across the criminal justice system, paying special attention to the 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 criminal justice system, identify strengths and weaknesses of American justice institutions, and brainstorm potential solutions for existing problems in the criminal justice process.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the historical foundation of the American criminal justice system.
2. To evaluate the balance of due process and crime control.
3. To understand criminological theories and their accompanying policy implications.
4. To identify strengths and weaknesses of existing criminal justice data.
5. To describe the role and interconnectedness of the three primary criminal justice branches (i.e., police, courts, corrections).
6. To understand the criminal justice process, from crime reporting to re-entry.
7. To identify a framework to evaluate the effectiveness of criminal justice policies.
8. To evaluate the immediate and distal implications of criminal justice policies.
9. To understand the challenges faced by criminal justice actors.
10. To identify discretionary decisions in the criminal justice process and the factors that influence these discretionary decisions (e.g., legal, extralegal, individual, situational, and community factors).

Text & Materials

The following textbook is required for this course: Peak, K. J., & Madensen, T. D. (2019). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process* (4th edition). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications Inc. Additional reading or materials will be posted on CANVAS.

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 absences are included into grading, see the In-Class Assignments/Attendance 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 a combination of (a) multiple choice and (b) short answer questions. 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 Thursday May 2nd, 2024 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm EST.

Weekly Quizzes

After class each Wednesday, 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. Quizzes will be due by Monday at 3:05 PM EST (the start of class) of 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.

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. Late assignments or an assignment submitted via email/hard copy/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.

In-Class Assignments/Attendance

Attendance will be taken sporadically and unannounced throughout the semester via in-class assignments. These in class assignments will count for 10% of your final grade. Six in-class assignments will be collected throughout the semester to grade 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 two opportunities 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	15%
Exam Two	15%
Exam Three	15%
Final Exam	20%
Weekly Quizzes	13%
Liberal Studies Writing Assignment	12%
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

Tentative Course Schedule

Week #	Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	1/8/24 1/10/24	Fundamentals of Criminal Justice	Chapter 1
Week 2	1/15/24	No Class - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
	1/17/24	Foundations of Law and Crime	Chapter 2
Week 3	1/22/24 1/24/24	Theory and Measuring Crime	Chapter 3
Week 4	1/29/24 1/31/24	Exam One	
Week 5	2/5/24 2/7/24	Police Organization	Chapter 5
Week 6	2/12/24 2/14/24	Police at Work	Chapter 6
Week 7	2/19/24 2/21/24	Police Methods, Challenges, & The Constitution Policing & The Constitution	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Week 8	2/26/24 2/28/24	Exam Two	
Week 9	3/4/24 3/6/24	Court Organization	Chapter 9
	3/11/24 3/13/24	No Class - Spring Break	
Week 10	3/18/24 3/20/24	Bench and the Bar	Chapter 10
Week 11	3/25/24 3/27/24	Court Methods and Challenges	Chapter 11
Week 12	4/1/24 4/3/24	Exam Three	
Week 13	4/8/24 4/10/24	The Inmates World	Chapter 12
Week 14	4/15/24 4/17/24	Prisons	Chapter 13
Week 15	4/22/24 4/24/24	Corrections in the Community	Chapter 14
Final Exam	5/2/24	3:00pm to 5:00pm EST	

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.

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/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

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.

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.

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 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
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/>

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.