

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
Division of Criminal Justice  
CrJ 5: Communities and the Criminal Justice System

**Course Syllabus**  
(Spring 2009)

Instructor: Mr. S. Moffatt

Office Hours: MWF 8am- 9am & 12 noon-1pm

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CSUS Website/Criminal Justice: [www.hhs.csus.edu/cj](http://www.hhs.csus.edu/cj)

Office Phone: None

Office location: Alpine 213

**Course Description:** This course examines the complex, dynamic relationship between communities and the justice system in addressing crime and conflict with an emphasis on the challenges and prospects of administering justice within a diverse, multi cultural population. The course addresses the historic role that race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, social class, culture and justice professionals play in shaping these relationships. Special topics include crime prevention, restorative justice & conflict resolution.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Explain the major roles of the U.S. police, courts and correctional system.
2. Define "community" and the interfaces between it and the justice system.
3. Explain and apply the concepts of power, privilege, discrimination and community justice.
4. Identify key cultural value areas that present the greatest potential for conflict between communities and the components of the criminal justice system.
5. Examine conceptions of justice and fairness from the perspectives of victims, offenders, community members and justice system professionals.
6. Explain how the law has been used historically to create, maintain and reduce the harmful effects of those who are and have been considered "different" or outside the dominant class or culture in the U.S.
7. Explain the relationship between law and culture. And the role of race, culture, sex and religion in shaping attitudes toward justice institutions and law.
8. Describe how community perceptions of the justice system have been shaped by historical relations between the system and different cultural groups within the community (e.g., class, race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, etc.).
9. Identify mechanisms and programs for addressing crime and conflict within and between communities and the justice system such as restorative justice, mediation and crime prevention.
10. Identify strategies for developing and implementing community programs for crime control and the administration of justice.

**Required Text: Instructor's Course Packet (Red in color) for Sections 02 & 03**

**CJ5: Communities and the Criminal Justice System**

## **GRADING**

Two midterm examinations will account for 50% of the grade. The cumulative final will account for 30% of the grade. The in class essay exams will account for 10% of the grade and the required 'movie' paper will account for the remaining 10% of the grade. Class participation will be expected of you and will be factored in as well.

### **Value of Midterm/Final Graded Assignments:**

100	A+
99-95	A
94-90	A-
89	B+
88-85	B
84-80	B-
79	C+
78-75	C
74-70	C-
69	D+
68-65	D
64-60	D-
59	See Me

### **Value of in class essays:**

25-23	A
22-20	B
19-17	C
16-12	D
11	See Me

## **PAPER**

After reviewing a selected film in class of my choice, each student will be required to type an essay that utilizes Critical Thinking techniques that Identify, Analyze, Define, Assess and Evaluate effective skills being put into service in today's society. Moreover, the writing assignment should display examples that discuss issues such as, *Difference, Culture, Privilege, Sex or Gender* to name a few. The paper will be a minimum of **seven** typed, double-spaced pages. I will go into greater detail if necessary once the semester begins. The paper will be due near the end of the semester. You will find additional information at CJ faculty website or inquire at my office. Remember, cite all of your sources using either APA or MLA format for this paper or any assignment in this course.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

If a student is given the opportunity to receive extra credit during the semester, it is not intended to mask any academic problems that may be occurring as a result of a deficient understanding of the curriculum. Additionally, the extra credit assignment is not intended to salvage a student's grade who chooses not to follow the path of *accountability* and *responsibleness*. Extra credit is not a required part of this course and will only be given out if I deem it necessary.

## Class Schedule

<u>Week#</u>	<u>Section Topics</u>
1	Course Introduction & Expectations
2	Section 1: Ethics <b>Essay #1: Ethics</b>
3	Section 2: Human Nature in American Society Section 3: White Males in American Society
4	Section 4: Native Americans
5	Section 5: Immigration
6	<b>Essay #2: Immigration</b> Section 6: Blacks in the CJ System
7	Section 7: Hispanics in the CJ System
8	Review for Exam #1 (Sections 1-7) <b>Exam #1</b>
9	Movie week (TBA)
10	Section 8: Asians in the CJ System Section 9: Women in the CJ
11	Section 10: Gays & Lesbians in the CJ System Section 11: Elderly and the CJ System
12	Section 12: Disabled Americans and the CJ System Review for Exam #2 (Sections 8-12)
13	<b>Exam #2</b> Section 13: Religiosity and the CJ System
14	<b>Essay #3: Religion</b> Thanks Giving Holiday
15	Section 14: Cultural Diversity and the CJ System Section 15: Interpersonal Communication and the CJ System
16	Section 16: Capstone Final Exam Review Turn in Course papers
17	<b>FINAL EXAM:</b> (Check catalogue for exact times and dates)

**NOTE: All lecture, in class essay and midterm exam dates are subject to change.**

### **Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to complete all required and assigned readings prior to the start of class. All lectures are conducted following the *Socratic* method, which means you should be prepared to answer any questions that are asked of you in class. Additionally, students should try to attend class regularly so they can be best prepared for each of the three (3) scheduled written exams and additional in class writing essays as well. I will attempt to stay on schedule with the lectures during the semester, barring any unforeseen events. The amount of question and answer time varies from class to class. However, everything in the 'Course packet', the lectures and any in class discussions are deemed testable material. Therefore, stay focused.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance will be discretionary during regular meeting days, however it will be mandatory on all test review and testing days. Also, even though attendance is not taken daily, punctuality is important. Therefore, if you walk into class late do not expect material to be repeated during the lecture time.

### **Disabilities:**

Students with special needs should advise the instructor at his or her first opportunity. If you have a disability and require special accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to **SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955**. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester. Also, please ***Do not sit in the desk that is assigned to someone who may have a disability unless that person is you.***

### **Examinations:**

All examinations will be completed in the class room and during class hours. There will be no make up exams (unless there is an **EXTREME** circumstance, i.e., a documented illness or death that occurs in the family). Moreover, approved make-up exams will be completed under conditions set by the instructor. There will be no make up exams because of vacation schedules.

### **Class room Decorum:**

No eating in class. Coffee, water and beverages are acceptable, until someone leaves their garbage behind. Once this occurs, No food or drink will be allowed in the class room. Respect your campus.

### **Electronic Regulations:**

**Any electrical devices. I.e. Laptop, cell phone, Ipod, etc . . . may not be used to photograph, record, amplify, listen or text message without the expressed permission of the instructor.**

### **Support with Writing Assignments**

The College of Health and Human Services Writing Center, located in Solano Hall 5000, is a program designed to assist students with all stages of writing from pre-writing through editing a text utilizing a peer-tutoring environment. The Center is staffed by graduate students from the English Department. Hours will be posted at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester. If you have questions about the Center, please call (916) 278-7255.

**Plagiarized work or other academic dishonesty during exams will result in an immediate failure in the class and a referral to the university authorities for disciplinary action.**

**I expect you to be able to defend and explain your work. If I encounter a suspect essay, I will give you the opportunity to explain and defend it. If you cannot, the presumption will be that the work is not original. Please retain a copy of your essay for your own records and verification in case the essay you submit is misplaced.**

The university website at (<http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/UMP14150.htm>) contains the university policy on plagiarism and definitions of plagiarism. Also, consult the university library website.

(<Http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=175>) for further information concerning plagiarism and strategies to avoid plagiarism. The library website also has a link to a plagiarism “test” to assist students in determining how well they understand what plagiarism is.