

Introduction to Criminal Justice and Society

Division of Criminal Justice
California State University, Sacramento
Criminal Justice 001 - Introduction to Criminal Justice and Society

PROFESSOR: Dr. Marlyn Jones**E-MAIL: marlyn@csus.edu*****OFFICE: Alpine 105****OFFICE PHONE: 278-7048****OFFICE HOURS: T/Th. 10:30 – 11:30/T 7:45– 8:450****Semester: Spring 2008**

This course fulfills the General Education D2 requirement. **CJ Pre-majors must achieve a grade of "C" or better to be eligible for the Criminal Justice major.**

Important: Please turn off all cellular phones and pagers. If you are on call or otherwise expect the phone to ring, please put it on the vibrating mode, sit close to the door and excuse yourself from class to answer whenever the need arises.

Description:

CRJ - 001 Introduction to Criminal Justice and Society reviews the problem of, and societal responses to, crime and criminals. Institutions discussed are those intended to (1) discover crime and criminals and (2) those designed to deal with the criminal, the victim, and society once the criminal has been labelled. The bureaucracy of crime and its measurements as a social phenomenon are discussed. 3 units

Goals.

This course introduces the criminal justice process and the relationships among the various components of the justice system. It reviews the problem of crime and the societal response to criminals. The student will learn how the American criminal justice system attempts to control and prevent crime while dealing with accused criminals in ways that are just. Students will understand the American criminal justice process as an institutional system made up of people, politics, organizations and procedures that interact in a dynamic way. Students will understand relationships among people who (1) commit crimes, are victimized and/or who are employed in crime processing apparatuses (2) administer the justice system and (3) the impact and consequences of class, race, ethnicity and gender in issues of crime and justice.

Objectives.

1. Students will be able to present an overview of the crime processing system. They will understand and be able to discuss crime control and due process as well as the distinctions between criminology and criminal justice.
2. Students will be able to explain crime within causal theories and systems of classification.
3. Students will be able to explain the major sources and limitations of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity and the costs of crime including the research methods, theories and concepts associated with each.
4. Students will be able to discuss the sources of modern law as well as the types of laws, the key constitutional principles of the fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth and fourteenth Amendments as they relate to arrest, search, seizure, interrogation, bail and the legal impact upon police.
5. Students will be able to discuss the bureaucracy of crime, the history and structure of policing and police management, the history and activities of the courts and court officers, and topics related to sentencing, probation, parole, prisons and jails.
6. Students will understand the implications of the topics taught as they reflect upon the diversity in human society and the contributions and perspectives with respect to issues of race, gender and class.

Methodology: The course will be taught in a discussion format supplemented with a variety of case studies, audio-visual and handout materials.

Required Text: Schmallager, Frank. Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text. Prentice Hall. Online support at (cjtoday.com) or <http://www.cjnowonline.com/cjnowonline8e/toc/index.html>

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Course Evaluation:

Exams

(best 3 of 4)	45%
Exam 1 (Chap. 1-4) Feb 21,2008	
Exam 2 (Policing chapters) Mar 13,2008	
Exam 3 (Court/Sentencing) Apr 10, 2008	
Exam 4 (Prisons and Jails and Juvenile Justice) May 6,2008	
Final Exam	25%
Interview Essay May 1, 2008	15%
(Assignments, Attendance & Participation)	15%

Grading will be based on the absolute scale (no curves) Final grade in the course will be based on the following breakdown: A = 90 – 100 (A-, A) B = 80 - 89 (B+ B B-) C = 70 - 79 (C+ C C-) D = 60- 69 (D) F = below 59

EXAMS: NO MAKE-UP EXAM WILL BE GIVEN. MISSING AN EXAM RESULTS IN 0 POINTS

Exams are scheduled for WebCT. Should there be a problem and there needs to be a change, the exam will be administered in paper form. In that case, you will need the BLUE Scantron # 4521 for in-class (or in lab) objective type test consisting of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and/or true and false questions compiled from ALL sources including guest speakers, video clips, and films.

Students, who must sit an exam at the testing centre, are required to make arrangements with the testing centre, and inform the instructor of those arrangements in time for the examination to be in place.

Interview Project: 20% Due: May 1, 2008 (1500 words or maximum 5 pages). Late papers will NOT be accepted

For this project, which should conform to essay requirements, you are required to choose a job in the criminal justice system, interview someone who **currently** works in that job and write an essay based on the interview information. You **MUST** reflect on and integrate information from the text book, lectures, guest speakers, documentaries or media representations. While not limited to, you **MUST** include the following information:

- A description of the typical duties of someone in that job
- The training and experience necessary to obtain that position
- The areas where persons in that position typically exercise discretion, examples of how they exercise that discretion, and why
- The main legislation or statute(s) that created or currently regulates that position
- Ways in which the constitution affects that position, with examples
- Any other information that interests you or arise from the interview.
- Information such as the textbook, pamphlets or other sources of information **must be referenced.**

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: All assignments should be handed in by the deadlines.

Chapter Quiz (Multiple choice): you are required to complete, **print and hand in 10 multiple choice chapter quizzes found at <http://www.cjnowonline.com/>** The quizzes, clearly labelled with your name and class section, **will be collected on the day those chapters are examined.** (See schedule for Exams 1 thru 4). LATE QUIZZES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Other exercises are listed on the course outline or will be handed out/discussed in class.

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CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance will be taken each class meeting. Your absence will be excused if you e-mail marlyn@csus.edu or phone (916- 278-7048) no later than the day of the class and indicate you will not be present. There is no penalty for excused absences unless it becomes excessive. Unexcused absences (will be penalized with a reduction of one point for each unexcused absence subtracted from your examination score.

Handwritten assignments will **not** be accepted, consequently, ALL Projects MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN using a minimum 10 points and 1 ½ line spacing. You are encouraged to make contact with the English Writing Center, Calaveras Hall 128, or the CJ Tutor for help with your written work.

Weekly Reading Outline (subject to revision)
 Text support: <http://www.cjnowonline.com> or [cjtoday.com](http://www.cjtoday.com)

This outline sets out the required readings for each meeting. Seminars will include short lectures, small group discussions, and discussions with the class as a whole. Please come prepared to discuss the readings and please let me know if you wish to discuss a specific area. If after reading the chapter you are unable to answer the chapter objectives, I recommend you re-read the chapter

	Topic/Issues	Readings	Questions/Activities
Week 1 Jan 29/31	Homogenization Process in Criminal Justice – A Sociological Approach	Introduction to the criminal justice process Crime and Justice in a Democracy	The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is important for several reasons. First describe the provisions of the Act then write an autobiography (maximum 2 pages) in which you reflect on and discuss, (1) the advantages and disadvantages of being you and (2) whether and how you have benefited from the Civil Rights Act. . This assignment requires that you demonstrate an understanding of the content of the Act. Therefore you must select a minimum of three provisions of the act for your discussion of the advantages/disadvantages. Due: Feb 5.
Week 2 Feb 5/7	What is crime? Types of crimes The crime problem today	Schmallager Chap. 1 and 2	Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what crime statistics can tell us about crime. 2. Discuss some of the limitations inherent in statistical reports of crime. 3. List the major crimes that make up the crime index. 4. Explain why crime statistics are generally expressed as rates instead of simple numerical tabulations. 5. Explain the hierarchy rule, and discuss how it affects crime reporting. 6. Discuss the meaning of the term clearance rate. Identify the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter. <u>In-Class Assignment</u> Pick a newspaper that interests you. You could use your campus newspaper, a local city newspaper, or a national newspaper like USA Today. Most newspapers post articles on the WWW. If you have trouble finding a newspaper on the WWW, try locating one using the News Central Web site at http://www.all-links.com/newscentral/ Collect 10 crime articles from your newspaper. Read the articles you have collected, and then answer the following questions. What types of crime are presented in the news? What characteristics of crime victims are presented in the news? What characteristics of defendants are presented in the news? Compare what you have discovered with the statistical information discussed in Chapter 2. Does the newspaper provide an accurate picture of crime in society?

			<p>TV frequently presents crime and justice related programs. List at least 3 TV programs that depict subcomponents of the criminal justice system. Are the images portrayed positive or negative? Do you think the images represented are fair and or accurate? Compare the TV images with the newspaper images from the above assignment.</p> <p><u>Prepare a maximum of 1 page for in class discussion:</u> (submit after class discussion for credit)</p>
<p>Week 3 Feb 12/14</p>	<p>Causes of crime Classical and positivist Theories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Explanations • Psychological Explanations • Sociological Explanations 	<p>Chapter 3</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List the various categories of theoretical approaches used to explain crime. 2. Describe the basic features of biological theories of crime causation. 3. Describe the basic features of psychological explanations for crime. 4. Describe the basic features of sociological theories of crime causation. 5. Identify two emergent theories of crime causation. <p><u>Exercise for class discussion</u> After reading Chapter 3, write ONE paragraph discussing which theory of crime causation makes the most sense to you. The paragraph should give a brief summary of the theory, including the name of the theorist (or one of the theorists in that tradition. Remember to provide citation for your work. (submit after class discussion for credit)</p>
<p>Week 4 Feb 19/21</p> <p>Exam</p>	<p>Understanding Criminal law and the Criminal Justice System</p> <p>Race, Gender and crime</p>	<p>Chapters 4</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the impact of common law on contemporary American criminal justice. 2. Discuss the nature of the rule of law, and describe its purpose in Western democracies. 3. Identify the various types of law, and explain the purpose of each. 4. List five categories of criminal law violations. 5. List the eight general features of crime. 6. Explain the concept of <i>corpus delicti</i>. 7. Discuss the four broad categories of defenses that our legal system recognizes. 8. Explain the legal concept of insanity, and distinguish it from psychiatric explanations of mental illness. 9. Name at least five new and emerging innovative criminal defenses. 10. Distinguish between explaining a behavior and excusing it for purposes of the law. <p>Exam 1 (Chap. 1-4) The exam will be available in WebCt between 7:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Chapter Quizzes due</p>

<p>Week 5 Feb 26/28</p>	<p>Part 2 Policing</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 5/6</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the basic purposes of policing in democratic societies. 2. Identify the three styles of policing, and discuss differences in these approaches. 3. Describe community policing, and explain how it differs from traditional policing. 4. Explain what a learning organization is, and describe how some police departments can benefit from becoming learning organizations. 5. Describe the nature of scientific police management, and explain the significance that scientific studies hold for law enforcement practice today. 6. Identify factors that influence an individual police officer's use of discretion. <p><u>In-class exercise: Discretion:</u> What factors influence an individual police officer's use of discretion? Do you think police officers exercise too much discretion in the performance of their duties? Explain. If you think it would be desirable to limit discretion, how would you do it?</p>
<p>Week 6 Mar 4/6</p>	<p>Policing cont'd</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 7/8</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the police working personality, and relate it to police culture. 2. List and describe different types of police corruption, and discuss methods for building police integrity. 3. Explain the dangers of police work, and discuss what can be done to reduce those dangers. 4. Describe the civil liability issues associated with policing, including racially biased policing. 5. Describe efforts to enhance police professionalism. 6. Discuss ethnic and gender diversity in policing today. 7. Describe the nature and extent of private protective services in the United States today, and describe the role these services might play in the future. 8. Explain the relationship between private security and public policing.
<p>Week 7 Mar 11/13</p>	<p>Policing Contd.</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 7/8</p>	<p>Continuation from Week 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 13 Exam 2 (Policing Chapters) - The exam 2 will be available in WebCt between 7:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. <p>Chapter Quizzes due on March 18th</p>
<p>ACJS</p>			

Week 8 Mar 18/20	Court	Schmallager Chapter 9	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <p>Identify and explain the roles of the various professional members of the courtroom work group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss indigent defense, and know what forms it takes. 2. Identify and explain the roles of the various non-professional courtroom participants. 3. Explain how professional and non-professional courtroom participants work together to bring most criminal trials to a successful close. 4. Explain the roles of expert and lay witnesses in a criminal trial, and describe how their testimony might differ. 5. Describe the various stages in a criminal trial. 6. Explain the hearsay rule, and identify recognized exceptions to it. 7. Explain the possible benefits of a professional jury system. <p>Describe methods that have been suggested for improving the adjudication process</p>
Week 9 Mar 25/27	Pre-Trial	Schmallager Chapter 10/	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List and explain the steps typically taken during pre-trial activities. 2. Explain pre-trial release, and describe the kinds of defendants that might be best qualified for release. 3. Describe plea bargaining, and explain what purpose it might serve in the system of justice. <p>In-class exercise: Plea Bargaining role play</p>
Mar 31/Apr 6	SPRING	BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 Apr 8/10	Sentencing Issues	Schmallager Chapter 11	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the five goals of contemporary criminal sentencing. 2. Illustrate the difference between indeterminate and structured sentencing. 3. Describe the different types of structured sentencing models in use today. 4. Define mandatory sentencing, and explain how it came about. 5. Describe truth in sentencing. 6. Explain the importance of federal sentencing guidelines. 7. Describe the nature and importance of the presentence investigation report. 8. Describe the history of victims' rights and services, and discuss the growing role of the victim in criminal justice proceedings today.

			<p>9. List the four traditional sentencing options. 10. Outline the arguments for and against the death penalty. <u>Sentencing Exercise:</u></p> <p>Exam 3 (Court/Sentencing) <u>Chapter Quizzes Due</u></p>
<p>Week 11 Apr 15/17</p>	<p>Probation Parole and Community Corrections</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 12</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the difference between probation and parole, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of each. 1. Describe in detail the legal environment surrounding the use of probation and parole, including the names of significant court cases. 2. Describe the federal probation system. 3. Explain the nature of the job of probation and parole officers. 4. List the advantages of intermediate sanctions over more traditional forms of sentencing. 5. Describe the likely future of probation and parole.
<p>Week 12 Apr 22/24</p>	<p>Prisons and Jails</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 13</p> <p>See also web information/statistics from California Department of Corrections, other states and Federal Bureau of Prisons</p> <p>Video & Discussion "Maximum Insecurity"</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <p>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the major characteristics and purpose of today's prisons. 2. Describe the prison population (Federal and State). 3. Describe the just deserts model, and explain how it has led to an increased use of imprisonment and to prison overcrowding. 4. Discuss how changes in the rate of criminal offending relate to changes in the rate of imprisonment. 5. Explain the role that jails play in corrections, and discuss the issues that jail administrators currently face. 6. Describe the trend toward privatization in the corrections field 7. Describe gender, class and racial issues relating to prison populations.
<p>Week 13 Apr 29/Ma 1</p>	<p>Prison Life</p>	<p>Schmallager Chapter 14</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the realities of prison life and subculture from the inmate's point of view. 2. Explain the concept of prisonization.

			<p>3. Describe the realities of prison life from the correctional officer’s point of view.</p> <p>4. Describe the causes of riots, and list the stages through which prison riots progress.</p> <p>6 .Describe the major problems and issues facing prisons today.</p>
<p>Week 14 May 6/8/</p>	<p>• Juvenile Justice Issues</p>	<p>Chapter 15</p>	<p>Chapter Objectives: What You Should Learn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the history and evolution of the juvenile justice system in the Western world. • List and define the categories of children in today's juvenile justice system. • Describe the nature of the problems that juveniles face in the United States today. • Name the important U.S. Supreme Court decisions of relevance to juvenile justice, and describe their effects on the handling of juveniles by the system. • Explain the similarities and differences between the juvenile and adult systems of justice. <p>Exam 4: Web CT: May 6th Chapter Quizzes due</p>
	<p>Terrorism</p>	<p>Chapter 17</p>	
<p>Week15 May 13/15</p>	<p>Re-entry, Re-integration an Restorative Justice</p>	<p>I</p>	<p>Travis, Jeremy. 2002. But they All Come Back: Rethinking Prisoner Re-entry. In <i>Sentencing and Corrections</i>. May. No 7.</p> <p>Petersilia, Joan. 2000. When Prisoners Return to the Community: Political, Economic, and Social Consequences. In <i>Sentencing and Corrections</i>. November. No. 9</p> <p>Visher, C. A and Jeremy Travis (2003) Transitions from Prison to Community: Understanding Individual Pathways. In <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i>. 29:89-113</p> <p>Interview Essay Due:</p> <p>In-class Assignment:</p>