

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**  
**Criminal Justice Division**

CRJ 1  
Intro to Criminal Justice & Society

Professor Canton  
Spring 2009

Office: 217 Alpine Hall

Office Hours: TR 10:30-  
11:45a.m. and by appointment

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## **I. Course Description:**

### **Catalogue**

Reviews the problem of crime and the societal response to criminals. Institutions discussed are those intended to discover the crime and the criminal and those designed to deal with the criminal, the victim, and society, once the criminal has been labeled. Finally, the bureaucracy of crime and its measurement as a social phenomenon are discussed.

### **Instructor**

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to criminal jurisprudence, a review of crime and the societal response to criminals, through the application and integration of emerging multi-media instructional technology, such as the Internet and other appropriate synchronous and asynchronous methodology. Current and contemporary issues in Criminal Justice will be explored and examined, as well as the philosophy, operating procedures, organizational structure and the process of agencies involved in the criminal justice system, utilizing information accessed through the Internet (World Wide Web, FTP, Telnet and Gopher Systems), and other electronic resources. Those agencies designed to deal with the criminal, the victim, and the society once the criminal has been labeled, as well as their interrelatedness will be the focus of this course. Finally; homework and in-class assignments will provide the student with an opportunity to learn how to apply this technology and to analyze historical and philosophical trends within the criminal justice system, with special attention to its emergence as a formal system of social control.

## **II. Goals and Objectives of the Course:**

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 is an institutional system made up of people, politics, organizations and procedures that interact in a dynamic way. Students will understand the relationships among criminals, victims and the justice system and the contributions of women and persons from various ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

1. Students will be able to present an overview of the criminal justice process. 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 explain crime within causal theories and systems of classification.
3. Students will 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 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 be able to explain the diversity in human society and the contributions and perspectives of women and persons from various ethnic and socioeconomic groups regarding the justice system.

This course is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to better understand both crime and criminal justice, and the emerging technology that is changing how it is practiced. Critical thinking will be stimulated by engaging in discussions about contemporary issues and inquiry into policy issues facing the criminal justice system. It is also designed to enable the student to review the historical development of social control systems in the United States; to understand the emergence of the rule of law and its ultimate conflict with individual rights in a democratic society; to critically examine the underlying premises upon which the criminal justice has been built; and to review the roles and goals of the various agencies involved in the criminal justice system.

### **III. Method of Instruction:**

Lectures, films, guest speakers, small group discussions, role play and library research will be employed with a shared responsibility between the instructor and the student.

### **IV. Course Requirements:**

Each student is expected to have an appropriate email account (either Saclink or some other appropriate Internet Service Provider) and access to the Internet in order to complete assignments. There will be five (5) examinations per semester, worth 50% of the total grade. The number of exams will facilitate prompt and direct feedback regarding how well you are dealing with the course materials. Quizzes will be given on a random basis and will be worth 20% of the total grade. Multiple choice questions and electronic answer sheets will be used. Students are expected to bring Scantron #4521 and a #2 pencil to each examination.

Make-up Exams are not given. Assignment grades are on individual merit, not on class curve. The examinations will be made up of objective questions with specific point assignments per question. In response to a requirement established by the campus Academic Senate, this course will ask students to give evidence of composition skill by critiquing two (2) scholarly print journal articles found in the library pertaining to topics assigned to each student by the instructor. Review criteria for this assignment include: a) clarity; b) organization; c) writing ability and mastery of English grammar and language; and d) to determine whether basic criminal justice concepts have been examined and understood. This assignment involves research using academic peer reviewed scholarly materials, followed by a class presentation/discussion, and submission of two (2) individual

papers. The written assignments are worth 30% of the course grade. The analysis will consist of no less than two (2) and no more than four (4) double-spaced typed pages (excluding the title page). **A photocopy of the article that generated this analysis must accompany the submitted work or you will be penalized by a 50% reduction in your score for this assignment!** Each student will be assigned to a group in the class to orally present their writing assignment. **Failure to present in class will result in a 50% reduction in your score for this assignment.** Students will submit their writing assignments according to the schedule established by the instructor, who will review them and return them by the end of the semester. If, after reviewing the student's efforts it appears that remedial work in writing is needed, the instructor will so indicate to the student. Assignments submitted after the scheduled due date, not typed, or which do not meet the other established criteria, will not be accepted.

### **Guidelines for Writing Assignments:**

These papers should be no less than two (2) or more than four (4) double-spaced typewritten pages. They should be typed using either **Times New Roman, Courier or Courier New** font in a size no smaller than 10 pt. or larger than 12pts. Articles researched should be dated no further back than **2004. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a 50% penalty on each affected assignment!**

In developing your written presentation, each assignment must follow the format below:

- A.
  - 1. Title of Article
  - 2. Name of Journal/Publication, date and page number(s)
  - 3. Author(s) name
  
- B.
  - 1. General and specific intent or purpose of the article
  - 2. What motivates the research?
  - 3. What does the study attempt to prove?
  
- C.
  - 1. What are the research findings and conclusions?
  - 2. What made the article interesting or significant to you?
  - 3. What did you learn from reading this article?

**Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a 50% penalty on each affected assignment!**

All assignments are due in class on the assignment date and will not be accepted at any other time except with a significant point reduction (up to one-half off.). Remember to follow the outline provided above. Please come to those class sessions prepared to present your work. Students are expected to complete all required readings when they are assigned and to participate in class discussions.

### **V. Required Readings:**

Frank Schmallegger, Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text For The 21st Century, 10th Edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2009.

## **VI. Grading**

Examinations (5)	50%	Scheduled
Quizzes	20%	Random
Written Assignments (2)	30%	Scheduled

## **VI. Assignments:**

Readings are to be done for the assigned week prior to the beginning of the first class of that week.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Group Assignments</b>
1/27	Introduction		
1/29	Lecture #1: What is Criminal Justice?	Ch. 1	
2/3	Lecture #2: The Crime Picture	Ch. 2	
2/5	Lecture #3A: Search for Causes	Ch. 3	Topics & Groups Assigned
2/10	Lecture #3B: Search for Causes	Ch. 3	
2/12	Lecture #4A: Criminal Law	Ch. 4	
2/17	Lecture # 4B : Criminal Law	Ch. 4	
2/19	Examination #1 (Ch. 1-4)		
2/24	Lecture #5: Policing History & Structure	Ch. 5	
2/26	Lecture #6A: Policing Organization & Management	Ch. 6	
3/3	Lecture #6B: Policing Organization & Management	Ch. 6	
3/5	Lecture #7: Legal Aspects	Ch. 7	
3/10	Lecture #8A: Legal Issues & Challenges	Ch. 8	
3/12	Lecture #8B: Legal Issues & Challenges	Ch. 8	
3/17	Examination #2 (Ch 5-8)		
3/19	Written Assignment #1		Group Oral Presentation #1
3/24	Lecture #9: Structure & Participants in the Courts	Ch. 9	
3/26	Lecture #10: Pretrial Activities & The Criminal Trial	Ch. 10	
4/7	Lecture #11A: Sentencing	Ch. 11	
4/9	Lecture #11B: Sentencing	Ch. 11	
4/14	Examination #3 (Ch. 9 - 11)		
4/16	Lecture #12: Probation, Parole	Ch. 12	

	& Community Corrections		
4/21	Lecture #13: Prisons & Jails	Ch. 13	
4/23	Lecture #14: Prison Life	Ch. 14	
4/28	Examination #4 (12-14)		
4/30	Written Assignment #2		Group Oral Presentation #2
5/5	Lecture #15: Juvenile Justice	Ch. 15	
5/7	Lecture #16A: Drugs & Crime	Ch. 16	
5/12	Lecture #16B: Drugs & Crime	Ch. 16	
5/14	Lecture #17: Terrorism	Ch. 17	
5/16- 22	Examination #5 (15-17)		

### **VIII. Miscellany:**

ATTENTION: Do not be late for any of the mid-term exams. Additional time will not be given to complete the examination. Failure to make the group oral presentation will result in a 50% reduction of the written assignment grade.