

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE - CRJU 201-002
COURSE SYLLABI

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OFFICE HOURS - SPRING 2006 SEMESTER
MWF 10:00 - 11:00AM, FRIDAYS 1:30 - 3PM & BY APPOINTMENT

I. Course Overview:

This course provides an overview of the American criminal justice system, including the development and structure of the system. It surveys the role and relationships among the key actors in the system, including police, courts, judges, prosecutors, and corrections agencies and institutions. The course also examines the relations between society, crime and the criminal justice system.

II. Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- ❖ Demonstrate an accurate yet critical understanding of the criminal justice system.
- ❖ Understand key definitions and measurement issues in assessing crime.
- ❖ Articulate major criminological theories.
- ❖ Explain the historical and contemporary functions, agencies and issues of law enforcement.
- ❖ Critically analyze and discuss the judicial players, processes, outcomes and controversies.
- ❖ Demonstrate an awareness of the correctional system, goals, prison life and post-release supervision.
- ❖ Delineate the continuing struggle between civil liberties and criminal justice sanctions.

III. Required Text:

- ❖ **Introduction to Criminal Justice. Updated 4th Edition.**

Bohm, Robert & Keith Haley. McGraw-Hill 2005. ISBN# 0-07-296116-3

Optional (Recommended Text):

- ❖ **Prentice Hall's Dictionary of American Criminal Justice, Criminology, & Criminal Law.**

David N. Falcone, Illinois State University © 2005 / 0-13-192132-0 / Prentice Hall

IV. Course Expectations & Information:

Students are expected to attend class regularly with course material read prior to class. Should a student need to miss a class, they are requested to email or call Prof. Wright, prior to the class to explain their absence. Students are expected to take scheduled exams and submit assignments on time, as penalties for lateness and missed exams are described below.

Students are strongly recommended to continually ask questions and encourage debate. To achieve a critical view of the criminal justice system, questions are essential. It is also recommended that as needed, students meet with Prof. Wright to ensure their comprehension of the course material, clarification of its application to contemporary crime problems and/or assistance in the Crime Log assignment.

Students are required to enroll on this course's companion Blackboard site. Students must enroll using their *@bridgew.edu email address. To enroll go to blackboard.bridgew.edu and select this course either by course name and number or the instructor. Please note that Prof. Wright teaches multiple sections of this course, so ensure you choose the correct section. Students are required to routinely check the Blackboard site as critical documents, announcements and information will be regularly posted.

V. Exams, Assignments & Grading:

1. Exams -

The course will include three exams which includes the final exam. The exams will be composed of multiple choice questions and essay questions. Exams will cover material in the textbook, class discussions and any additional materials provided in class. Students will be expected to be fully prepared for exams. There are NO make-up exams. In the event of an extreme emergency and a student misses an exam, Prof. Wright MAY assign the student an additional writing assignment. In this rare situation, students will be required to provide documentation of situation (e.g., hospital admitting record, death certificate).

2. Your Own "Crime Log" -

As will be discussed throughout the course, criminal justice is an applied science. It is critical for students' understanding and analysis to apply the course work to contemporary criminal justice issues, trends and their impact. Students are required to apply the readings and concepts covered in the course to their own "crime log."

Students are required to identify, read, critique and submit between 5 newspaper articles related to crime. For each article, include a 3 - 5 page discussion including EACH of the following items.

- a) Describe the criminal justice event/case or issue.
- b) Who are the victim(s) (or potential victims) and the offender(s) (or potential offenders)?
- c) What principles, ideas or issues discussed in class, are in effect in this case/issue?
- d) How are the constitutional protections enacted in the Bill of Rights at play in this case?
- e) What are the next steps, events or issues in the criminal justice process (e.g., bail, arraignment, sentencing, etc.)?
- f) What unanswered questions does this event/case leave you with?

Types of articles allowed:

- Students may choose newspaper articles which cover any of the following -
- a) A particular case followed throughout the semester. (e.g., a celebrity trial, a local murder, a terrorism arrest, etc.)
 - b) Unrelated specific crimes or trials.

c) Proposed criminal justice legislation or changes in procedures. (e.g., Death Penalty bill, anti-gang legislation, etc.)

d) Supreme Court or Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decisions.

The articles utilized must have appeared in the newspaper during this semester.

Acceptable news sources and opportunities:

In order to ensure that students can read and analyze media coverage of crime, it is **required that students use newspaper articles** for their crime logs. Major, regional newspapers are the appropriate source. Reputable newspapers such as the New York Times, Boston Herald, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Examiner, and Washington Post are examples of acceptable sources. Online editions of those or other papers are appropriate (see below).

AT LEAST ONE (1) OF YOUR ARTICLES (AND ITS' CRITICAL REVIEW) MUST COME FROM EITHER THE NEW YORK TIMES OR THE WASHINGTON POST. THE REMAINING ARTICLES MAY COME FROM ANY OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

Online versions of television coverage (e.g., CNN.com, foxnews.com) are NOT acceptable. Web-ONLY magazines (e.g., Salon.com) are NOT appropriate sources and neither are Web blogs.

Students may choose one of two methods of acquiring newspapers, online access or hard copies (with or without subscription).

Online Access

First, students may use a newspaper's website. Many newspaper websites require some form of customer registration. Free articles are often limited to the current and previous day's editions, while older issues often come with a charge. When students submit their crime logs, the MUST include the appropriate articles from the newspaper's website.

Hard Copies

For this assignment students are NOT required to subscribe to any newspaper, however the following have been provided to assist in this assignment. For this course, students may subscribe to a home delivery of the New York Times (on or off campus). A deeply discounted program, allows students to receive delivery of the NY Times, either 7 days a week, Monday-Friday or Saturdays and Sundays. Students may subscribe for a M-F delivery for \$2.00 a week, or a 7 day delivery for \$4.40 per week.

In order to receive this subscription rate for the New York Times, students must use subscribe through the following web address and follow these directions. Go to the following web address.

<https://homedelivery.nytimes.com/HDS/SelectClass.do?mode=SelectClassContinue&who=student&selClass=1897&campusId=165024&profId=10468>

If students have problems accessing the web, send Prof. Wright an email and he will send you the link in an email. If there are still problems, call 1-800-698-4637 and speak to a NYTimes customer service representative.

Students may also choose to receive a home delivery subscription of the Boston Globe. Home delivery of the Globe as a college student costs approximately \$3.88 per week (of a 7 day delivery) and a \$1.90 a week for a M-F delivery. Students may use the following URL to receive this college rate.

<https://bostonglobe.com/subscriber/offer/go/zip.asp?cd=wwxx496&od=28>

(You'll need to click on the "College Subscription" link and then enter the zip code the paper will be delivered to.)

When students submit their crime log they MUST include the appropriate articles from the hard copy of the newspaper with the date and source of the article.

Crime Log "Suggested Do's and Don'ts"

Unlike the exams, the Crime Log is an assignment you have a great deal of control over. Thus, this assignment should be viewed as one you diligently work on throughout the semester. The following are suggestions to ensure you have the most success in preparing and writing your crime log.

- ✓ Start immediately! (Immediately subscribe to a hard copy of a newspaper or register and set your home page for a newspaper.)
- ✓ Collect a dozen or fifteen articles from which you can choose the most appropriate.
- ✓ Choose articles which provide significant detail about a crime/event.
- ✓ It is not recommended to use civil cases. (Although this course will briefly cover civil issues, this assignment is limited to criminal cases.)
- ✓ Use the six questions above to determine how appropriate an article is in providing answers.
- ✓ Write and re-write your critical reviews.
- ✓ Questions c) and d) should take up the bulk of your analysis.
- ✓ Only spend one paragraph answering question a).
- ✓ When submitting your Crime Log, submit a nicely organized, clean packet.
- ✓ **As with all of your work this semester, this assignment is to be done independently and on your own!!!**

3. Preparedness/Attendance & Participation -

In order to understand the criminal justice system and to develop a critical view of its operation, students are required to attend class fully prepared and to participate in class discussions. Students must stay current with the course readings and be prepared to offer their own observations and questions. Preparedness and participation has been allocated to count for 10% of the student's grade.

4. Grading -

Students' grades are composed of the following:

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|------------------|-----------------|
| a) Exam #1 | - 20% of grade. |
| b) Exam #2 | - 20% of grade. |
| c) Final Exam | - 25% of grade. |
| c) Crime Log | - 25% of grade. |
| d) Participation | - 10% of grade. |

VI. Course Outline & Reading Assignments:

The following is a schedule of reading and written assignments and their corresponding due dates. Pay close attention to the dates that assignments are due and exams conducted. As mentioned earlier, there are NO MAKE-UP EXAMS! Changes to this schedule may occur throughout the semester. Please check with Prof. Wright (and on Blackboard) for any in-class modifications to the schedule.

Date	Assignment
Week 1 - Wk. of 1/16 Week 2 - Wk. of 1/23	Introductions, Review of Syllabi, Course Goals, Policies & Assignments Chapter 1 - Crime and Justice in the US Chapter 2 - Crime and its Consequences
Week 3 - Wk. of 1/30	Chapter 2 - Crime and its Consequences Chapter 3 - Explaining Crime
Week 4 - Wk. of 2/6	Chapter 4 - The Rule of Law
Week 5- Wk. of 2/13	Chapter 4 - The Rule of Law Examination #1 - Chapters 1 - 4 Note: Exam #1 will be on EITHER Monday Feb. 13th OR Wed. Feb. 15th - Exact Date - TBA
Week 6 - Wk. of 2/20 Week 7 - Wk. of 2/27	Chapter 5 - History and Structure of Law Enforcement Chapter 6 - Policing: Roles, Styles and Functions Chapter 7 - Policing America: Issues & Ethics
Week 8 - Wk. of 3/6 Week 9 - Wk. of 3/13	Spring Break - No Classes
Week 10 - Wk. of 3/20 Week 11 - Wk. of 3/27	Chapter 8 - The Administration of Justice Chapter 9 - Sentencing, Appeals and the Death Penalty
Week 12 - Mon. 4/3	Chapter 9 - Sentencing, Appeals and the Death Penalty
Week 12 - Wed. April 5th	Examination #2 - Chapters 5-9 (Police & Courts)
Week 12- Fri. 4/7	Chapter 10 - Institutional Corrections
Week 13- Wk. of 4/10	Chapter 10 - Institutional Corrections Chapter 11 - Prison Life, Inmate Rights, Release and Recidivism
Week 13 - Fri. April 14th	Crime Logs Due!!
Week 14 - Wk. of 4/17	Chapter 11 - Prison Life, Inmate Rights, Release and Recidivism Chapter 12 - Community Corrections
Week 15 - Wk. of 4/24	Chapter 13 - Juvenile Justice
Week 16 - Week of 5/1 Week 16 - Fri. May 5th	Chapter 14 - The Future of Criminal Justice in the United States Review for Final Exam
Week 17	Final Exam - TBA

Please note that there are NO CLASSES on Monday Feb. 20th (President's Day) & Monday April 17th (Patriots Day)! As per college policy, Classes on Monday Feb. 20th will be held on Tuesday Feb. 21st.