47: 202: 103 Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credits
Fall 2017

Mondays
2:30-5:20pm

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Michael Ostermann, Ph.D.
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Phone: 973.353.5758
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Christopher Chukwuedo
Center for Law and Justice, Suite 550
Email: cc1523@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Course Overview: The field of criminal justice aims at supplying knowledge in developing policies and practices to deal with criminality. This aim, however, poses a fundamental challenge in a democratic society: how to maintain a system that deals with crime and criminals while still preserving individual rights, rules of law, and justice. To facilitate the exploration of these and other issues, this introductory course will present three major themes: 1) crime and justice are public policy issues; 2) criminal justice can best be seen as a social system; and 3) the criminal justice system embodies society's effort to fulfill values such as liberty, privacy, and individuals' rights. Students will learn why these values can come into conflict as choices are made about how to operate the system of criminal justice. With these themes in mind, students will be introduced to the structure and functions of police, courts, corrections, and the juvenile justice system in the United States. Lessons will focus on these specific entities (micro level), as well as the dynamic relationships among all of them (macro level).
**Prerequisite:** None

**B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals:**
Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.

2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.

4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.

5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the structure and function of the basic components of the criminal justice system including the police, courts, corrections, and the juvenile justice system.

2. Articulate how the criminal justice system is a dynamic and interdisciplinary system made up of many different people and agencies.

3. Describe the relationships among all parts and players of the criminal justice system as well as their relationships to other social systems and relevant stakeholders.

4. Critically analyze how policies and practices of criminal justice agencies may directly or indirectly affect other criminal justice agencies, social systems, and/or key stakeholders.

**Required Readings:**


Additional readings may be assigned during the semester. They will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:** Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.
**Course Structure:** The course will incorporate diverse learning activities including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and group discussions.

Classroom learning is a group activity that depends upon everyone’s full participation in order to succeed. I expect students to: be prepared to begin class on time, silence or turn off and put away cell phones and other electronic devices, read and be prepared to discuss homework, submit assignments on time, and assist your classmates. You can expect that I will: be on time and prepared for every class, be available via email and appointments to answer questions, make every class engaging and valuable, and respect your contributions to class.

**II. Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>The Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Issues of Law</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Policing 1</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Policing 2</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice and Midterm Review</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>--MIDTERM EXAMINATION--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Midterm Debrief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Courts 1</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Courts 2</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Institutional Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Community Corrections and Final Review</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>--FINAL EXAMINATION--</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
III. Grading
The final grade will be assessed based upon your performance on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Linked to Course Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>#1-4</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Exercises</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
<td>#1-4</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3</td>
<td>#1-4</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #4</td>
<td>#1-4</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISES (20%):** Unannounced Critical Thinking Exercises will be given throughout the course. A Critical Thinking Exercise is possible during any class session. Critical Thinking Exercises will cover basic concepts from the book and will be in a short answer format. They are intended to test you on the readings and your basic comprehension of the materials to be presented during the class session. Just by putting your name on the paper to show that you were present in class gets you a 70%. Satisfactory responses get an 85%. Excellent responses get a 100%. If you walk in late, leave early, or are absent—and miss the Critical Thinking Exercise—you will be assigned a zero (0). There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION (35%):** The mid-term exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 35% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**FINAL EXAMINATION (35%):** The final exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 35% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION (10%):** The frequency and quality of your participation in class discussions will be noted, as will your constructive critical feedback and support offered to other classmates throughout the semester.
The following grading scale will be used for this course:

- **A**: 90–100%
- **B+**: 85–89%
- **B**: 80–84%
- **C+**: 75–79%
- **C**: 70–74%
- **D**: 60–69%
- **F**: <60%

**IV. Course Policies**

**Classroom Rules:** All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor’s permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken-for-granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated.

**Attendance:** Attendance is very important and will count toward your final grade. You will be more successful if you attend. If an emergency arises and you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor about the reason for your absence as early as possible. If you miss class, you are still responsible for anything assigned for the next class or classes, including obtaining any handouts given in the class you missed. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to catch up.

**Examinations:** Examinations are to be taken during their scheduled times. Students who fail to take examinations on the prescribed dates WILL NOT be permitted to take the examinations unless extenuating circumstances exist. Proper documentation for the circumstance MUST be provided before the student is able to take a make-up examination.

**IMPORTANT:** Every grade will be posted on Blackboard. Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to the attention of Dr. Ostermann before the date of the final examination. Do not wait until the last minute! You will know exactly what your final term grade should be before it is assigned because you will know the grades of every assignment/examination/etc. This syllabus also states the value of each assignment towards your final term grade. Absolutely **NO CONSIDERATION FOR GRADE CHANGES** will be made on or after the date of the final examination. Grades are assigned objectively. You will get the grade that you earn.
**Academic Integrity:** As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity). Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**V. Academic Resources**

**Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield  
Director of ADA Services and Academic Support  
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973.353.5300  
Fax: 973.353.5666  
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu  
Website: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Psychological and Counseling Services:** If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center ([http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu); 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about:  
- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)  
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/)

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