

Introduction to Criminal Justice
Course: CJ-103

School of Criminal Justice
Rutgers University, Fall 2018
Tuesday & Thursday
11:30am to 12:50pm
Engelhard Hall 100

Professor: Dr. Colleen Berryessa
Office: CLJ, 579G
Office Hours: Tuesday 1 to 2:15pm
Phone: 973-353-3456
Email: colleen.berryessa@rutgers.edu

Teaching Assistants

Jordan Costa (Friday 11:30am - 12:30pm)
Email: Jordan.costa@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Section Room: Conklin Hall 342

Sara Thompson (Wednesday 1-2pm)
Email: saratt@scj.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Section Room: Conklin Hall 449

Course Description

This course introduces the study of societal responses to crime and provides an explanation of why criminal justice should be thought of as a system. It covers the workings of law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system, as well as juvenile justice. It reviews what constitutes crime and how crime is measured. Additionally, this course looks to the future and outlines some of the pressing issues that continue to challenge crime control in a democratic society. Finally, we will have some awesome guest speakers related to the topics in class. The dates underlined in the syllabus are those right now for which I have guest speakers lined up.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become.
2. Discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control.
3. Describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
4. Discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
5. Understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are Related.
6. Understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

TEXT AND READINGS

Required: John Randolph Fuller (2019). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Brief Edition*, Oxford University Press.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Midterm Examination (30%): About halfway through the course, a midterm exam will be given comprising of 100 multiple choice and true/false questions. The test will last about one hour and will cover the material in the first eight chapters. The midterm will be in class on **October 25th**.

Final Examination (40%): At the end of the class, a comprehensive final exam will be given that covers all the material but is weighted more heavily toward the second eight chapters of the book. Again, the test will comprise essay/short answer, multiple choice and true/false questions. The final exam will be on **December 14th** at 3:00pm.

Participation, Attendance, and Weekly Assignments in Sections with TA's (20%): Each student is expected to attend sections and participate in the discussion (10%). Students will also complete weekly assignments in section (10%).

Home Assignment (10%): You will be asked watch a movie related to the criminal justice system (your choice!) and write a 3 to 5-page response paper on how aspects of that movie align and misalign with the “real” aspects of the criminal justice system you have learned about so far in the course. On November 15th, we will not have class and, instead, you can use that class time to watch the movie you have chosen. The response paper should be submitted to Blackboard by the start of class (11:30am) on **November 20th**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Week 1	September 4th	Introduction/Class Overview	
	September 6th	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapter 1
Week 2	September 11th/13th	How Crime is Measured and Who It Affects	Chapter 2
Week 3	<u>September 18th/20th</u>	Criminal Law	Chapter 3
Week 4	September 25th/27th	The History and Organization of Law Enforcement	Chapter 4
Week 5	October 2nd/4th	Police Organization, Operation and the Law	Chapter 5
Week 6	<u>October 9th/11th</u>	Policing: Innovations and Controversies	Chapter 6
Week 7	October 16th/18th	The Courts	Chapter 7
Week 8	October 23rd	The Courtroom Work Group	Chapter 8
	October 25th	<u>Midterm Exam</u>	
Week 9	<u>October 30th/November 1st</u>	The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, and Sentencing	Chapter 9

Week 10	November 6th/8th	The History of Control and Punishment	Chapter 10
Week 11	November 13th	Prisons and Jails	Chapter 11
	NO CLASS November 15th – Home Assignment		
Week 12	November 20th	Community Corrections	Chapter 12
	November 20th at 11:30am	<u>Home Assignment Response Paper DUE</u>	
	NO CLASS November 20th – Thanksgiving		
Week 13	<u>November 27th/29th</u>	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13
Week 14	<u>December 4th/6th</u>	Criminal Justice in the Future: Issues and Concerns	Chapter 14
Week 15	December 11th	Final Review (Optional/Office Hours)	
	December 14th at 3:00pm	<u>Final Exam</u>	