

**47:202:103 Introduction to Criminal Justice  
3 Credits  
Fall Semester, 2018**

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**Wednesday – 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Conklin Hall, Room 346**

## **I. Course Information**

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Henri Buccine-Schraeder  
Email: [henri.buccine@rutgers.edu](mailto:henri.buccine@rutgers.edu)  
Office Hours: by appointment

### **Course Overview:**

This course introduces the study of societal responses to crime as well as an explanation of why criminal justice should be thought of as a system are covered in this course. Specific topics include the study of the people and organizations that make up the criminal justice system including actors such as the police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and corrections officials. Major branches and functions of the criminal justice system including law enforcement and order maintenance, courts and sentencing, and corrections and reentry are covered.

**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 functioning 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 about 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:**

Siegel, L. J. & Worrall, J. L. (2017). *Essentials of Criminal Justice* (10<sup>th</sup> Edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. [978-1-305-63376-6]. Available for rent or eTextbook on Amazon.

Grimming, R. & Goodman, D. J. (2007). *Criminal Justice: A Collection of True-Crime Cases*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. [978-0-131-74570-4]. Reasonably priced online.

## **Course Requirements:**

Students are required to read assigned material prior to each class and be prepared for class discussions, assignments, and exams.

**Attendance:** Attendance is very important and will count toward your final grade. The best way to be successful in the course is to attend all lectures. If an emergency arises and you must miss class, it is your responsibility to turn in any assignments due prior to the class time. If you miss class, you are still responsible for all material covered during the lecture and any assignments given. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to catch up.

**Examinations:** Examinations are to be taken during their scheduled times. Students who fail to take the examination on the prescribed dates WILL NOT be permitted to take the exams unless there are extenuating circumstances. Proper documentation for the circumstance will be necessary and must be provided before the student is able to take the make-up examination.

**Blackboard:** All assignments are due on Blackboard prior to class on the due date. Students who fail to submit their assignment prior to class on the due date will receive a zero (0). All grades will be posted on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with everything posted.

## **Course Structure:**

This course will incorporate a plethora of learning activities including lectures, PowerPoint presentation, group discussions, and critical thinking exercises. Learning is a group activity that depends on everyone's participation and preparedness in order to succeed.

I expect students to: attend class, submit assignments on time, assist classmates, actively participate in class, be prepared for class, and silence and put away cell phones and other electronic devices.

You can expect that I will: be on time and prepared for every class, make classes engaging and valuable, and be available via email and appointments to answer questions.

## II. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Read
9/5	Introduction Crime and Criminal Justice The Nature of Crime and Victimization	Essentials: Chapter 1 Essentials: Chapter 2
9/12	Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure Murder	Essentials: Chapter 3 True-Crime: Chapter 1
9/19	Police and Society: History and Organization Forcible Rape	Essentials: Chapter 4 True-Crime: Chapter 2
9/26	The Police: Role and Function Robbery	Essentials: Chapter 5 True-Crime: Chapter 3
10/3	Issues in Policing: Professional, Social, and Legal Aggravated Assault	Essentials: Chapter 6 True-Crime: Chapter 4
10/10	Courts, Prosecution and the Defense Burglary Midterm Exam Review	Essentials: Chapter 7 True-Crime: Chapter 5
10/17	<b>MIDTERM EXAM - ONLINE</b>	
10/24	<i>Class canceled</i>	
10/31	Pretrial and Trial Procedures Larceny-Theft	Essentials: Chapter 8 True-Crime: Chapter 6
11/7	Punishment and Sentencing Motor Vehicle Theft	Essentials: Chapter 9 True-Crime: Chapter 7
11/14	Community Sentences: Probation, Intermediate Sanction, and Restorative Justice Arson	Essentials: Chapter 10 True-Crime: Chapter 8
11/21	<i>Friday's class schedule – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
11/28	Corrections: History, Institutions, and Populations Prison Life: Living In and Leaving Prison	Essentials: Chapter 11 Essentials: Chapter 12
12/5	Juvenile Justice in the Twenty-First Century Crime and Justice in the New Millennium Final Exam Review	Essentials: Chapter 13 Essentials: Chapter 14
12/12	<b>FINAL EXAM - ONLINE</b>	

### III. Course Assessments and Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon your performance on the following:

Assignment Name	Linked to SLO	% of Course Grade
Attendance	SLO # 1 – 4	10%
Presentation	SLO # 1 – 4	15%
Critical Thinking Take-Home Exercise	SLO # 1 – 4	15%
Midterm Exam	SLO # 1 – 4	30%
Final Exam	SLO # 1 – 4	30%

Attendance (10%): An attendance sheet will be passed around during every class. You will lose points for each class missed without documentation for an excused absence.

Presentation (15%): On the first day of class, you will be assigned to a presentation date and a presentation group. The presentations will be based on the Grimming and Goodman book. The presentation will allow you to work with others to delve into a specific crime type, critically think about what is written and published and analyze policies that are related to the assigned crime type. It is your responsibility to meet with your group in person or online to come up with a PowerPoint that must be emailed to the professor the day before the assigned presentation date. Your presentation should be approximately 15-20 minutes and group should be able to answer class and professor questions. All students within each group that are present for the presentation will receive the same grade. A presentation that includes all criteria and shows critical thinking will receive a 100%, a satisfactory presentation will receive an 85% and responses that lack the aforementioned criteria will receive a 70%. A student who does not attend on the day of their presentation, with the exception of a documented, exigent circumstance, will receive a zero (0). You must dress in a professional manner for your presentation or you will lose points. Your presentation must include the following:

- A description of the crime type (found within the book and using external sources, must use citations)
- A critique of the book's description of the crime type (found using external sources, must use citations)
- Current statistics on crime type
- A brief description of the example of the crime type given in the book
- A second example of the crime type other than what was given in the book
- Tie the specific crime type to the Course Learning Objectives outlined in this syllabus

Critical Thinking Take-Home Exercise (15%): There will one random take home assignment given during the class. This assignment is meant to make you explain the structure and functioning of the basic components of the criminal justice system and how all the parts and players work together. You will use critical thinking skills to use a kaleidoscope of sources to come up with a coherent response to the assignment. This assignment must be written with proper citations, a reference sheet, and utilize peer reviewed articles. Excellent responses that incorporate reading materials, lecture content and discussions, external sources, and critical thinking will get a 100%, satisfactory responses will receive an 85% and responses that lack the aforementioned criteria will receive a 70%. If an assignment is given during a class that you miss, it is your responsibility to find out about it and complete the assignment for the date due. If you miss a class when an assignment is due, you are still responsible to turn in your assignment on time.

Midterm Exam (30%): Exams are meant to measure your understanding of the concepts that have been presented in class and assigned in readings. The midterm exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

Final Exam (30%): Exams are meant to measure your understanding of the concepts that have been presented in class and assigned in readings. The final exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A	Outstanding	90 – 100%
B+		85 – 89%
B	Good	80-84%
C+		75 – 79%
C	Satisfactory	70 – 74%
D		60 – 69%
F	Failing	< 60%

### **Late or Missing Assignment Policy:**

Attendance is important and will count toward your final grade. You will be more successful in this course if you attend lectures and read all the material. If an emergency arises and you must miss class, it is your responsibility for anything assigned in class and any assignments due that day. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to catch up.

**IMPORTANT: Every grade will be posted on Blackboard.** Any issue regarding a grade must be brought to the attention of the professor prior to the date of the final examination. After the date of the final examination, there will be no consideration for grade changes. All grades will be assigned objectively and you will get the grade that you earned throughout the semester.

## **IV. Course Policies**

### **Classroom Rules**

It is your responsibility to show up and actively participate in class. Food and drinks are permitted in class so long as they are not disruptive to other students. No cell phones are permitted during class. If the professor finds that you are being disruptive in class, you may be asked to leave. If you miss class, come in late, or leave early, you are responsible for anything that you miss. **RECORDING OF LECTURES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.**

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Laptops are allowed so long as the student remains engaged in the class and continues to actively listen and participate. During the class, we will have discussions that challenge our assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage in sometimes difficult topics. Responses must not be disrespectful, threatening, or demeaning; comments that are found to be disrespectful, threatening, or demeaning will NOT be tolerated.

### **Email Communications**

All emails must be written in a professional manner. In the subject line, please include the course and the purpose of the email. There must be a greeting to start the email. Within the body of the email, you must use correct spelling and grammar. Do not use any emoticons in the body of your email. There must also be a closing to your email that includes your name. Emails that are not written in a professional manner will not be responded to.

### **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>

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.

## **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/> 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](mailto:kate.torres@rutgers.edu)  
Website: <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>; 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/>

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