

**CJ 202:222: Constitutional Issues in Criminal Justice**  
**Rutgers University–Newark**  
Zoom!  
Tuesdays 2:30–5:20

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Mondays 1–3 PM  
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/my/sl1329>

### Course Overview

This course examines the practices and procedures of the United States of America through the application and critical analysis of the nation’s Constitution. Particular attention is paid to how the Bill of Rights is interpreted by courtroom actors, and how this interpretation results in the setting of precedence. Discussion of how constitutional precedence reverberates in the criminal justice policymaking world, as well as specific analyses of important judicial opinions, trials, and congressional investigations are covered in this course.

### Course Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the historical significance of constitutional interpretation relating to criminal offenses and criminal justice procedures, and the effect societal changes have on constitutional interpretation.
2. Identify, analyze, and interpret the constitutional principles that apply to procedural law and criminal investigations.
3. Identify and understand the Supreme Court cases commonly identified with criminal justice policy as well as demonstrate an understanding of the Court’s rationale behind its decisions.
4. Demonstrate an understanding about the issues and controversies involved with the U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court’s interpretation of them.

### Requirements

Assignment	Raw Points	% of Final Grade	Grading
Weekly Activities: 6 points/session + 3 points for one unexcused absence	75	37.5%	A 90–100 % B+ 87–89%
Three quizzes: 25 points each	75	37.5%	B 80–86%
Court observation project	50	25%	C+ 77–79%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>	C 70–76% D 60–69% F 60% and less

### Attendance & Grading Policy

Attendance and a weekly assignment will account for a significant portion of your final grade. Each week, you must log into class during our regularly scheduled time and complete an online weekly activity during the second half of class. Each weekly assignment is with six points. You are allowed to miss one class/skip one assignment and will receive three points for that missed session.

### Course Readings

Each week you will complete an online activity that will involve reading, listening to, or watching content related to our class. There is no pre–assigned reading before class. Instead, you will read after our class lecture and use the second half class to complete the assignment by end of day Tuesday.

**Online Court Observation Project**  
**Due: December 1, 2020 BEFORE CLASS at 2:30**

You are required to conduct three 30-minute online court observations. On Canvas, you will find a list of links to daily streaming court appearances. You should locate and watch live pretrial and trial courts, including first appearances, bail hearings, jury trials, or sentencing proceedings. Keep in mind that courts typically won't be streaming on the weekends or evenings.

Take detailed fieldnotes about what you observe and prepare a comprehensive, reflective essay of at least 4 pages (12-point font, double spaced) that addresses the following:

**1) An analysis of the courts:**

- a. Provide a list of the courts you visited, including the date and time of your observation.
- b. Describe the physical space, people and situations you watched using specific, vivid examples.
- c. Analyze two instances of Constitutional Rights being addressed in court procedures. How did the judge or lawyers invoke the Bill of Rights? Be sure to link this back to the material we discuss in class.

**2) An analysis of your experience:**

- a. What were your expectations BEFORE doing a court observation? What specific expectations were disputed or confirmed by your firsthand observation?
- b. In your opinion, does online court work well to protect people's rights? Discuss one benefit and one drawback of online court as it relates to due process.

**Grading Rubric**

Mechanics: Uses proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Includes an Introduction & Conclusion	10 points
Prompt 1: answered fully, cites specific examples	20 points
Prompt 2: answered fully, cites specific examples	20 points
TOTAL	50 points

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Sept 1	Introduction & Overview of CJ System
<b>NO CLASS</b> Sept 8	[Follow Monday class schedule]
<b>Week 2</b> Sept 15	5 <sup>th</sup> Amendment: Legality and Due Process
<b>Week 3</b> Sept 22	14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Equal Protection
<b>Week 4</b> Sept 29	First Amendment; Second Amendment Review for quiz
<b>Week 5</b> Oct 6	<b>QUIZ 1</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Intro
<b>Week 6</b> Oct 13	4 <sup>th</sup> Amendment
<b>Week 7</b> Oct 20	6 <sup>th</sup> Amendment
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 27	7 <sup>th</sup> Amendment
<b>Week 9</b> Nov 3	<b>ELECTION DAY</b> Review for quiz
<b>Week 10</b> Nov 10	Trial rights
<b>Week 11</b> Nov 17	<b>QUIZ 2</b>
<b>NO CLASS</b> Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break
<b>Week 12</b> Dec 1	<b>Online Court Observation Project Due Before Class</b>  8 <sup>th</sup> Amendment
<b>Week 13</b> Dec 8	Current Constitutional Issues: surveillance, technology, and privacy
	<b>QUIZ III (non-cumulative): Thursday, Dec 17, 11:45-1:15 PM</b>

# POLICIES

## **Late Work & Incompletes**

Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day past the due date. Be proactive if you fall behind! I am here to help you. Allowing excused absences and later deadlines are subject to instructor discretion. Incompletes will only be given if a student has completed *the majority* of coursework and encounters an unexpected barrier to finishing the class, which will require careful documentation, a written plan for course completion, and approval by the Dean.

## **Grade Disputes**

If you feel unfairly evaluated, please prepare a one-paragraph, formal document explaining your concerns. This document must be sent to the professor and followed by a meeting in office hours within one week of the exam or assignment due date.

## **Our Classroom Environment**

Try your best to minimize distractions. Turn off text and email notifications on your computer or phone during class. Please use the Raise Hand or Chat functions in Zoom. Feel free to turn on your video and interrupt me!

We will discuss contentious issues at times. Listen carefully and respond thoughtfully. I encourage debate and response, but I will not tolerate personal attacks. Please come talk with me if you feel our discussion environment is not adhering to these standards at any point.

## **Academic Integrity**

Do not use other people's work for class material. I encourage you to discuss these issues outside of class with one another and to study together, but your finished work must be your own. 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. Rutgers policies regarding academic integrity can be accessed here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. 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.

## **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.

### Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Individuals who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing [deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**For English as a Second Language (ESL):** The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing [PALS@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:PALS@newark.rutgers.edu) to discuss potential supports.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](https://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

**For support related to interpersonal violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

**For Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](https://tinyurl.com/RUNCARE) or emailing [careteam@rutgers.edu](mailto:careteam@rutgers.edu).

**For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being:** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: [counseling@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu) or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

**For emergencies,** call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.