



47: 202: 103 Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Mondays
6:00-9:00pm

REMINDER: Vaccinations are required; masks are required in class

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Michael Ostermann, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Mondays 3-5pm

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. 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.

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:

Lab, S., Williams, M., Holcomb, J., Burek, M., King, W., & Buerger, M. (2018). Criminal Justice: The Essentials (6th Edition). NY: Oxford University Press [ISBN: 978-0197546963]. It's reasonably priced at Amazon.com

It is also available on Canvas through First Day:

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course material, this course is part of an inclusive access model called First Day™. You can easily access the required materials for this course at a discounted price and benefit from single sign-on access with no codes required in Canvas.

Rutgers University will bill you at the discounted price as a course charge for this course. It is NOT recommended that you Opt-Out, as these materials are required to complete the course. You can choose to Opt-Out on the first day of class, but you will be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price and access to your materials may be suspended.

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

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

Week	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignments Due by Midnight
1	September 12	Introduction	Syllabus	
2	September 19	The CJ System	Chapter 1	
3	September 26	Issues of Law	Chapter 2	Quiz 1 (Chapter 1)
4	October 3	--Guest Speaker--		Quiz 2 (Chapter 2)
5	October 10	Policing 1	Chapter 3	
6	October 17	Policing 2	Chapter 3	Discussion Board Post 1 (Policing)
7	October 24	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 7	Quiz 3 (Chapter 3)
8	October 31	Courts 1	Chapter 4	Quiz 4 (Chapter 7) Critical Thinking Exercise 1 (Juvenile Justice)
9	November 7	Courts 2	Chapter 4	Discussion Board Post 2 (Courts)
10	November 14	Institutional Corrections	Chapter 5	Quiz 5 (Chapter 4)
11	November 21	--No Class--		Quiz 6 (Chapter 5)
12	November 28	--Guest Speaker--		Critical Thinking Exercise 2 (Institutional Corrections)
13	December 5	Community Corrections	Chapter 6	
14	December 12	--Guest Speaker--		Discussion Board Post 3 (Community Corrections) Quiz 7 (Chapter 6)

Grading

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

Assignment Description	Linked to Course Learning Objectives	Percent of Course Grade
Assignment #1 Quizzes (Online)	#1-4	50%
Assignment #2 Critical Thinking Exercises (Online)	#1-4	20%
Assignment #3 Discussion Board Posts (Online)	#1-4	20%
Assignment #4 Attendance/Participation (In-Person)	#1-4	10%

QUIZZES (50%) Seven (7) quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester. Quizzes will be multiple choice and will test your knowledge of course content and learning objectives. Quizzes will include questions that coincide with the chapter topic that was taught in the previous week(s). Students are to read the book, attend class, take notes, engage with the posted (on Canvas) PowerPoint slides, and take quizzes about the topics covered. Quizzes will be online and administered through Canvas.

Quizzes will be available to students as of midnight (12:00am) the week before they are due. For example, Quiz 1 will cover Chapter 1 and the material discussed in class on September 19. The quiz will be available as of midnight (12:00am) on September 19 (i.e., after class) and be due by midnight (12:00am) on September 26. Quiz 2 will be available as of midnight (12:00am) on September 26 and due by midnight (12:00am) on October 3. The quiz will cover Chapter 2 and topics covered in class on September 26. Students are able to take quizzes at their leisure (i.e., whenever they want) during the week.

CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISES (20%): Two (2) Critical Thinking Exercises will be made available throughout the course. Critical Thinking Exercises will involve concepts from the book and class discussions. Critical Thinking Exercises will be graded on a 0-100-point scale. They will require students to respond to questions in a short answer format not to exceed 1,000 words. They are intended to assess your comprehension of the course materials while giving you an opportunity to individually express your ideas about them. Critical Thinking Exercise prompts will be made available via Canvas and will cover topics covered in class and in the book that coincide with the previous week(s) lesson(s).

Critical Thinking Exercises will be available to students as of midnight (12:00am) the week before they are due. For example, Critical Thinking Exercise 1 is due October 31 by midnight (12:00am) and covers topics associated with juvenile justice (October 24's lesson). The Critical Thinking Exercise will be available as of midnight (12:00am) after class on October 24. Students can submit the Critical Thinking Exercise whenever they want between midnight (12:00am) on October 24 and midnight (12:00am) on October 31.

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (20%): Three (3) Discussion Board prompts will be made available throughout the course. Discussion Board prompts involve students responding to a topic offered for discussion by the professor. Discussion Board Posts will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students are to thoughtfully respond to and participate in the discussion. “Yes, I agree,” for example, is not considered a thoughtful response or an active show of participation in a discussion. Discussion Board prompts will be made available via Canvas and will cover topics covered in class and in the book that coincide with the previous week(s) lesson(s).

Discussion Board prompts will be available to students as of midnight (12:00am) the week before they are due. For example, Discussion Board Post 1 is due October 17 by midnight (12:00am) and covers topics associated with policing (October 10’s lesson). The Discussion Board prompt will be available as of midnight (12:00am) after class on October 10. Students can submit the Discussion Board Post whenever they want between midnight (12:00am) on October 10 and midnight (12:00am) on October 17.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION (10%): The frequency and quality of your participation in in-person 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+	87-89%
B	80-86%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
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 for note taking and class participation purposes, 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.

IMPORTANT: Every grade will be posted on Canvas. Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to the attention of Dr. Ostermann before the date of the final class. 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. 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 class. Grades are assigned objectively. You will get the grade that you earn.

V. Health Safety Protocols

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: **myRutgers Portal**.

VI. Academic Resources

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.

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 Experiencing Disability: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website \(ods.newark.rutgers.edu\)](https://ods.newark.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at 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.

For Short-term Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (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.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (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 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. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at <https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf>

For support related to Interpersonal Violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link:

tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing 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 or (973) 353-5805. If students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *Sanvello* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit <https://my.rutgers.edu/>, click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

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

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/>

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ_apps

