

47:202: 466: Topics in Criminal Justice
3 Credits
Fall 2022: (9/6/2022-12/21/2022)
Format: Face to Face/Traditional
Wednesday Evenings: 6:30pm to 9:30pm
County College of Morris DI 114

Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: **Christopher Salvatore, PhD**
Email: **cs1633@scarletmail.rutgers.edu**
Office Hours: **By appointment via Zoom**

Course Overview:

- The effectiveness of criminal justice programs and services is high stakes: whether an intervention works is likely to profoundly impact the lives of offenders, victims, workers and the community. The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the history and current state of innovation in the criminal justice field. Given the current political focus on best- and evidence-based practices, this course will have a particular focus on program evaluation and evaluation-based research. Areas examine will include diversion programs, correctional based treatment programs, and the use of technology in the criminal justice system.
- Course Learning Goals:

- Develop an understanding of the use of innovations, programs, and technology to address challenge areas in the criminal justice system.
- Evaluate and critique innovations, programs, and the use of technology to address challenge areas in the criminal justice system

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, 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:

- The course objective is to gain an overall understanding of the policies and practices of criminal justice agencies and how they may directly or indirectly affect other criminal justice agencies, social systems, and/or key stakeholders without solely referencing personal experiences and/or long held beliefs.

Required Readings:

- Assigned materials will be made available in Canvas. There is no required textbook.

Course Requirements:

- This course will be administered in persona in a traditional face-to-face format and will have a Canvas page to provide course materials such as supplementary readings, video links, discussion board activities, and lecture slides. To be successful in this course, it is recommended that you have consistent access to a laptop/desktop and stable internet. Students are expected to consume assigned articles and related media and be familiar with materials assigned.

- **Late Work Policy** – *Students are expected to submit work on or before the due dates listed on this course syllabus, Canvas, and provided in weekly announcements and class reminders. If a student fails to submit an assignment (e.g., discussion board, research paper) by the due date stated they will receive a 0. The student may email the instructor a copy of the assignment for requested grading. The student will lose 10 points per 24hour period after the stated due date. For example, if an assignment was due 9/1/2022@5:00pm and the students submitted the assignment on 9/3/2022@5:00pm they would face a 20-point late penalty. Please note late submissions are not allowed on all assignments/exams (see syllabus/Canvas).*

Offensive or Sensitive Material:

- In learning about crime and justice, particularly race and injustice, students may encounter language, depictions, behaviors, and/or attitudes that they may find disturbing or offensive. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have about the course materials with the instructor. If you would like to opt out of participating in a particular class module because of any discomfort, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Evaluation of Student Performance: Students will be evaluated (and final grade based) on the following areas: 4 Discussion Board Activities, Class Participation and Attendance, Group Presentations, 1 Research Paper, 1 Presentation, and 2 Exams.

Course Evaluations:

Class Participation & Attendance 10%: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and engage in class discussions (e.g., responding to questions). Please note there are no excused absences (unless in the event of a documented medical emergency). Attendance will be taken in each class and a grade provided in Canvas (see Canvas for more info).

Group Presentations 10%: Students will be assigned into workgroups for the semester. Each group will provide a brief (5 to 10 minute) presentation of an assigned article. If a student is not present for a group presentation, they will receive a 0 for that group presentation. ***Please note there is no make ups or late submissions for Group Presentations***

Research Paper 20%: Students will write a research paper on a topic of their choosing. The paper will be 10 written pages, including a title, abstract, and reference page in APA Format (please note the

title, abstract, and reference page in APA format do not count towards the 10 pages of the paper). See Canvas for more detail and grading rubric.

Research Paper Presentation 20%: Each student will present a brief 10–15-minute presentation of their Research Paper using PowerPoint or Google Slides etc. See Canvas for more detail and grading rubric. ***Note if a student misses their Research Paper Presentation date, they may request to present the following date, however dates availability is not guaranteed***

Discussion Boards 10%: There are 4 discussion board assignments worth 2.5% of your final grade Each.

- Discussion boards consist of an activity/task that involves a step of their Research Paper for the semester (e.g., discussing the topic and why they chose it, presenting their sources, presenting an outline for their research paper, giving a summary of their paper

- Exams 30%:** There are 2 exams each worth 15% of your final grade
- This will be 2 exams that will consist of a series of 20 multiple choice, questions worth 4 points each (total 80 points) and 2 essay questions worth 10 points each.
 - There are no review sheets provided for the exams (as this is an upper-level course).
 - Exams will be open book and open note.
 - Exams will be remote via Canvas and occur during the normally scheduled class period.
 - Questions will be definitional, conceptual, and applied in nature.
 - Students all responsible for knowing all assigned readings and lecture material. Supplementary materials will generally not be included on exams).
 - Please note there will be no make-up or late submission for Exam 2.

Course Schedule

Class Date	Class Topic	Assignments Due
9/7/2022	Introductions/Review Course Materials/Introductory Lecture	Review course syllabus and Canvas shell
9/14/2022	Diversion Programs: Drug Courts (Adult & Juvenile)	Group Presentations See Canvas for Readings
9/21/2022	Diversion Programs: Prostitution Courts	Group Presentations Discussion Board 1 Due 9/23/2022@5:00PM See Canvas for Readings
9/28/2022	Mental Health Issues and the Criminal Justice System	Group Presentations See Canvas for Readings
10/5/2022	Community Policing	Discussion Board 2 Due 10/7/2022@5:00PM Group Presentations
10/12/2022	Exam 1	Exam 1 is remote via Canvas
10/19/2022	Prison Based Programs: Education, Life Skills & Therapeutic Community	Group Presentations
10/26/2022	Police Ethics and Professionalism	Group Presentations

11/2/2022	CCTV, Body & Car Mounted Cameras	Discussion Board 3 Due 11/4/2022@5:00PM Group Presentations
11/9/2022	Reentry Challenges/ Reentry Courts	Group Presentations
11/16/2022	Domestic/IPV Strategies (Police, Treatment Courts)	Group Presentations Research Paper Due 11/18/2022@5:00pm
11/23/2022	Thanksgiving Break	
11/30/2022	Special Topic/Presentations	
12/7/2022	Presentations	
12/14/2022	Presentations	Discussion Board 4 Due 12/16/2022@5:00pm
12/21/2022	Exam 2 (via Canvas)	

Other Information

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 selfcare 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.

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ_apps

