

47: 201: 103
CJ-103: Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credits | Spring 2023
Tuesdays and Thursdays
2:30pm – 3:50pm
Boyden Hall, Room 413

Course Information

Professor: Dr. Colleen Berryessa (colleen.berryessa@rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:45pm – 2:30pm in Center for Law and Justice (CLJ), 123 Washington Street, 5th Floor in Room 579G.

Teaching Assistant: Ryan Brown (ryanbrow@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

Course Overview

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 have some awesome guest speakers related to class topics that will be presenting throughout the semester (see underlined dates on course schedule).

Prerequisite: None

B.S., Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice, 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 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

1. Explain the structure and functioning of the basic components of the criminal justice system including the police, courts, corrections, and 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 Text

Fuller, J.R. (2018 or 2019). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Brief Edition*, Oxford University Press.

Course Requirements

Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in 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, PowerPoints, 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 their classmates.

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
Week 1	January 17 th	Introduction/Class Overview	
	January 19 th	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapter 1
Week 2	January 24 th /26 th	How Crime is Measured and Who It Affects	Chapter 2
Week 3	January 31 st / <u>February 2nd</u>	Criminal Law	Chapter 3
Week 4	February 7 th /9 th	The History and Organization of Law Enforcement	Chapter 4
Week 5	February 14 th /16 th	Police Organization, Operation and the Law	Chapter 5
Week 6	February 21 st /23 th	Policing: Innovations and Controversies	Chapter 6
Week 7	<u>February 28th</u> / March 2 nd	The Courts	Chapter 7
Week 8	March 7 th	The Courtroom Work Group	Chapter 8
	March 9 th	<u>Midterm Exam</u> (in class)	
		<u>SPRING BREAK:</u> March 11 th – 19 th	
Week 9	<u>March 21st/23rd</u>	The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, and Sentencing	Chapter 9
Week 10	March 28 th /30 th	The History of Control and Punishment	Chapter 10
Week 11	<u>April 4th/6th</u>	Prisons and Jails	Chapter 11
Week 12	<u>April 11th/13th</u>	Community Corrections	Chapter 12
	April 13 th	<u>Home Assignment Response Paper DUE</u>	
Week 13	<u>April 18th/20th</u>	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13
Week 14	April 25 th	Criminal Justice in the Future	Chapter 14
	April 27 th	In-Class Final Review	
	<u>May 9th 3pm to 6pm</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>	

Course Assessment and Grading

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

Midterm Examination (30%): About halfway through the course, a midterm exam will be given comprising 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 **Thursday, March 9th**.

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. The test will comprise 180 multiple-choice and true/false questions. The final exam will be on **Tuesday, May 9th from 3pm to 6pm** in our normal classroom.

Weekly Assignments (10%): Each student is expected to complete weekly assignments (crosswords) and turn them in online via Canvas. Each crossword will be due the Tuesday following the week in which the material is covered (e.g. Week 2 crossword will be due the Tuesday of Week 3). However, Week 14's crossword will be due in class at the final review on April 27th since it is the last day of class. You may skip two weeks without penalty, which means you must complete 12 crosswords. However, if you do all 14, you will get extra credit!

Home Assignment (20%): You will be asked to watch a movie or an episode of a television show related to the criminal justice system (your choice!) and write a 5-page response paper on how aspects of that movie/TV episode align and misalign with the "real" aspects of the criminal justice system you have learned about so far in the course. The response paper should be submitted to Canvas by the start of class on **April 13th**.

Assignment Description	Linked to SLO	% of Course Grade
Midterm Exam	SLO 1, 2, 3 and 4	30%
Final Exam	SLO 1, 2, 3 and 4	40%
Home Assignment	SLO 3 and 4	20%
Weekly Assignments	SLO 1, 2, and 3	10%

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

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

Late or Missing Assignment/Exam Policy

Exams and reading assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. If you will miss an exam, you MUST have contacted the professor BEFORE the day of the exam and document the reason for your absence. I do not give makeup exams, except under extreme circumstances. You need not alert me to your absence unless you wish to receive an accommodation as a result. Missing class more than once or twice is likely to compromise your grade.

Course Policies

Classroom Rules

Please turn the volume OFF on all cell phones, internet on computers, MP3 players, and any other electronic device before you come to class. Students with phones that ring during class will be asked to leave and those with phones that ring during exams will be docked 5 points.

Students who wish to dispute grades on any portion of the exam or paper will, at the discretion of the instructor, be offered an anonymous re-grading opportunity. If you have a grade dispute, please communicate it to your assigned teaching assistant. The assistant will convey the argument to me and, if I agree, I will regrade your paper (anonymously and without knowing your original grade). After the re-grade, you will be given the average of the two grades. You should recognize that this may result in your grade increasing, decreasing, or staying the same.

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 \(ods.newark.rutgers.edu\)](http://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 at (973) 353-5111.