

**47: 201: 103**

**CJ-103: Introduction to Criminal Justice  
3 Credits | Spring 2025**

**Asynchronous**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Professor**: Dr. Colleen Berryessa ([colleen.berryessa@rutgers.edu](mailto:colleen.berryessa@rutgers.edu))

**Office Hours:** I am available to meet by appointment on Zoom, and we can work together to find a time that works!

**Teaching Assistants:** Madison Baczuk ([mmb388@scarletmail.rutgers.](mailto:mmb388@scarletmail.rutgers.)[edu](mailto:mmb388@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)) and Stanley Thermidor

([st1233@scarletmail.rutgers.](mailto:st1233@scarletmail.rutgers.)[edu](mailto:st1233@scarletmail.rutgers.edu))

**Course Overview**

This asynchronous course introduces the study of societal responses to crime and explains why criminal justice should be considered a system. It covers the workings of law enforcement, the courts, the correctional system, and juvenile justice. It reviews what constitutes a crime and how crime is measured. Additionally, this course looks to the future and outlines some pressing issues that continue to challenge crime control in a democratic society.

**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 and 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 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 comprising many different people and agencies.
3. Describe the relationships among all parts and players of the criminal justice system and 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 critical stakeholders.

### Required Text

Fuller, J.R. (2018/19 or 2021). ***Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Brief Edition***, Oxford University Press. There are a few editions of this book, and any version is fine! I know the online/electronic version of the 2018/2019 book is usually the cheapest. If you are having trouble finding or getting a hold of the book for whatever reason, please email me and I can try to help.

**Course Requirements**

Students are required to read assigned readings and watch assigned videos. Students are required to access the course website on Canvas regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings, and other course announcements.

**Course Structure**

The course will be asynchronous, with lecture slides and videos posted each Monday at 8am for the week. Students will take all exams online.

**Grading Scale**

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%

**Course Schedule**

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| **Week** | **Release Date** | **Topic** | | | | |  |  | **Required Reading** | | | | | | | | | |
| Week 1 | **January 21st** | Introduction/Class Overview | | | | |  |  |  | | | | |
|  | **January 21st** |  | Crime and Criminal Justice | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 1 | | | | |
| Week 2 | **January 27th** |  | How Crime is Measured and Who It Affects | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 2 | | | | |
| Week 3 | **February 3rd** |  | Criminal Law | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 3 | | | | |  |
| Week 4 | **February 10th** |  | The History and Organization of Law Enforcement | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 4 | | | | |
| Week 5 | **February 17th** |  | Police Organization, Operation and the Law | | | | | | |  | Chapter 5 | | | | |
| Week 6 | **February 24th** |  | Policing: Innovations and Controversies | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 6 | | | | |
| Week 7 | **March 3rd** |  | The Courts | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 7 | | | | |
| Week 8 | **March 10th** |  | The Courtroom Work Group | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 8 | | | | |
|  | **March 11th – 23rd** |  |  | **ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM** | | | | |  | |  |  | | | | |  |
| Week 9 | **March 15th – 23rd** |  |  | **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK** | | | | |  | |  |  | | | | |  |
| Week 10 | **March 24th** |  | The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, and Sentencing | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 9 | | | | |  |
| Week 11 | **March 31st** |  | The History of Control and Punishment | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 10 | | | | |  |
| Week 12 | **April 7th** |  | Prisons and Jails | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 11 | | | | |  |
|  | **April 11th** |  | **HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE** | | | | | |  |  |  | | | | |  |
| Week 13 | **April 14th** |  | Community Corrections | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 12 | | | | |
| Week 14 | **April 21st** |  | Juvenile Justice | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 13 | | | | |
| Week 15 | **April 28th** |  | Criminal Justice in the Future | | | | | |  |  | Chapter 14 | | | | |
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**April 29th – May 7th ONLINE FINAL EXAM**

**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 givencomprising 100 multiple-choice and true/false questions. The test will over the material in the first eight chapters and will be administered online via Canvas. You will be given 1 hour and 30 minutes to take the test and you will be able to use your book and notes. **You may take the midterm exam online on Canvas (under Quizzes) during any 1 hour and 30 minute period from March 11th (at 12:00 am) to March 23rd (at 11:59 pm). You must take the test in one sitting during a continuous 1 hour and 30 minute period.**

**Final Examination (40%):** A comprehensive final exam will be given thatcovers all the material covered in the course but is weighted more heavily toward the second eight chapters of the book. The test will comprise 180 multiple-choice and true/false questions. You will be given 2 hours and 30 minutes to take the test and you will be able to use your book and notes. **You may take the final exam online on Canvas (under Quizzes) during any 2 hour and 30 minute period from April 29th (at 12:00 am) to May 7th (at 11:59 pm). You must take the test in one sitting during a continuous 2 hour and 30 minute period.**

**Weekly Assignments (10%):** Students are expected to complete weekly assignments (crosswords) on the class material and turn them in online via Canvas. You may skip two crosswords without penalty, which means you must complete 12 crosswords. However, if you do all 14, you will get extra credit! I encourage you to turn these in throughout the semester each week. **All crosswords must be uploaded and completed by May 5th at 11:59 pm for credit.**

**Media Essay (20%):** You will 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. Please email me, and I’m happy to chat about potential recommendations or approve your movie/TV show if it makes you feel more comfortable! **The response paper should be submitted to Canvas by 11:59pm on April 11th.**

**Extra Credit:** You can write a maximum of two response papers that respond to any aspect of a documentary or guest lecture video that we watch throughout the semester. These response papers should be two pages double-spaced and uploaded to Canvas. Each response paper is worth 5 points of extra credit. I will add 5 points to your midterm exam grade and/or 5 points to your final exam score if you complete these response papers. **Extra credit essays must be uploaded and completed by May 7th at 11:59 pm for credit.**

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| **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% |

### Late or Missing Assignment/Exam Policy

Exams and reading assignments are due on their due date. If you miss an exam, you MUST contact the professor BEFORE the exam and document the reason. I do not give makeup exams except under extreme circumstances, but if you think you may have to miss an exam for any reason, please let me know as quickly as possible and we will work together to find a time for you to take it before the date of the exam. You need not alert me to your absence unless you wish to receive accommodation, but if you miss class, you will miss valuable material that is likely to compromise your grade. I will accept late work for partial credit up to May 7th at 11:59pm.

**Language Statement**

The Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice (SCJ) encourages students, faculty, and staff to use *person-first* and *humanizing* language in their verbal and written communications.

Being mindful of how we describe people impacted by our criminal legal systems is an important step in restoring their dignity and humanity.  This evolution of language is an important piece of broader systemic shifts that are needed to make our justice systems more equitable.  We encourage *replacing* labels that refer to people as “offender,” “inmate,”  “parolee” or related terms with more neutral descriptors such as “person convicted of a crime,” “incarcerated person,” and “person under parole supervision.”  Additional details about why this is important can be found [here](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.themarshallproject.org%2F2021%2F04%2F12%2Fthe-language-project&data=05%7C01%7Ccolleen.berryessa%40rutgers.edu%7C0701f5856e3343ce797f08db4595a435%7Cb92d2b234d35447093ff69aca6632ffe%7C1%7C0%7C638180281249226084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FD0OkahtZlWuCCaWUPcl1Z9R94GveN47Oh%2BcDCpzA3o%3D&reserved=0), [here](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov%2Fpmc%2Farticles%2FPMC6240232%2F&data=05%7C01%7Ccolleen.berryessa%40rutgers.edu%7C0701f5856e3343ce797f08db4595a435%7Cb92d2b234d35447093ff69aca6632ffe%7C1%7C0%7C638180281249226084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4Fei56%2FA3mPT6SiaNQXXKk2nlnDiC5bIFVqiMt75qfk%3D&reserved=0), and [here](https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/doi/full/10.1111/1745-9125.12145).

### COURSE POLICIES

### Classroom Rules

Students who wish to dispute grades on any portion of the exam or paper will be offered an anonymous re-grading opportunity at the instructor's discretion. 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 its 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 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 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). 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) 353-5063 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Short-term Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can help with 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, recovery from surgery, etc.). 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. VPVA is a confidential resource and 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. VPVA also maintains 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 to receive assistance; 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 Psychological Support (Stress, Mood, Family Issues, Substance Use concerns and other personal challenges):** The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center provides individual therapy and support groups for students dealing with psychological issues. To schedule an appointment, email counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or call (973) 353-5805.

Additional support is available to any RU-N student through Uwill services:

* Umatch: Teletherapy with flexible scheduling, starting with a free account.
* Uhelp: Crisis support at 833-646-1526 (available 24/7/365).
* Urise: Wellness-based video collection with a free account.

Access Uwill@RUN at https://my.rutgers.edu using your netid. Services are confidential and free. **For emergencies**, call 911 or Rutgers University Police Department at (973) 353-5111.