

CJ 261
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Summer II 2008

Instructor: George J. Day
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Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 p.m. – 9:50 p.m.
Classroom: CJC C104
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Additional hours by appointment

Required textbook:

Schmallenger, Frank. (2009). *Criminal Justice Today* (10th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the facets of the criminal justice system, the sub-systems and how they interrelate, processing of offenders, punishment and its alternatives, and the future of the criminal justice system.

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce students to the fundamentals of the criminal justice system.
2. Allow students to develop an understanding of the crime problem in the United States.
3. Acquaint students with a general overview of various criminal justice systems (courts, law enforcement, and corrections) and how they relate to a system of justice that addresses the needs of public safety.
4. Introduce students to special topics in criminal justice including the juvenile justice system, relationship between drugs and crime, and the effect of terrorism on the U.S. criminal justice system.
5. Provide students with a general overview of criminal justice theory.

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate in the class. Students will be allowed up to 1 excused absence. **Each excess excused and all unexcused absences will result in a 1% deduction from the student's overall grade.**

You are expected to arrive to class on time and not to leave early. With the exception of an emergency you are expected to let the instructor know ahead of time if you must leave early. Do not interrupt the instructor or the class with your personal entrances and/or exits. If you must be absent, notify the instructor through your student e-mail account prior to the next scheduled class session. *Additionally, you are to get two "class buddies" to take notes, inform you of assignments, etc. when you miss class. **Do not contact the instructor to find out what you missed.***

Student Absences/Religious holidays: Absences may be excused for health, emergency or religious reasons. Absences are considered excused with documentation from a licensed physician confirming illness or family emergency. The note does not need to detail the illness or emergency, simply confirm the general cause of the absence. Documentation from other sources will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information on absences due to religious holidays please refer to:
<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Grading Policy

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

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|-----|--------|
| "A" | 90-100 |
| "B" | 80-89 |
| "C" | 70-79 |
| "D" | 60-69 |
| "F" | 0-59 |

Required Course Work:

Reading and classroom participation: Reading assignments are to be completed prior to class according to the course outline. Students are expected to be familiar enough with assigned reading to be enabled to apply the material to class discussions as well as to respond to written and oral questions based on the readings. *The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes during any class session in which (a) less than 75% of the students are in attendance and/or (b) there is a lack of participation that would indicate that students are not completing reading assignments.*

Exams: There will be five exams (the last one being the final) during the semester. Each exam is worth a maximum of 20% of the final grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities may be given at the discretion of the instructor and will be in the form of a 1-2 page reaction paper written on a topic of the instructor's choice.

Make-up exams will not be offered without prior approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. A score of 0 (zero) will be given for exams not taken on time without said approval. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: religious observances, military deployment or TDY duty, court appearances or jury duty, family emergencies, job-related emergencies, or personal or immediate family illness. To be allowed to take a make-up exam, you must contact the instructor by e-mail **prior** to the date/time of the exam. All make-up exams will be essay/short answer in format.

Conduct: students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times in the classroom. *Students failing to act in a professional manner will be asked to leave the classroom and be penalized 5% of their final grade. Students that have to be asked to leave more than once will fail the class.* Professionalism includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Punctuality
- ✓ Civility and courtesy to everyone in class, including your instructor
- ✓ Use of tobacco products in the classroom or elsewhere in the building is prohibited
- ✓ It is inappropriate to wear hats, caps, "do-rags", or sunglasses in the classroom
- ✓ Sleeping, reading newspapers, books, or studying for other courses during class is prohibited.
- ✓ Unless you are on-call or are dealing with some type of emergency, turn your cell phones off (or set to vibrate) during class time.
- ✓ Pagers, MP3 players, text messaging systems, games, etc. must be turned off during class. Laptops are permitted for the purpose of taking notes as long as your wireless network card is disabled during class (i.e. no checking e-mail, or 'surfing' the internet during class).

Academic ethics: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating, plagiarism, substituting work from another class, and submitting someone else's work as your own are considered academic dishonesty. If you are caught engaging in such behavior you will receive an automatic "F" for the course and you will be referred to the dean of undergraduate studies for further action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of not properly crediting your sources of information through the proper utilization of textual citations and a source list. If it is not a product of your own original research, your own ideas, thoughts, or words you must cite your source in your text. You must also include a works cited list. Failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty and penalized as outlined above.

The university's policy towards cheating and plagiarism can be found at the following website:
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

Disabled Student Policies and Service Information:

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of Counseling Services as Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

For more information about University policy toward and services to disabled students see the links below:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf
<http://www.shsy.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Class Schedule – subject to change at instructor’s discretion

| Date | Topic | Required reading |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | Unit 1: Crime in America | |
| July 8 | Course Introduction, What is Criminal Justice? Criminal Theory basics | Chapters 1 & 2 |
| July 10 | Criminal Theory and Law | Chapters 3 & 4 |
| Week 2 | Unit 2: Policing | |
| July 15 | Exam #1; History of policing, Police structure & organization | Chapters 5 & 6 |
| July 17 | Legal aspects of policing; Issues and challenges of policing | Chapter 7 & 8 |
| Week 3 | Unit 3: Adjudication | |
| July 22 | Exam #2; Structure & participants of the courts | Chapter 9 |
| July 24 | The criminal Trial | Chapter 10 & 11 |
| Week 4 | Unit 4: Corrections | |
| July 29 | Exam #3; Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections | Chapter 12 |
| July 31 | Prisons and Prison life | Chapter 13 & 14 |
| Week 5 | | |
| August 5 | Exam #4; Juvenile Justice; Terrorism | Chapter 15 & 17 |
| August 7 | FINAL EXAM | |