

CRIMINOLOGY 261W.05
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
FALL 2007

Instructor: George Day
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Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 11:00 am -11:50 am
Classroom: CJC A201
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 11:00 a.m.; Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Additional hours by appointment

Required Textbook:

Schmallegger, Frank. (2007). *Criminal Justice Today* (9th 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. To introduce students to the fundamentals of the criminal justice system.
2. To allow students to develop an understanding of the crime problem in the United States.
3. To examine the probation and parole systems in the United States.
4. To gain knowledge of the court, correctional, and police systems in the United States.
5. To analyze and evaluate the future of the criminal justice system
6. To acquaint students with a general overview of various criminal justice systems and how they relate to for a system of justice that addresses the needs of public safety.
7. To introduce students to 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 5 excused absences. **Each excess excused and all unexcused absence will result in 1% reduction in 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 should let the instructor know ahead of time if you must leave early. Do not interrupt the instructor of 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

period. *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 professor.

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

Grading Policy

All written work will be graded on the accuracy and comprehensiveness of its content, the sophistication of your writing and vocabulary, your proper usage of common English, and your overall communication skills. Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

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

Required Course Work:

Reading & 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. Attendance and classroom participation will consist of 10% of your final grade. *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 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 10% of your final grade for a total of 50% of the final grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice, listing, and short answer/essay type questions.

Writing assignments: There will be two research assignments during the semester. Topics for the assignments will be given in a separate document. The first assignment will be due at the beginning of class on October 5, 2007 and the second will be due at the beginning of class on November 9, 2007. Each assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade for a total of 40% of the final grade.

You must follow APA format for the research paper. This includes following APA format for the title page, citations in text, source list, margins, font, etc. The completed paper must be 5-7 pages in length. Papers are to be submitted to the instructor as an e-mail attachment in Microsoft

Word format. I am willing to review early drafts of your papers provided that they are sent to me (as an e-mail attachment) at least 2 weeks prior to the due date.

Your writing skills and the general level of sophistication displayed in these assignments will be major factors in your grade. Submitted papers should reflect college level writing skills. This means that there will be no spelling errors, a minimum of grammatical errors, and must be well organized and cohesive. If you know that your writing is not as good as it should be, please ask for assistance in the University writing center. You are expected to use a minimum of five sources in your paper. Examples of acceptable resources include academic journals, certain criminal justice textbooks (ask the instructor before using) and recent books in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Dictionaries or encyclopedias (including online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia) are not acceptable sources. Do not use Internet sources that do not give the author's name and affiliation. When in doubt ask the instructor.

Late papers and make-up exams will not be accepted without prior approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. A score of 0 (zero) will be entered for papers or exams not received at the scheduled time without said approval. Extenuating circumstances would include, but not be limited to: religious observances, military deployment or TDY, court appearances or jury duty, family emergencies, job-related emergencies, or personal or family illness. To be considered for an extension, application must be made through your Sam Houston State e-mail account in a timely manner. Application for an extension should include a brief statement of the problem necessitating the request and an estimated date for completion of the assignment (make-up exams will be at the instructor's convenience). The burden of proof is on you. I do not owe you an extension for completing assignments.

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

- Punctuality
- Civility and courtesy to everyone in the 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 and pagers off during class time.
- **Cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, text messaging systems, games etc. must be turned off during the 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 to be academic dishonesty. If you are caught engaging in such behavior you will receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course and you will be reported department head 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 original idea, thought, 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 will be dealt with as such.

The University's policy toward 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 (extension 1720)

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

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Schedule: This schedule is tentative and subject to revision and the discretion of the instructor.
Students should note of exams and reading & writing assignment due dates in bold print.

August 20	August 22	August 24
Course introduction	Read Ch. 1. History of the Criminal Justice system in America	What is Criminal Justice?
August 27	August 29	August 31
Read Ch. 2. Crime data collection and the scope of crime in America	Read Ch. 3. Criminal Theory lecture #1	Criminal Theory lecture #2
September 3	September 5	September 7
Labor Day – no class	Criminal Theory lecture #3	Read Ch. 4. General categories and elements of crime.
September 10	September 12	September 14
Criminal defenses: alibis, justifications, & excuses	Exam #1: chapters 1-4, lecture	Read Ch. 5. History of policing in America
September 17	September 19	September 21
Police structure	Read Ch. 6. The role of the police & police management	Policing styles, professionalism, & ethics
September 24	September 26	September 28
Read Ch. 7. Constitutional rights overview. Search & seizure	Search, seizure continued.	Legal aspects of police questioning
October 1	October 3	October 5
Read Ch. 8. Police corruption and culture	Physical and legal dangers of policing	Exam #2. Chapter 5-8, lecture Paper #1 due
October 8	October 10	October 12
Read Ch. 9. History & structure of the courts	Courtroom personnel	Read Ch. 10. Trial process
October 15	October 17	October 19
Trial process continued.	Read Ch. 11. Sentencing goals and options	PSI's and victim involvement
October 22	October 24	October 26
Exam #3	Read Ch. 12. Probation and parole	Intermediate sanctions
October 29	October 31	November 1
Read Ch. 13. History of incarceration in America	Prisons and jails in modern America	Read Ch. 14. Life behind the walls
November 5	November 7	November 9
Prisoner rights & current issues	Film: <i>A&E Investigative reports - Keepers: A Job Behind Bars</i>	Exam #4. Chapters 9-13, lecture, film
November 12	November 14	November 16
Read Ch. 15. History of Juvenile Justice	Current issues in Juvenile Justice	Guest speaker: B. Humphrey, Exec. Director of Juvenile Corrections, TYC
November 19	November 21	November 23
Read Ch. 16. History of drug abuse & laws in America	Thanksgiving Break – no class	Thanksgiving Break – no class
November 26	November 28	November 30
Costs of drug use and solutions.	Read Ch. 17. International Criminal Justice systems	Terrorism and its effects on American criminal justice
December 3	December 5	December 7
Read Ch. 18. The future of criminal justice	The future of Criminal Justice	Study day – no class
December 12		
Final Exam.	Chapters 15-18, lecture, speaker.	