



ADMJ 120 - Introduction to the Criminal Justice Sys Course Outline

Approval Date: 12/09/2021

Effective Date: 08/12/2022

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000293313

Discipline(s) Administration of Justice

Division Criminal Justice Training

Subject Area Administration of Justice

Subject Code ADMJ

Course Number 120

Course Title Introduction to the Criminal Justice Sys

TOP Code/SAM Code 2105.00 - Criminal Justice/Police Science* / C - Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Periodic course update, textbook update, revision of course learning outcomes, course objectives and content modified to match learning outcomes.

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode On-Campus

of Instruction Hybrid
Entirely Online

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description This course introduces students to the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States. Focus is placed on examining crime measurement, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to crime, components of the system, and current challenges to the system. The course examines the evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system and the evolving forces which have shaped those principles and approaches. Although justice structure and process is examined in a cross cultural context, emphasis is placed on the US justice system, particularly the structure and function of US police, courts, and corrections. Students are introduced to the origins and development of criminal law, legal process, and sentencing and incarceration policies.

Schedule Description This course introduces students to the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States.

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended:** *None*

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Describe the history, structure, and functions of the main components of the American criminal justice system.
- B. Analyze principles and applications of statutory and Constitutional law, particularly the requirements adhered to by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
- C. Produce written communications that meet the standards for transfer and a criminal justice system professional.
- D. Examine critically contemporary problems and issues within criminal justice.
- E. Examine bias and cultural competence in the criminal justice system.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories used to explain crime and criminality;
- B. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime;
- C. Understand the history, development, and structure, and function of American police, courts, and corrections;
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, structure, and function of the police;
- E. Convey an understanding of the process of adjudication;
- F. Show an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails;
- G. Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development;
- H. Examine critically contemporary problems and issues within criminal justice;
- I. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice;
- J. Examine bias and cultural competence in the criminal justice system;

- K. Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in the social sciences;
- L. Explain the definitions of crime; and
- M. Understand the extent of the crime problem in America.
- N.

3. Course Content

- A. Introduction to Justice
 - a. Historical Basis
 - b. Understanding the American Criminal Justice System
- B. Crime and Its Consequences
 - a. Definitions of Crime
 - b. Measurement of Crime
 - c. Costs of Crime
- C. Explaining Crime and Victimization
 - a. Classical
 - b. Positivist
 - c. Critical
- D. Procedural Law
 - a. Bill of Rights
 - b. "Crime control" model vs. the "due process" model
- E. Law Enforcement
 - a. Police Functions
 - b. Community Policing
 - c. Issues in Policing
 - d. Bias and cultural competence in law enforcement
- F. The American Court Structure
 - a. Key Roles
 - b. Pretrial
 - c. Trial
 - d. Sentencing
 - e. Death Penalty
 - f. Contemporary issues in the legal system
 - g. Jury bias and bias in sentencing
- G. Institutional Corrections
 - a. Security, Services, and Programs
 - b. Prison Life
 - c. Inmates Rights
 - d. Release
 - e. Recidivism
 - f. Bias and cultural competence in corrections
- H. Community Corrections
 - a. Probation
 - b. Parole
 - c. Issues in Corrections
- I. The Future of the Criminal Justice System
 - a. Social Changes
 - b. Technological Changes
 - c. Contemporary Issues and Justice Reform
 - d.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Discussion: For example: 1. An instructor facilitated discussion about jury bias. 2. A small group discussion about an instructor provided scenario involving law enforcement ethics.

Field Trips: For example: 1. A field trip to tour the police academy on the main campus. 2. A field trip to tour a local law enforcement agency.

Lecture: For example: 1. An interactive instructor lead lecture about the Bill of Rights. 2. An interactive instructor lead lecture about the role of community policing in modern day law enforcement.

Projects: For example: 1. A research paper about a contemporary issue in the criminal justice system. 2. A mock Supreme Court hearing involving a contemporary civil rights issue.

Online Adaptation: Discussion, Lecture

Explain how the online adaptation of the methods of instruction aligns with the course

outcomes: Discussions will be facilitated using the discussion board in Canvas. Lectures will be delivered using audio recordings, video recordings, or supplemental reading. Projects will be facilitated by using the assignment option in Canvas. Oral presentation will be facilitated using the Canvas video recorder, YouTube, or similar technology. Field trips will be offered in the same way as a face-to-face class.

2. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- For example: 1. A mid-term exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions about content from assigned reading, 2. A final exam with multiple-choice, true-false, or short essay questions based on content from assigned reading and class lectures.

Quizzes -- For example: 1. A quiz with multiple-choice and true-false questions based on assigned reading. 2. A quiz with multiple-choice, true-false, and short essay questions about class lectures.

Papers -- For example: 1. A term paper examining the pros and cons of a contemporary issue facing the criminal justice system. 2. A research paper about a career within the criminal justice system.

Home Work -- For example: 1. Reach chapter 1 in the required textbok. 2. Go online and review the webpage of your local law enforcement agency.

Final Exam -- For example: 1. A final exam with multiple-choice, true-false, or short essay questions based on content from assigned reading and class lectures. 2. A final exam with short-essay questions about bias within the criminal justice system.

Letter Grade or P/NP

3. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

For example:

(1) Visit the Careers in Criminal Justice website, complete the self-assessment, and then write a report on their state of preparation for a career in the criminal justice system.

(2) After reading chapter 4, answer question 2; "How does stare decisis contribute to the efficiency of the court system?"

B. Writing Assignments

Read the course text and handout materials.

Prepare written reports and occasionally present them orally in class.

For example:

(1) Provide the student with a verbal/written/video scenario depicting the use of deadly force by a criminal justice employee and ask them to determine if the force was justified.

Have them also articulate the legal concepts supporting their answer.

(2) Prepare a paper describing how professional ethics are effective or not effective in preventing correctional officers from introducing contraband into secured facilities.

Explain your answer.

C. Other Assignments

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4. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Gaines and Miller

Title: Criminal Justice in Action

Publisher: Cengage

Date of Publication: 2021

Edition: 11th edition

B. Other required materials/supplies.