

Introduction to Criminal Justice

CJ 200: Spring 2010

MW 9:30-11:10 am

Livingston Lord Library 103

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Office Hours:
Tuesdays: 9:00-4:00
Wednesdays: 2:30-5:30
or by appointment

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

This course provides an overview of historical and contemporary perspectives of criminal justice within the United States. Specifically, this course focuses on definitions of crime, explanations of criminality, policing, courts, and corrections and how these elements of the criminal justice system intersect with age, race/ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status.

Students should be able to: (1) demonstrate a basic knowledge of the key components of the criminal justice system; (2) develop and use critical thinking skills necessary to compare and analyze historical and contemporary CJ policies; and (3) discuss their own perspectives of criminal justice practices in conjunction with those identified through social scientific research.

Required Readings:

Regoli, Robert M. and John D. Hewitt. 2010. "Exploring Criminal Justice: The Essentials."
Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation:	100 pts	A = 450-500 pts
Exams (3):	300 pts	B = 400-449 pts
Critical Analysis Paper:	<u>100 pts</u>	C = 350-399 pts
TOTAL:	500 points	D = 300-349 pts
		F = 299 pts and below

Class Participation (100 points):

Attendance is required for this course. You are responsible for keeping up on changes to the syllabus and lecture notes. Class discussion is a vital part of this course, and you will be required to participate in group activities and other in-class activities throughout the semester.

Exams (300 points):

Three exams (100 points each) will be given during the semester. See Course Schedule section for dates. Make-up essay exams will be given to students who have excused absences on test days. The third/final exam is cumulative. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, T/F, and essay questions.

Critical Analysis Paper (100pts):

You are required to write a 5-7 page critical analysis of a criminal justice policy/practice. SEE CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER HANDOUT for assignment details and grading rubric.

Excused Absences, Late Assignments, and Make-up Exams:

In order for any absence to be considered excused, I will need verification of the emergency or special circumstance (i.e. doctor's excuse, funeral listing). You are responsible for making up missed assignments, quizzes, and obtaining lecture notes from the days you missed. Late assignments without excused absence verification will receive an automatic 20% deduction from total possible points. Contact me as soon as possible if you are absent on test day. Make-up exams are essay exams.

PLEASE BRING TO MY ATTENTION ANY DIFFICULTIES YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING TEST-TAKING OR WRITING ABILITY - HELP IS AVAILABLE

MSUM Write Site = call 218-477-5937 for hours and locations

The Counseling Center = Bridges 260 – 218-477-2227; or 701-235-7335 (24-hr hotline)

Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 477-5859 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 114 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

MSUM Academic Honesty Policy: “In academic work, students are expected to present original ideas and give credit for the ideas of others...When an instructor has convincing evidence of cheating or plagiarism, the following actions may be taken: assign a failing grade for the course...or report the offense, the evidence, and their action to the Dean of their college or the VP for Academic Affairs” (MSUM Student Handbook, 2008).

NO USAGE OF CELLULAR PHONES, IPODS, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ALLOWED IN CLASS WITHOUT MY CONSENT.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS MAY BE USED DURING CLASS FOR NOTE-TAKING PURPOSES ONLY (not for email, surfing, working on other coursework, etc.)

Course Schedule and Assignments (readings and assignments should be completed on day they appear on schedule – NOT the next day):

Week 1

1/11: Introductions

1/13: Read Chapter 1: Overview of Criminal Justice – in-class activity

Week 2

1/18: NO CLASS

1/20: Read Chapter 2: Criminal Law: The Foundation of Criminal Justice - QUIZ

Week 3

1/25: Discuss Critical Analysis paper assignment and brainstorm topics

1/27: Read Chapter 3: The Nature and Causes of Crime

Week 4

2/1: “Four Scenarios” in-class assignment

2/3: Read Chapter 4: Police History and Organization- QUIZ

Week 5

2/8: In-class review for Exam 1

2/10: EXAM 1

Week 6

2/15: Media portrayals of Policing – in-class assignment

2/17: Read Chapter 5: Police and the Law

Week 7

2/22: Guest Speaker: TBA; Critical Analysis Outline and Prelim. Bib. due

2/24: Read Chapter 6: Critical Issues in Policing

Week 8

3/1: In-class witness exercise

3/3: Read Chapter 7: The Criminal Courts

Week 9

3/8: Accomplishing the Courts' missions

3/10: Read Chapter 8: The Trial

Week 10 – Spring Break

3/15: NO CLASS

3/17: NO CLASS

Week 11

3/22: In-class review for Exam 2

3/24: EXAM 2

Week 12

3/29: Read Chapter 10: Corrections History and Structure - QUIZ

3/31: NO CLASS

Week 13

4/5: NO CLASS

4/7: In-class film “Murder in the First” and **Critical Analysis paper due!**

Week 14

4/12: Read Chapter 11: Prisons; film reaction paper due

4/14: Guest Speaker: TBA

Week 15

4/19: Read Chapter 12: Corrections in the Community

4/21: NO CLASS

Week 16:

4/26: Read Chapter 13 – Juvenile Justice

4/28: Juvenile Justice continued...

Week 17:

5/3: Last day of class; Summary and In-class review for Cumulative Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 6 @ 9:00 am

***This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to modify readings, test dates, and assignments.**