

**ADVANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SEMINAR:  
Issues Involving Relationships with the Media and the Criminal Justice System**

01:202:488

Monday and Thursday

1:40 PM to 3:00 PM

**Beck Hall, Room 213**

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Program in Criminal Justice

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Wednesday: 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

*Or* by appointment

**Program in Criminal Justice  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

**Learning Goals:  
A Statement of Principles**

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

## Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

1. **Competence:**
  - a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
  - b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
  - c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.
3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will examine the relationships between the media and the criminal Justice system and their implications on policies and practices for corrections, the courts and the police.

## **COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Crime and the Media. Muraskin, Roslyn & Domash, Shelly Feuer (2007). Pearson Education: Upper Saddle River NJ.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

Two Exams:	25 points each	<b>50</b> points
Term Paper		<b>40</b> points
Civility Grade		<b>10</b> points
Total Semester Points:		<b>100</b> points

## **TERM PAPER:**

Term Paper: One of the basic expectations of a 400 level course is that you complete at least one major written assignment. In the case of this course, it will consist of a research paper. The research paper for this course is a multi-academic discipline research paper of at least 10 pages in length, intended to address an issue involving the media with any component of the criminal justice system.

You have the ultimate opportunity and responsibility to develop the topic area to your own interests. The use of proper citation format is required. Most important, make sure that you present only your original work. The grading rubric for this assignment is located at the end of this syllabus.

You will submit a one-paragraph term paper outline on or before class Monday, **September 15, 2014**. Papers are due **Monday, December 1, 2014**. **No Electronic Copies of the Term Assignment are permitted**  
**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

## **CIVILITY GRADE**

Students are expected to attend every class. Additionally, students are required to participate in class discussions throughout the semester. Ten percent of the course grade is based upon this performance.

There will be several guest speakers throughout the semester whose experiences and insights will enhance the material presented in this course.

**This syllabus is subject to change.**

Students unable to attend any examination on the assigned date, for **ANY** reason, are to notify the instructor **PRIOR** to the examination date and make arrangements for make up exam.

Students are encouraged to utilize any and all resources available to assist them with this course through the Rutgers University Learning Resource Center. Information regarding the services available are accessible at: <http://lrc.rutgers.edu>

Students will be held to the academic integrity standards of this institution. Refer to: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity>

## **LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

9/3	Course Introduction. Textbook Chapter 1: Overview: Crime and the Media. Headlines versus Reality
9/8	Textbook Chapter 2: What about the Media.
9/11	Research Day. Prepare Term Assignment Outline due on Monday September 15, 2014.
9/15	Textbook Chapter 3: The Relationship of Crime Reporting to the Fear of Crime. <b>Term Paper Outline Due.</b>
9/18	Textbook Chapter 4: Crime and Reactions.
9/22 and 9/25	Textbook Chapter 5: The Salem Witch Trials.
9/29	Textbook Chapter 6: The Scopes Monkey Trial (1925)
10/2	Textbook Chapter 7: The Menendez Brothers (1989)
10/6	Textbook Chapter 8: Colin Ferguson (1993)
10/9	Textbook Chapter 9: The O.J. Simpson Trial (1994)
10/13	Textbook Chapter 10: Jon Bonet Ramsey (1996)
10/16	Mid Term Examination
10/20	Textbook Chapter 11: Kobe Bryant (2003)
10/23	Textbook Chapter 12: Daniel Pelosi (2001)

10/27	Textbook Chapter 13: Elizabeth Ann Smart (2002)
10/30	Textbook Chapter 14: Scott Peterson (2004)
11/3	The Role of Internet and Crime Found online at the Criminal Justice website under readings for this course.
11/6	Textbook Chapter 15: Michael Jackson (2004)
11/10	Textbook Chapter 16: Female Criminals Depicted by the Media.
11/13	Textbook Chapter 17: A Star is Formed: Media Construction of the Female Criminal.
11/17	Textbook Chapter 18: Martha Stewart: This Case is about Lying.
11/20	Textbook Chapter 19: Can the Mass Media do Good?
11/24 & 11/26	Research Days. Attendance Optional.
12/1	Textbook Chapter 20: If a Story is not Depicted by the Media Does it Exist? <b>Term Assignments Due.</b> Oral Presentations of Term Assignments
12/4	Textbook Chapter 21: Conclusion. Oral Presentations of Term Assignments.
12/8	Course Review

Final Examination Tentative Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 12:00 Noon  
Beck Hall, 213.

Nota Bene: Tape recording lectures is strictly prohibited, along with note-taking for commercial purposes. This syllabus is subject to change.

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**Advanced Criminal Justice Seminar**

**Fall 2014**

**TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT**

**GRADING RUBRIC**

**01:202:488**

<b>Spelling And Grammar</b> <i>No Paper submitted.</i>	<u><b>25 or more</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>21 to 25</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>16 to 20</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>11 to 15</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>6 to 10</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>3 to 5</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.	<u><b>0 to 2</b></u> spelling and grammar errors.
<b>0 points</b>	<b>1 point</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	<b>4 points</b>	<b>5 points</b>	<b>6 points</b>	<b>7 points</b>
<b>Content Pages</b> <i>No Paper Submitted</i>	<u><b>4 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>5 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>6 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>7 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>8 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>9 or less</b></u> Content Pages	<u><b>10 or more</b></u> Content Pages
<b>0 points</b>	<b>1 point</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	<b>4 points</b>	<b>5 points</b>	<b>6 points</b>	<b>7 points</b>
<b>Content</b> <b>No Paper Submitted On December 1, 2014.</b>	Poor conceptual continuity. Paper is not grounded in existing research on the topic. Paper is not written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion.			Conceptual continuity is evident. Paper is grounded in existing research on the topic. Paper is written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion.		Conceptual continuity enhances the paper. Paper is grounded on the topic. Paper is well written in an organized manner with an introduction, body and conclusion. Paper promotes continued research on the subject.	
<b>0 Points</b>	<b>10 Points</b>			<b>20 Points</b>		<b>26 Points</b>	

Maximum point score for term paper assignment is **40** points.

All papers are due on, or before Monday, **December 1, 2014**. All papers not received by that date will receive a grade of **0** for the assignment.

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**