Introduction to Criminal Justice
01:202:201:02
M, Thurs. 10:20-11:40 am
Lucy Stone Hall, Auditorium

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Office Hours: Prior to or after class and 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 Specific Learning Goals

The following are the course specific learning goals for Intro to Criminal Justice, adapted from the Permanent Core Curriculum Learning Goals. Upon completion of this course students will be expected to:

j. Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history.

n. Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.

Assessment

The course specific learning goals will be assessed at two points during the semester where students will be required to answer questions that articulate with each of the course specific learning goals. Learning goals will be assessed in one of the midterm examinations and during the final examination.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction, overview, and survey of the American criminal justice system and its subsystems – police, courts, juvenile justice, corrections, and victim/witness assistance. We will examine the role, development, policies and management of the different public agencies and organizations that constitute the criminal justice system. Emphasis is also placed on the study of current and future critical issues such as due process, discretion in the administration of justice, community policing, police ethics, domestic violence intervention, probation and parole effectiveness and correctional issues.

REQUIRED TEXT

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, 10th ed. By Frank Schmalleger, Prentice Hall, 2014. There may be additional handouts and readings distributed by the Professor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students are responsible for:

1) An increased knowledge of the criminal justice system

2) An increased understanding of the current initiatives in the criminal justice system, and the additional topics that are covered separate from the book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) *Attendance & Participation*

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website //https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra// /to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An e-mail is automatically sent to me. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class. Students are encouraged to take an active part in all classroom discussion and will be called on regularly. Please remember that participation will be graded accordingly.

2) *Reading Material*

Readings are assigned for every class.

3) *Newspaper Article Review*

A part of your grade will be a write-up of a newspaper article. Hard copy newspaper articles can be searched, as well as outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post, which would allow you to search by key word. No Wikepedia. The article should be attached to a 2 page type-written write-up. Students should outline the problem or topic in the article and depending on the content; they should offer suggestions, opinions or remedies- DO NOT SIMPLY REGURGITATE THE ARTICLE.

4) Unannounced Quizzes

There will be several unannounced quizzes on covered topics in assigned reading assignments. There are no make up dates for any quiz.

COURSE GRADING

The final grade will be determined using the following weighting scale:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	35%
Pop Quizzes	10%
Newspaper Article	15%
Attendance, participation	15%

GRADING SCALE

A 100-- 90
B+ 89-- 85
B 84-- 80
C+ 79-- 75

C 74-- 70
D 69-- 60
F 59 and below

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Rutgers University has a well defined academic integrity policy, which will strictly enforced in this class. All students in this class should review and be familiar with the policy of the university, which can be found at
http://TeachX.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html

Spring 2015--COURSE SCHEDULE
This calendar of events is subject to change based on the completion of course material and student progress.
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Jan. 20	***Introduction*** Presentation of the syllabus, requirements and discussion of current issues.
Jan. 22	Chapter 1- What is Criminal Justice?
Jan27, 29	Chapter 2- The Crime Picture
Feb 3, 5	Chapter 3- Criminal Law
Feb 10, 12	Chapter 4- Policing: Purpose and Organization
Feb 17, 19	Chapter 5- Policing: Legal Aspects
Feb 24, 26	Chapter 6- Policing: Issues & Challenges
March 3, 5	Chapter 7- The Courts
March 10	**Review/Newspaper articles**
March 12	**Midterm**
March 17,19	**Spring Break**
March 24, 26	Chapter 8- The Courtroom Workgroup and the Criminal Trial
March 31, Apr 1	Chapter 9- Sentencing
April 7, 9	Chapter 10- Probation, Parole
April 14, 16	Chapter 11- Prisons and Jails
April 21, 23	Chapter 13- Juvenile Justice

April 28, 30 Newspaper articles, Review

May 7-13 Final Exam Date to be Determined

http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/
For any changes that may unexpectedly occur