

**Ideas in Justice**  
**202-360**  
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**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**

**Competence:**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:**

Contributions to the development and application of penology, criminology, and criminal and social justice; study of the main ideas and key events that influenced the ideas and ideals evident in our social institutions. The examination all phases of Criminal Justice and how forensic DNA profiling has been implemented. A non-science approach to DNA profiling and how it used in investigations, prosecutions and corrections.

#### **READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

No textbook is required for this course. All reading material will be available online and through class handout.

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### **GRADING:**

Quizzes	15%
Exams	75%
Certification	10%

### **SYLLABUS**

June	27	Course Introduction, Law Enforcement, DNA Databanks
	29	Constitutional Law, DNA Dragnets
July	4	No Class
	6	Universal Databank, Familial Testing, Ancestry
	11	Ethics, EXAM 1
	13	Crime Labs, Backlog, NAS
	18	Homeland Security, Non-human DNA, Public Fear
	20	EXAM 2
	25	NIJ Certification
	27	Post Conviction, Cold Case, Legislation
August	1	Missing Persons, Mass Fatalities
	3	EXAM 3