

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Spring 2017

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Textbook: Introduction to Criminal Justice: by Larry J. Siegel, John L. Worrall
Fourteenth Edition

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system. The class will concentrate on important legal terms and concepts. We will examine state and federal court system and we will learn about relevant US Supreme Court decisions. Major emphasis will be placed on police, courts, juvenile and adult probation, Drug Court, Intensive Supervision Probation, Corrections and Parole. Students will gain a better understanding of the current and future critical issues such as Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, Drug addiction, and the treatment of Veterans. It will review the options available and resources provided by the state. Encompassing both the foundation of American Criminal Justice and each stage after arrest including due process will fully **describe** all aspects including helping the community and preventing recidivism.

Our class will be participating in a Peer Advisor Program whereas students will be required to see a Peer Advisor for a few minutes sometime during the semester. The program will be explained further in class. **Please remember that participation in the Peer Advisor Program is worth 5% of your grade and will be graded accordingly.** Instructions are posted to the CJ website:

<http://criminaljustice.rutgers.edu/student-info/peer-advising-program/peer-advising-instructions>

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.

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 Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to provide the student with the expertise he or she needs to critically analyze the issues, challenges and trends as they exist in Criminal Justice today. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

(A) be able to clearly distinguish each step of the process from arrest to sentencing, and the degree grading New Jersey gives to the crimes committed

(B) be able to significantly appreciate the value of intermediate punishments or sanctions as correctional alternatives

(C) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of the many facets within Criminal Justice and the United State Supreme Court cases that help shape them

(D) appreciate and understand the value of a variety within Criminal Justice and to be able to distinguish the difference between theory and real world

(E) identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history to apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations

Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:

Mid-Term 25%

Class Participation/Attendance/Peer Advising Program 25%

Final Examination 50%

Class Participation is weighted in this course because discussions aid in the student's ability to understand the impact of criminal justice in our society. Also, an interactive approach aids in the student's learning and creates an environment where an exchange of ideas is valued.

Attendance is mandatory; your grade will be lowered if you miss classes.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Overview of Class Schedule, which is subject to change depending on the progress of the class:

Class 1: January 18, 2017-Discussion of course syllabus; Overview of Chapter 1: Crime and Criminal Justice

Class 2: January 23, 2017- Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of crime

Class 3: January 25, 2017 -Chapter 2: Drug Laws/Decriminalization vs. Legalization

Class 4: January 30, 2017- Chapter 4: Substance and Procedure

Class 5: February 1, 2017-Chapter 4: Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure: Somerset Prosecutor Office Victim Witness Melissa Underwood.

Class 6: February 6, 2017- Chapter 6: The Police: Organization, Role, and Function

Class 7: February 8, 2017- Speaker- Detective Greg Price- Franklin Township Police

Class 8: February 13, 2017- Review- Discussion on Laws and NJ Law

Class 9: February 15, 2017- NJ State Trooper David Sodowicz

Class 10: February 20, 2017- Chapter 8- Police and the Rule of Law

Class 11: February 22, 2017- Sheriff Officer Ahmad Mackie, Gang lecture

Class 12: February 27, 2017-Chapter 9- Court Structure and Personnel-

Class 13: March 1, 2017- Lauren Martinez, Somerset County Pros. Office

Class14: March 6, 2017- Midterm Review

Class 15: March 8, 2017-**Midterm**

SPRING BREAK MARCH 11, 2017 to MARCH 19, 2017

Class 16: March 20, 2017-Chapter 10-PreTrial and Procedures

Class 17: March 22, 2017-Chapter 11-Punishment and Sentencing

Class18: March 27, 2017-Chapter 12-Community Sentences

Class 18: March 29, 2017- Chapter 13-Corrections- NJ Parole Officer Speaker

Class 19: April 3, 2017-Chapter 14-Prison Life

Class 20: April 5, 2017- Mr. Joseph McNulty

Class 21: April 10, 2017-Chapter 15-Juvenile Justice

Class 22: April 12, 2017-Chapter 16-Crime and Justice

Class 23: April 17, 2017-Criminal Justice Mental Illness

Class 24: April 19, 2016- Crime, Drug Addiction, Mental Illness, and Treatment:
Monica Frank, LCADC Hunterdon Drug Awareness

Class 25: April 24, 2017-Ethical dilemmas (handout provided)

Class 26: April 26, 2017-Drug Addiction/Veterans their role in the criminal justice
system

Class 27: May 1, 2017 -Last Day of Class; Final Review

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.