

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the American criminal justice system to assess whether or not it effectively reduces crime and achieves justice. We will learn about the law and processes of the justice system in order to evaluate its proficiency as an instrument of social control. We will also examine the ideals and objectives of law enforcement, and we will explore sociological issues of race, class, gender, and power, in order to develop more effective strategies in the planning and development of crime policy.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of the course, each student will be able to do the following:

- Describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become.
- Discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control.
- Describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
- Discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
- Understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are related.
- Understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Criminal Justice: Mainstream and Crosscurrents. John Randolph Fuller. Oxford University Press. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

**EVALUATION PLAN:** Final grades will be assigned based upon successful completion of all course requirements, the quality of work and the timeliness of completed assignments.

Midterm Examination: About halfway through the course, a midterm exam will be given comprising multiple choice and/or true/false questions. The test will last about one hour and will cover the material in the first eight chapters.

Final Examination: At the end of the class, a comprehensive final exam will be given that covers all the material but is weighted heavily toward the second eight chapters of the book. The test will comprise multiple choice and/or true/false questions. The date and location of the final exam is strictly governed by the University and can be viewed at <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>  
The final grade will be calculated as follows:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Mid-Term Exam              | 30% |
| Final Exam                 | 30% |
| Attendance & Participation | 20% |
| Assignments                | 20% |

The final grade will be assigned based upon the following scale:

|    |   |         |   |   |          |
|----|---|---------|---|---|----------|
| A  | = | 90-100  | C | = | 70-74.9  |
| B+ | = | 85-89.9 | D | = | 60-69.9  |
| B  | = | 80-84.9 | F | = | below 60 |
| C+ | = | 75-79.9 |   |   |          |

**PREPARATION:** The assigned readings are the basis of discussion for each class session. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before class.

**PARTICIPATION:** Each student is expected to attend class and participate in the discussion. Failure to attend class or do the required readings before each class will hurt the student's grade. There is no use of any electronic devices allowed in class.

**MAKE-UP EXAM:** The administration of make-up exams will be contingent upon a legitimate excuse (i.e., illness, family death, unexpected emergency situation), presented prior to the test period in most cases. The make-up will be given IMMEDIATELY upon termination of the condition that caused the student to miss the

original exam. Failure to take the make-up as scheduled will result in a grade of zero. Note: there is no RIGHT to take a make-up; it is a PRIVILEGE permitted only under extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the professor.

**ATTENDANCE:** Consistent attendance (or absence) will be noted to assist with borderline grades. The exams are composed of information from class lectures, reading material and oral presentations. As a result, it is nearly impossible to pass the class without a consistent attendance pattern.

**LATENESS:** It is essential that you arrive on time for the beginning of the class. The instructor may exclude persistent latecomers. On the day of a test, any late arrivals may result in a ½ letter grade deduction from the test score.

**CHEATING:** You are expected to do your work. Sanctions for cheating and plagiarism will be levied in accordance with the University Policy on Academic Integrity. You should familiarize yourself with this policy, which can be accessed at [www.Rutgers.edu/catalog/nb-ug.html](http://www.Rutgers.edu/catalog/nb-ug.html). Suspected cases of policy violations will be reported to the Department Chair and to the appropriate Dean.

**LATE SUBMISSIONS:** It is essential that all requirements be completed on the date specified. Failure to follow the schedule may result in a deduction of a letter grade from the assignment and additional letter grades deducted from the assignment and letter grades deducted for each subsequent 24 hour period.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for this class are encouraged to meet with me or the appropriate disability service provider on campus as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students must be registered with the appropriate disability service provider on campus and must follow the University procedure for self-disclosure. Students will not be afforded any special accommodations for academic work completed prior to disclosure of the disability and completion of the registration process with the appropriate disability service provider on campus.

| <b>COURSE</b>   | <u>Week</u>  | <u>Topic</u>  | <u>Required Reading</u> |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| <b>OUTLINE:</b> | 1  | Crime and the Problem of Social Control               | Chapter 1               |
|                 | 2  | The Nature and Measurement of Crime                   | Chapter 2               |
|                 | 3  | Theories of Crime                                     | Chapter 3               |
|                 | 4  | Criminal Law  | Chapter 4               |
|                 | 5  | The History and Organization of Law Enforcement       | Chapter 5               |
|                 |  | Exam 1  |                         |
|                 | 6  | Policing and the Law                                  | Chapter 6               |
|                 | 7  | Issues in Policing                                    | Chapter 7               |
|                 | 8  | The History and Organization of Courts                | Chapter 8               |
|                 | 9  | Working in the Courtroom                              | Chapter 9               |
|                 | 10   | The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, & Sentencing | Chapter 10              |
|                 |  | Exam 2  |                         |
|                 | 11   | The History of Control and Punishment                 | Chapter 11              |
|                 | 12   | Contemporary Prison Life                              | Chapter 12              |
|                 | 13   | Corrections in the Community                          | Chapter 13              |
|                 | 14   | Juvenile Justice                                      | Chapter 14              |
| 15              | Victims of Crime and Victimless Crimes                         | Chapter 15  |                         |
| 16              | Present and Emerging Trends:<br>The Future of Criminal Justice | Chapter 16  |                         |
|                 | Exam 3   |   |                         |

There will also be a final presentation requirement and a final exam.