



Instructor: Dr. Kristen Zgoba

Contact Information: New Jersey Department of Corrections
Whittlesey Road
Trenton, NJ 08625
Email: Kristenz@rci.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Always contact me at the email above. I check my email every day, with limited access on weekends. Do not email me about an assignment, before it is due, and expect an immediate response.

Class: Introduction to Criminal Justice- ONLINE, 01:202:201 FALL 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers the societal responses to people and organizations that violate criminal codes; the police, courts, juries, prosecutors, defense and correctional agencies; the standards and methods used to respond to crime and criminal offenders; and the social pressures that enhance or impair the improvement of criminal laws. At the completion of the course, students are expected to have a sustained understanding of law enforcement, the court system and the correctional system. This class is completely online and will include multiple interactive tasks during the weekly modules. **Because this class is online, it should not be assumed the class is easy and/or that the work requirements are lessened. Grading standards are high and I expect creative, well-written assignments that demonstrate effort and independent thinking.**

A significant portion of the course consists of discussion groups, forums and assignments. In addition, there will be links to related readings, websites, and online videos. The online environment offers a potential advantage to the in-class experience by allowing repeated reviewing of the video lectures and by enabling student-student interactions through the discussion groups. In addition, the online environment allows a variety of engagement activities that can be used to stimulate student participation that can also be monitored through Sakai tools. It is expected that you are familiar with Sakai. This is not a computer course and you should be familiar prior to taking an online course. I will not answer sakai and computer questions.

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.



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:
 1. 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.
 2. 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.

3. 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.

REQUIRED READING (Book is not optional)

- 1) Schmallegger, F. (2014). Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, Ten Edition. Pearson Publishing. ISBN 0133009793. It must be this version of the book.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND EXPECTATIONS

The formal organization of this course consists of multiple parts: 1) power point lectures, 2) weekly quizzes/assessments, 3) midterm and final exam, 4) weekly chapter reading assignment, 5) intermittent journal or article reading, 6) intermittent video viewing and 7) structured student online participation through discussion boards.

Lectures: There are 13 power point lectures, uploaded into the weekly modules. The lectures will be broken into sections with a variety of engagements between sections. Some lectures will also be accompanied by a short video featuring a current issue.

Weekly quizzes: Each weekly module will be accompanied by an assessment/ quiz. The questions will range in type and extent and the assessment can be taken at any point after viewing the power point lecture and any additional video. These assessments will automatically be graded and students will receive feedback upon submission. This allows students to know their grades throughout the semester, as does the interactive grade book. Quizzes make up 25% of the semester. Quizzes are fast paced- they are timed. Most are 25 MC questions with an allocation of 20 minutes. You CANNOT use your book.

Midterm and final exams: These will be given online in a variety of formats, multiple choice, fill in and short answer. Final topics for exams will be reviewed with the class. These are worth 50% of the course grade (25% each). You CANNOT use your book.

Weekly chapter reading assignment: Each weekly module will be accompanied by a chapter in the text book. This ties into the weekly quiz/assessment.

Intermittent journal or article reading: During various weekly modules, students will see that I have uploaded a relevant newspaper or journal article to be read. This will be tied to either the weekly quiz/assessment or the student weekly discussions.

Intermittent video viewing: During various weekly modules, students will see that I have uploaded a relevant video to be viewed. This will be tied to either the weekly quiz/assessment or the student weekly discussions.

Structured student online participation through discussion boards: In addition to assigned coursework, logging onto the class website, and viewing the prepared online material, students are expected to spend at least 10 hours over the course of the semester (approximately 40 minutes per week) in structured participation. This will be monitored via the discussion boards and the mandatory weekly posts. Students will be graded on the level and quality of their participation and guidance will be given at the beginning of the semesters as to make students aware of expectations. The 13-15 weekly discussion board assignments are worth a total of 25% and each will be graded individually.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Quizzes/Assessments = 25%

Midterm and Final = 50%

Student discussion boards= 25%

INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT CONTACT:

The instructor will be available via email. Also, the instructor will monitor and (as necessary) contribute to each section’s threaded discussions each and every week throughout the term. It is your responsibility to check your email every day, this is an online class and I email, post announcements and write graded comments frequently. You must check your grade book so that you can see the comments I write regarding your assignments. This is your responsibility.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any violation will be reported to the Dean of Students. No excuse will ever be tolerated for academic dishonesty, but it is even more important that students understand the repercussions of this unethical behavior. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, the fabrication or invention of information used in an assignment, plagiarism, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others or denying access to materials and resources.

2015 FALL CLASS SCHEDULE	
Week 1 9/1 (Classes start on a Tuesday)	Chapter 1 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Discussion Board
Week 2 9/8 (Monday a holiday)	Chapter 2 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Assignment
Week 3 9/14	Chapter 3 Power point

	Weekly Quiz Weekly Assignment
Week 4 9/21	Chapter 4 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Assignment
Week 5 9/28	Chapter 5 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Assignment
Week 6 10/5	Chapter 6 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Discussion Board
Week 7 10/12	Chapter 7 Power point Weekly Discussion Board Weekly Quiz
Week 8 10/19	MIDTERM EXAM WEEK
Week 9 10/26	Chapter 8 Power point Weekly Assignment Weekly Quiz
Week 10 11/2	Chapter 9 Power point Weekly Discussion Board Weekly Quiz
Week 11 11/9	Chapter 10 Power point Weekly Discussion Board Weekly Quiz
Week 12 11/16	Chapter 11 Power point Weekly Assignment Weekly Quiz
Week 13 11/23	SHORTENED WEEK- COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT EARLY! Weekly Discussion Board
Week 14 11/30	Chapter 12 Power point Weekly Quiz Weekly Discussion Board
Week 15 12/7	Chapter 13 Power point Weekly Discussion Board Weekly Quiz
Week 16 12/11-12/18	READING DAYS AND FINAL EXAM

