

Syllabus - Spring 2024

SOC 1111/CRIM 1010 - 090: Introduction to Criminal Justice

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Course Description

Criminal Justice is a huge topic. The basic aim of the course is to present an overview of the criminal justice system in the USA: its principles and goals, its organization, its personnel, its policies, and its impacts. We will briefly touch on perspectives of justice and the various theories that attempt to explain crime. We will also address issues relating to race, ethnicity, class, and gender which have been historically neglected. Should you choose a degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice, the courses you can take later will explore each of the major sub-parts of the system (law, police, courts, corrections) in much greater depth and detail.

Course Goals and Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to recognize, understand, and think critically about issues relating to criminal justice. Additionally, students should be able to apply concepts covered in the course to their encounters with criminal justice (via the media, through personal experience, and so on). Specific learning objectives include:

- Understand the conceptual and theoretical foundation of the American criminal justice system
- Understand the criminal justice process, function, and organization (including the relationship and interactions among) of the three major criminal justice components— police, courts, and corrections
- Differentiate between what is fact and what is fiction concerning the criminal justice system
- Be aware of some of the relevant issues (e.g., racial, ethnic, and gender disparities) being faced by US criminal justice institutions today.

Required Text

Rennison, C.M. & Dodge, M (2021). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity, & Change*, 4rd edition, Sage Publications. The digital textbook is available on Canvas through Inclusive Access.

Course Work

Midterm & Final Exam: The exams will cover materials from the textbook and lectures. Each exam will consist of (but not limited to) multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, and short answers. The exams are cumulative and are open-book and open-note exams. However, students must complete the exams independently and are not allowed to share or discuss the exam questions with others. For the midterm exam, students will have 90 minutes to take the exam. For the final exam, students will have 100 minutes to take the exam. Exam dates are displayed below the exam name on the related Canvas modules, but the instructor may move the test dates according to the progress made in class.

Writing Assignments: 2 writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments will require you to answer specific questions and for the most part will not require outside research or resources. It should be submitted online through course space, using the Assignments tool. It should be between 350 and 500 words (no longer than two pages, 12 fonts, double-spaced).

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes assigned over the semester. These quizzes are to test your understanding of the topics covered and will be simple and no-sweat. The questions in these quizzes are derived from both the slides (lectures) and the book chapters and will be multiple-choice and true or false questions.

Discussions: For each substantive week of the course, there will be an online discussion regarding the course material. The object of these discussions is not to test you on your reading of each section's material. Rather, these discussions are intended to allow you to discuss your thoughts and opinions relating to the material and learn from each other.

To receive full credit for each week's discussion:

- Post at least three (3) comments. Each of these comments should be at least 60 words. Of these three comments:
 - One must be a new topic/thread
 - Two should be responses to other people's comments.
- Your initial comment must be posted by Wednesday each week so your classmates have a chance to respond.
- You are more than welcome to make more than three comments each week and have over 60 words per comment if you find that you have more that you want to say.
- Although you do have specific requirements that you must meet for each discussion, I will be looking more for the quality of your comments than for the sheer quantity of them.

Regarding Discussion Activity Posts: The discussion forum is an important part of this course and a vital component of our online community—therefore I expect discussion posts to reflect thoughtful and critical thinking regarding the notes and readings. Challenge each other, but do so respectfully. It is of utmost importance that each student respects the thoughts of their peers.

Extra Credit: There will be one opportunity for extra credit during the semester. Extra credit assignment will be worth 5 points.

Submitting Assignments:

Assignment due dates are displayed below the assignment name on both the Module and Assignment Index page on Canvas, but the instructor reserves the right to move due dates according to the progress made in class. Each assignment should be submitted to Canvas before 11:59 pm of the due date.

Please note that assignments such as writing assignments and short answers in the exams will be subjected to plagiarism checking via Turnitin.

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, must be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit assignments via email.

Late Assignments:

Late submissions will result in a 10% deduction for each assignment that is submitted late. Unless otherwise approved, I do not accept more than 48 hours of late work. For the weekly Discussion assignments, 2 points will be taken off for late submission of the initial/first comment (the initial comment is due on the Wednesday of that week).

Grading:

The final grade in the class will be based on the total points accumulated, as follows:

Midterm Exam:	110 points	
Final Exam:	120 points	
Quizzes (5):	100 points	20 points each
Writing Assignments (2):	50 points	25 points each
Discussions (12):	120 points	10 points each
Total possible points:	500	

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage	Points Needed
A	93-100	462.5-500 points
A-	90-92	447.5-462 points
B+	87-99	432.5-447 points
B	83-86	412.5-432 points

B-	80-82	397.5-412 points
C+	77-79	382.5-397 points
C	73-76	362.5-382 points
C-	70-72	347.5-362 points
D+	67-69	332.5-347 points
D	63-66	312.5-332 points
D-	60-62	297.5-312 points
E	0-59	Anything below 297.5 points

Student Behavior and Expectations

Canvas and U-Mail: All course resources and announcements will be posted to the course website (Canvas), and sent via university assigned emails. Students have access to these resources through their uNID. Students are responsible for regularly checking Canvas and UMail. Technical support is provided via classhelp@utah.edu or 801-581-6112.

Assignment Submission: Students are responsible for submitting assignments on-time, with correct naming convention and file extension, and using the software type and version required. All assignments should be submitted to Canvas, rather than through email.

Be Respectful: Participation in the University of Utah community obligates each member to follow a code of civilized behavior in and out of the classroom. In order to maintain a positive, civil environment for learning, students are expected to meet the goals described in the University of Utah’s Student Code, which states “*the mission of the University of Utah is to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge. The University supports the intellectual, personal, social and ethical development of members of the University community. These goals can best be achieved in an open and supportive environment that encourages reasoned discourse, honesty, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Students at the University of Utah are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship.*”

Keep an Open Mind: Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy: It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used the ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, “*includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting*

one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.”

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U’s Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities at <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>.

Support and Resources for Student Success

Wellness Statement. Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access (<https://disability.utah.edu/>), 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.

Academic Misconduct Statement. Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Emergency Preparedness Information [CSBS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SYLLABUS PAGES](#)

1) Familiarize yourself with the information in this page, making sure that you know the evacuation plan for each relevant building.

2) You will also need to add the page to each of your syllabi.

3) Keep in mind that it is likely students will not pay much attention to this information, so the responsibility falls on you to know it and be able to guide them if the need arises.

University Safety. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit utah.edu

Covid-19 Resources

The University of Utah has implemented reasonable health and safety protocols, taking into account recommendations by local, state, and national public health authorities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 protocol, please refer to <https://coronavirus.utah.edu/>.

Other resources are

- [Student Guidance: What Steps to Take for a Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 Exposure](#)
- [Registrar's Office COVID-19 Information and FAQ's](#)
- [Housing & Residential Education](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: The schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified.

Week	Dates	Topic	Tasks and Due Dates
PART I -- FOUNDATIONS: THE GOALS, PERSPECTIVES AND MODELS OF THE CJ SYSTEM, CRIME ISSUES, AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WEEKS 1-4			
1	1/8-1/12	Introduction, Syllabus Review, and the Goals of the Criminal Justice System Reading: Chapter 1	1) Introduce yourself to the class (via Canvas): Due on Sunday 1/14 at 11:59 pm 2) Carefully review the syllabus 3) Complete the assigned reading 4) Review the PowerPoint slides
2	1/16-1/19	The Criminal Justice System: Perspectives, and Models Reading: Chapter 1 ***1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #1: First/original comment due on Wednesday 1/17 at 11:59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 1/21 at 11:59 pm 4) Quiz #1 due on Sunday 1/21 at 11:59 pm
3	1/22-1/26	Crime Issues and Criminological Theories Reading: Chapter 2	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #2: First/original comment due on Wednesday 1/24 at 11:59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 1/28 at 11:59 pm
4	1/29-2/2	Legal Considerations Reading: Chapter 3	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #3: First/original comment due on Wednesday 1/31 at 11:59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 2/4 at 11:59 pm 4) Quiz #2 due on Sunday 2/4 at 11:59 pm
PART II -- POLICING: POLICING ORGANIZATIONS AND PRACTICES, AND ISSUES IN POLICING WEEKS 5 & 6			
5	2/5-2/9	Policing History, Policing Models and Community-Oriented Policing (COP) Reading: Chapters 4 & 5	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #4: First/original comment due on Wednesday 2/7 at 11:59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 2/11 at 11:59 pm

6	2/12- 2/16	Issues in Policing Reading: Chapter 5	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion # 5: First/original comment due on Wednesday 2/14 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 2/18 at 11:59 pm 4) Quiz #3 due on Sunday 2/18 at 11:59 pm
PART III – COURTS: THE COURT SYSTEM, THE WORK OF COURT, AND THE TRIAL PROCESS AND SENTENCING WEEKS 7, 10, & 11			
7	2/20- 2/23	The Structure of Courts, Prosecutor and Defense Attorney Reading: Chapters 7 & 8 ***2/19 Presidents' Day	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #6: First/original comment due on Wednesday 2/21 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 2/25 at 11:59 pm 4) Writing Assignment #1 due on Sunday 2/25 at 11:59 pm
8	2/26- 3/1	Mid-term Exam The Exam Opens on February 28 (Wednesday), due by March 1 (Friday)	
9	3/4- 3/8	Spring Break, NO CLASS	
10	3/11- 3/15	Right to Counsel and the Jobs of Judge and Jury Reading: Chapters 7 & 8	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #7: First/original comment due on Wednesday 3/13 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 3/17 at 11:59 pm 4) Quiz #4 due on Sunday 3/17 at 11:59 pm
11	3/18- 3/22	Plea Bargaining and Sentencing Reading: Chapter 9	1) Complete the assigned reading 2) Review PowerPoint slides 3) Discussion #8: First/original comment due on Wednesday 3/20 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 3/24 at 11:59 pm 4) Writing Assignment #2 due on Sunday 3/24 at 11:59 pm

**PART IV – CORRECTIONS: ITS HISTORY, CONFINEMENT STYLES, LIFE IN PRISON,
AND REINTEGRATION
WEEKS 12 –15**

12	3/25- 3/29	<p>Confinement Styles in the USA</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 11</p>	<p>1) Complete the assigned reading</p> <p>2) Review PowerPoint slides</p> <p>3) Discussion #9: First/original comment due on Wednesday 3/27 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 3/31 at 11:59 pm</p>
13	4/1 4/5	<p>Tough on Crime, Private Prisons, and Prison Security Levels</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 11 & 12</p>	<p>1) Complete the assigned reading</p> <p>2) Review PowerPoint slides</p> <p>3) Discussion #10: First/original comment due on Wednesday 4/3 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 4/7 at 11:59 pm</p> <p>4) Quiz #5 due on Sunday 4/7 at 11:59 pm</p>
14	4/8- 4/12	<p>Inmate Experience and Reintegration Issues</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 12</p>	<p>1) Complete the assigned reading</p> <p>2) Review PowerPoint slides</p> <p>3) Discussion #11: First/original comment due on Wednesday 4/10 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 4/14 at 11:59 pm</p>
15	4/15- 4/19	<p>What Works</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 12</p> <p>** Study Guide for the Final Exam Available</p>	<p>1) Complete the assigned reading</p> <p>2) Review PowerPoint slides</p> <p>3) Discussion #12: First/original comment due on Wednesday 4/17 at 11: 59 pm; the two other comments due on Sunday 4/21 at 11:59 pm</p>
16	4/22- 4/23	<p>No Class</p> <p>(This is a short week, as the Spring 2024 term ends on Tuesday 4/23)</p>	
<p>Final Exam</p> <p>The Exam Opens on April 24 (Wednesday), due by April 26 (Friday)</p>			