

SOC 1111-001 /CRIM 1010-001, Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2024

CTIHB 109

Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 3:40 – 5:00 pm

August 19 – December 5, 2024

Instructor: Katie Durante, Ph.D.

Office: S BEH 313 (or Zoom)

Office Hours: I will do my best to arrive to class early and/or stay late to chat and answer any questions. If you would like to have a longer chat, feel free to schedule an appointment with me or attend my weekly student office hour:

Wednesdays from 12 – 1pm, on [Zoom](#)

Email: katherine.durante@soc.utah.edu

For general questions about the course, please reach out to the TA first.

Teaching Assistant: Jess Brazil

Email: jesse.brazil@utah.edu

Course Description:

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, 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 Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Explain how we define and measure crime in the United States, and how our definition of crime is socially constructed.
2. Summarize the key functions of the criminal justice system and how they operate within the United States, including the role of law enforcement, criminal courts, and corrections.

3. Discuss how individuals experience and interact with the criminal justice system differently across social groups and locations, depending on race, class, gender, geography, and other differences.
4. Summarize and evaluate the major issues related to criminal justice in the United States today, including issues of ethics and justice.

Required Texts:

Title: *Criminal Justice in Action*

Author: Gaines, L. & Miller, R. L.

Edition: 11th

This class/text is part of the *Inclusive Access* program. You can also use older editions, although you are responsible for having the most up-to-date information. I encourage you to access the textbook the cheapest way you can find that you are comfortable with.

Statement of Respect:

We will be reading about and discussing controversial topics that some may have strong opinions about before coming into the course. We must remember to be respectful to one another and recognize that our views tend to be informed by our own life experiences. Therefore, we can and should expect individuals to have different experiences and diverging viewpoints. We should respectfully engage and strive to learn from one another. Racist, sexist, xenophobic, or homophobic language will not be tolerated.

The expectation is that we engage with the material from the perspective of social scientists. This means that our arguments should be backed up with references or citations. Strong arguments have evidence/data to support them. This is especially true when discussing controversial social issues.

Class Schedule:

Dates	Overview (see Canvas module for full assignment details!)
Week 1: 8/19 – 8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Go over Syllabus • Chapter 1, Criminal Justice Today
Week 2: 8/25 – 8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2, Causes of Crime
Week 3: 9/1 – 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3, The Crime Picture: Offenders and Victims

Week 4: 9/8 – 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4, Inside Criminal Law
Week 5: 9/15 – 9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5, Law Enforcement Today
Week 6: 9/22 – 9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7, Police and the Constitution
Week 7: 9/29 – 10/5	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1 – 5, 7)
Week 8: 10/6 – 10/12	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 9: 10/13 – 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8, Courts and the Quest for Justice
Week 10: 10/20 – 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9, Pretrial Procedures
Week 11: 10/27 – 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10, The Criminal Trial • Career research assignment due
Week 12: 11/3 – 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11, Punishment and Sentencing
Week 13: 11/10 – 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12, Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions
Week 14: 11/17 – 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13, Prisons and Jails
Week 15: 11/24 – 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14, The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry • THANKSGIVING 11/28 – NO CLASS
Week 16: 12/1 – 12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up/reading day/ holiday party • Media assignment due
Week 17 12/9 – 12/13	FINAL EXAM WEEK

Note: This is a general outline and is subject to change by the instructor

Assignment Descriptions:

In-Class Activities

We will regularly complete in-class activities and discussions to practice applying concepts and engage critically with the material. You must be present to get the participation point for the activity. In place of allowing make-up activities, I will drop 3 activities for each student.

This is an in-person course; please consider taking the online version of this course instead if you do not plan to attend.

In cumulation, the in-class activities will count for 10% of your final grade.

Career Research Assignment

Instructions for this assignment are posted on Canvas.

This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

Media Assignment

Instructions for this assignment are posted on Canvas.

This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

Exam Description

This course includes a Midterm and Final Exam. The exams cover material from the text, lectures/ PowerPoint presentations, and other supplemental material uploaded to Canvas or that we go over in class, including videos. Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions.

Each exam is worth 35% of your final grade.

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM LATE POLICY

Assignments:

- *In-class activities*: As I explained above, no late submissions will be accepted. You must be in class to receive credit.
- *Career Research Assignment*: You should reach out to the professor ASAP if you are unable to complete the assignment when due. If you do not communicate with the professor and have an agreed-upon extension, you can earn half credit by submitting it late. Note that late submissions ½ credit will be accepted until 11/30. We cannot accept late work after this date; there is simply too much to get done before the semester ends.

- *Podcast Assignment*: This is the end of the semester. If you do not submit it on time, I cannot guarantee that it will be graded. If it is graded, it will be eligible only for ½ credit unless we have an agreed-upon extension (email the professor before the due date).

Exams:

Please contact Dr. Durante as soon as possible (in advance) if you are unable to take the exam on the given date. Make-up exams will be scheduled *before* the exam date listed above. In extenuating circumstances where this is not possible, make-up exams will be taken in person.

Grading Criteria:

Grading Scale

- A 93% or higher
- A- 90%-92.99%
- B+ 87%-89.99%
- B 83%-86.99%
- B- 80%-82.99%
- C+ 77%-79.99%
- C 73%-76.99%
- C- 70%-72.99%
- D+ 67%-69.99%
- D 63%-66.99%
- D- 60%-62.99%
- F less than 60%

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	% Weighted Final Grade
In-class Participation/Assignments	10%
Assignment 1: Career Research Assignment	10%
Assignment 2: Podcast/ Media Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

Required Statements:

Academic Honesty

It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>

ADA Statement

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 an 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 Statement

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).

R-1 statement

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

University Safety Statement

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