

*Introduction  
to  
Criminal Justice*

**Syllabus**

Three Rivers Community College  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

Fall 2006

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### ***Course description***

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system in the United States. Students will be exposed to the system's components: law enforcement, courts, and corrections from historical, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives. Students will have the opportunity to interact with criminal justice professionals and be challenged in both reading and writing.

### ***Topics of focus***

- Crime in America
- Policing
- Adjudication
- Corrections

### ***Objectives of the course are...***

1. To provide students with an overview of the criminal justice system in the United States.
2. To expose students to the criminal justice system's major components: law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
3. To convey to students the necessity on keeping abreast of changes in the criminal justice system.
4. To provide students with the opportunity for field exposure.
5. To develop reading, writing, and oral communication skills with reading / study assignments given out weekly. The assignments, in total, will cover the entire text. Students will be expected to complete reading the entire text by the end of the semester.
6. To become aware of the world around us, by reviewing current events specifically relating to the topic of the course.

## ***Method of evaluation***

1. **Quiz grades:** There will be a quiz after each section discussion. The average of all will be counted as **1/3** of your final grade. Any quiz not taken will be counted as a “0” grade when averaging out your score (Also see #4 & #5 that follow.). Quiz format will be either multiple choice, fill-in, true or false, and/or essay format. A quiz date will be announced one (1) week prior. If absent when a quiz is given, expect to take a make-up upon your first class back.
2. **Criminal justice topic presentation (paper + oral presentation):** Each student is expected to complete a paper with an oral presentation to the class. This will count as **1/3** of your final grade (Also see #4 & #5 that follow.).

Topic of paper and presentation: The student will select a presentation topic by the second class. At the third class meeting, the student is expected to present a rough outline (your plan) to the instructor for approval. The topic will not be one repeated from a previous class and it must focus specifically on the topic of this course.

Paper length: Your paper will be ten (10) to twenty (20) pages in length with additional title and bibliography pages.

Duration of oral presentation: Your oral presentation to the class will be thirty (30) to forty-five (45) minutes in duration.

Option: Two (2) students may collaborate on a presentation / topic if they submit over twenty (20) pages and present a forty-five (45) to sixty (60) minute oral presentation to the class. Both students will take part in the formulation of the paper and in making the oral presentation.

Instructional aids: It is strongly suggested the student utilize instructional aids, such as: video equipment; overhead projector; handouts; computer power point (or other computer generated) presentations; blackboard; and/or posters. It is permissible to use an outside videotape to supplement your presentation (not replace it), but

the tape duration must be limited to less than ten (10) minutes unless other arrangements are made with the instructor.

Guest speakers brought in by students (optional): A student may bring in a guest speaker, provided it is cleared with the instructor beforehand. The time-period of the student's own oral presentation, however, will remain as noted above. Prior coordination is necessary with the instructor to plan a time-period most convenient to both the guest speaker and the instructor.

- 3. Final exam:** There will be a final examination which will count as  $\frac{1}{3}$  of your final grade. A final exam not taken will be counted as a "0" grade for that test (Also see #4 & #5 that follow.). Exam format will be multiple choice, fill-in, true or false type questions, and/or essay format.
- 4. Satisfactory completion of classroom / homework assignments:** Each unsatisfactory or uncompleted class or homework assignment will result in three (3) points being deducted off your final grade average. Points deducted may be a factor in receiving a lower final grade.
  - (1) As an individual assignment, each student will be expected to visit and interview with someone who has, or is, an employee of the criminal justice system. To receive credit for this assignment, the student will present a brief summary to the instructor describing relevant points observed/learned.
  - (2) Students will select a book to read (in addition to the text) which is related specifically to the topic of the course. The library is a good source. Students will notify the instructor of their selection by the second scheduled class. Your selection will be new and not one done in a previous class. Students will submit a written review on their outside reading assignment. In addition, students will be expected to make a short presentation (5 to 10 minutes) to the class towards the end of the semester. This will be considered an assignment.
  - (3) Students will maintain a current event file containing news clippings over the course of the semester, placing one (1)

subject-related article read each week into the file. This file will be checked by the instructor towards the end of the semester and will be considered an assignment.

(4) The instructor may assign other learning exercises.

5. **Mandatory attendance:** There is mandatory attendance commencing with the second-class meeting for all regularly scheduled classes. Three (3) absences will result in four (4) points being deducted off your final grade average. An additional four (4) points will be deducted for each additional absence. Points deducted may be a factor in receiving a lower final grade. This course is designed in a way that a student should get more from in-class activities than from the textbook alone. I urge students to attend all classes and actively participate in classroom discussions.

### *Grades*

Numerical point averages will be converted to letter grades, as follows:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	

Students will be kept informed of their academic progress throughout the semester. A summary of all past graded assignments, absentee record, and uncompleted / unsatisfactory class / homework assignments will be attached with the return of each quiz.

***Required text***

Schmallegger, Frank, Ph.D., *Criminal Justice*. Sixth Edition. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006

***Withdrawal policy***

Students intending to withdraw are advised to follow the withdrawal policy as outlined in the college catalog.

***Disabilities and learning difference statement***

Students with physical or learning disabilities are encouraged to identify themselves to the Counseling and Advising Center. Additionally, if you have a hidden or visible disability or learning difference, which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see the instructor as soon as possible.