

# Introduction to Criminal Justice

CJS 101

Spring 2016

Three Rivers Community College  
574 New London Turnpike  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

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Office Hours:

M – 9:00 to 12:00

W – 9:00 to 12:00

**Other hours by appointment only**

I. **Course Title:** Introduction to Criminal Justice

II. **Course Information:**

- A. CJS K101
- B. Room Number: D 102
- C. Day/Time: T/R 11:00 to 12:15

III. **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.

IV. **Course Objectives:**

**Goals and Objectives:**

1. Analyze and understand diverse social, political, historical, and cultural institutions and trends and the impact on the evolution and dynamics of the criminal justice system.
  - A. Examine the effect of historical events and trends on the development of the system.
  - B. Evaluate the impact that social, political, and cultural institutions have on individuals and the system: past, present, and future.
2. Recognize the relationship of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights on the daily lives of citizens.
  - A. Understand the role of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government and how they effect change in the criminal justice system.
  - B. Distinguish between common law and statutory law and describe how each is used in the system.
3. Analyze and evaluate argumentation and persuasion to evaluate, improve, refine, and refute it.
  - A. Acquire and analyze information to determine its quality and utility.
  - B. Recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another.
  - C. Utilize inductive and deductive thought processes.
4. To assess what information is needed to answer questions and solve problems and to retrieve, evaluate, and use that information effectively.
  - A. Identify information needed to answer questions.
  - B. Access information efficiently.
  - C. Evaluate information and its sources for specific purposes.
  - D. Apply ethical, social, and legal principles when accessing and using information.

5. Understand and convey ideas in diverse context using reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

- A. To comprehend and evaluate written passages.
- B. To write clearly.
- C. To speak clearly.
- D. To understand lectures, arguments, and other speech.

**V. Instructional Methods:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Field Observation

**VI. Required Text:**

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, by Frank Schmalleger, 10th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall (2014). ISBN 978-0-13-300979-8

**VII. Disabilities Statement:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 860-215-9265. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**VIII. Course Outline:**

Week #1 – Jan. 21, Intro. to Course and Instructor, **Quiz #1 Distributed**

Week #2 – Jan. 26/28 Chapter 1

Week #3 – Feb. 2 & 4, Chapter 2

Week #4 – Feb. 9/11, Chapter 3, **1<sup>st</sup> Article Due, Quiz #2 Distributed,**

Week #5 – Feb. 16/18, Chapter 4,

Week #6 – Feb 23/Feb 25, Chapter 5, **Quiz #3 Distributed,**

Week #7 – March 1/3, Chapter 6, **2<sup>nd</sup> Article Due**

Week #8 – March 8/10, Chapter 7,

Week #9 – March 15/17, Chapter 8

**Week #10 – March 24/26, No Class – Spring Break**

Week #11 – March 29/31, Chapter 9, **Quiz #4 Distributed**

Week #12 – April 5/7, Chapter 10

Week #13 – April 12/14, Chapter 11, **Quiz #5 Distributed**

Week #14 – April 19/21, **Observation Report Presentations**

Week #15 – April 26/28, **Observation Report Presentations, 3<sup>rd</sup> Article Due**

Week #16 – May 3/5, Chapter 12, **4<sup>th</sup> Article Due, Final Distributed**

Week #17 – May 10/12, Chapter 13, **Final Quiz Due, Course Wrap-Up**

## **IX. Evaluation Procedures**

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of quizzes, exams, current events file and class participation.

Tests	650 (Five at 100 points each, one at 150 points)
Current Events	100 (Four articles at 25 points each)
Observation Report	150
<u>Report Presentation</u>	<u>100</u>
	1000

**Tests:** All tests are take-home and the test format is multiple choice. The value of each test is based upon the number of chapters covered in the test. Each chapter is worth 50 points, so, if a test is on two chapters, then it is worth 100 points toward your final grade.

**Late quizzes will not be accepted.**

**Current Event Papers:** For each article the student will write out a brief summary of the article, an explanation of what the student learned from the article, and how the subject of the article is related to the course. The writing assignment is to be typed, double spaced and in 12 point new times roman font with standard margins. The format for this paper will be provided in class.

**Field Observation Report:** Students are required to conduct a field observation report. Students will observe court; participate in a police ride-a-long or other field activity as approved by the instructor. The assignment will be due by April 17<sup>th</sup>. The paper will be 3 to 5 pages (typed & double spaced) long and will describe the observation activity, what they learned from the observation, and will tie the observations to topics discussed in the class.

**Report Presentation:** Students will give a presentation of their field observation report to the class. This is to be relatively informal and should last 3 to 5 minutes.

**Grades:** All grades will be posted on Blackboard in real time. The grades will be expressed in a point value. For example: an exam is worth 100 points, a grade of between 0 and 10 points will be recorded. The total amount of points earned during the semester will correspond to the grade scale listed below.

**Course Materials:** Copies of the text and study guide are on reserve in the library.

## **X. Final Grade Scale**

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	=	00 - 59

W	=	Withdrawal
I	=	Incomplete
P / F	=	Pass / Fail
AU	=	Audit

## **XI. College Withdrawal Policy**

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) cannot be accepted by the instructor. Students must complete the required form and file it with the Registrar’s Office. Students may drop or withdraw from a course up to the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the semester; the exact ending date for the drop period is listed in the academic calendar.

## **XII. Instructor’s Attendance Policy**

Consistent attendance at class meetings is crucial to success in this course. You are expected to attend all classes in order to receive full benefit from instruction.

Students having attendance problems should speak with the instructor before taking any action.

If you are too sleepy to stay awake in class, please leave class as you will not benefit from the instruction and will serve as a distraction to the class and instructor.

### **XIII. Academic Dishonesty**

Conduct which as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance and/or knowingly and intentionally assisting another student to do so in any way constitute academic dishonesty. In the event of academic dishonesty, the College's policy will be enforced.

### **XIV. Cellular Phones etc.**

Students are notified that cellular phones and other electronic devices are allowed in class only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

### **XV. Early Warning Policy**

Students experiencing academic difficulty and/or chronic absenteeism will be notified of their class standing.

### **XVI. Digication Portfolio**

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.