

# **Interpersonal Dynamics for Criminal Justice**

CJS K253 CRN 10579

**Spring 2016**

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

**Jeffrey V. Nixon, M.S.**

[jnixon@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:jnixon@trcc.commnet.edu)

(Three Rivers College account)

[jvnix@aol.com](mailto:jvnix@aol.com)

(24/7 direct access on mobile devices)

**Primary # 860-625-5249 cell**

(NOTE: If you text me...identify yourself – I don't have you saved in my contacts ☺)

## Office Hours:

As an adjunct member of the instructional team I am on-site at the main campus the evening of class (Mondays). This provides a number of meeting options: Mondays 5:30-6:30pm and Mondays directly following class at the library/ cafeteria/ part-time instructors offices at second floor or other available location at campus.

Other days of the week and times are also available as necessary to aid in accomplishment of course objectives. (Time/ date/ location to be mutually agreed upon in advance.)

**I. Course Title:** “Interpersonal Dynamics for Criminal Justice Professionals”

**II. Course Information:**

- A. CJS K253
- B. CRN 10579
- C. Room A-216 (second floor - nursing lecture room)
- D. Monday 6:30 – 9:15pm

**III. Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the major theories about interpersonal processes and their relevance to the problems within the criminal justice system. The course content flows from understanding the theories to techniques of interpersonal communication. Emphasis is placed on facilitating effective communication, sensitivity, decision-making and action planning in a multicultural society.

**IV. Course Goals and Objectives:**

Students will explore themselves within the context of the Criminal Justice Professions.

- Identify and articulate their communication weaknesses and strengths
- Analyze areas of prejudice and personal dislikes
- Articulate their stressors and explore ways to minimize the impact of stress on them physically, emotionally and cognitively.
- Assess their effectiveness within group processes
- Discuss their leadership skills and potentials

To analyze and evaluate argumentation and persuasion to evaluate, improve, refine, and refute it.

- To acquire and analyze information to determine its quality and utility.
- To recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another.
- To summarize, analyze, evaluate and use argumentation and persuasion.
- To utilize inductive and deductive thought processes.

To assess what information is needed to answer questions and solve problems and to retrieve, evaluate, and use that information effectively.

- To identify information needed to answer questions
- To access information efficiently
- To evaluate information and its sources for specified purposes
- To apply ethical, social and legal principles when accessing and using information.

To understand and convey ideas in diverse contexts using reading, writing, speaking and listening

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

**V. Instructional Methods:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Facilitated discussion
- C. Practical assessment activities (Small group work assignments)

**VI. Required Text**

- A. "Messages – Building Interpersonal Communication Skills," DeVito, Joseph A., ISBN 9780205931804, Allyn & Bacon, 2013.
- B. "Interpersonal skills for leadership," Fritz, Susan, et al., ISBN 9780131173439, Pearson Education, 2005.

**VII. Disabilities Statement (Three Rivers Community College)**

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 860-215-9289. 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/ class meetings:**

01/25	<b>Intro</b>
02/01	
02/08	
02/15	<b>NO CLASSES "Presidents' Day"</b>
02/22	
02/29	
03/07	
03/14	
03/21	<b>NO CLASSES "Spring Break" 03/19-03/27</b>
03/28	
04/04	
04/11	
04/18	
04/25	
05/02	
05/09	
05/16	<b>Last class sessions</b>
05/19	<b>Commencement Day</b>
05/20	<b>Final Grades due</b>

**IX. Evaluation procedures:**

A. Exams/ Tests	as announced	30%
Journals	10 points each	30%
Quizzes & Final Journal	(final journal = 2 quizzes)	30%
Participation	(in-class & projects)	5%
Attendance	Weekly attendance	5%

**B. Quiz/ Exam/ Projects:**

A series of measurement tools are used throughout the semester. They will be announced in advance, to include an overview of material when available. Formatting may include, but is not limited to; True/False statement analyses, multiple-choice statement evaluation, fill in the blanks, and essay formats. Make up sessions for quizzes and tests are at the instructor's discretion. Alternative assignments may be given at the instructor's discretion.

**X. 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 12th 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. Absence must be communicated in advance to instructor (multiple emails & Phone# provided – communication is critical to group process!)

**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. A full dissertation of said policy is available on the TRCC website.

#### **XIV. Electronic Devices etc.**

Students are notified that cellular phones are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center 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. Tablets and other technology are welcomed as long as they are being used for note taking purposes.

#### **XV. 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

*Use this syllabus as you will, the choice is yours. CJS K253 requires a significant amount of communication through diverse formats to include YOUR writing. Great opportunities to participate and submit work to the digication process will occur through our journey in CJS253.*

*Regards – Jeff Nixon*

**Spring 2016**