

# Introduction to Criminal Justice

CJS 101

Fall 2009

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

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Office Hours:

W – 9:00 to 12:00

F – 1:00 to 4:00

**Other hours by appointment only**

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

II. **Course Information:**

- A. CJS K101
- B. Room Number: E 202
- C. Day/Time: T/R 9:15 to 10:30

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:**

- Students will recognize the historical perspective of the system and view the system as a dynamic function of society.
- Students will determine their learning styles and the implications of this style regarding their success as a college student.
- Students will discuss issues related to cultural diversity, prejudice, ethics and professionalism on the criminal justice system.
- Students will conduct a field observation and communicate with criminal justice professionals.
- Students will deliver an oral presentation on their field work experience.
- Students will research current events related to the criminal justice system, prepare reports on such. And discuss views that may contradict their own, understand that objectivity, critical thinking, openness to new ideas, and opinions are critical to the success of the criminal justice system.

V. **Instructional Methods:**

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

VI. **Required Text:**

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, by Frank Schmalleger, Seventh Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall (2006). ISBN 978-0-13-225221-8

## **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 892-5751. 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 – Aug. 27, Introduction to Course/Instructor

Week #2 – Sept. 1/3, Chapter 1

Week #3 – Sept. 8/10, Chapter 2 **Quiz #1 Distributed**

Week #4 – Sept. 15/17, Chapter 3

Week #5 – Sept. 22/24, Chapter 4, **Quiz #2, 1<sup>st</sup> Article Due**

Week #6 – Sept. 29 Oct-1, Chapters 5

Week #7 – Oct. 6/8, Chapter 6, **Quiz #3 Distributed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article Due**

Week #8 – Oct. 13/15, Chapter 7

Week #9 – Oct. 20/22, Chapter 8, **Quiz #4 Distributed**

Week #10 – Oct. 27/29, Chapter 9

Week #11 – Nov. 3/5, Chapter 10, **Quiz #5 Distributed**

Week #12 – Nov. 10/12, **Observation Report Presentations**

Week #13 –Nov. 17/19 Chapter 11, **3<sup>rd</sup> Article Due**

Week #14 – Nov 24/26 No Class – Thanksgiving Recess

Week #15 – Dec. 1/3 Chapter, 12, **4<sup>th</sup> Article Due**

Week #16 – Dec. 8/10, Chapter 13, Course Wrap-up, **Quiz 6 Distributed**

Week #17 Dec. 15, **Final Quiz Due (Chap. 11,12, & 13)**

## **IX. Evaluation Procedures**

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

Tests	65% (Five at 10 points each, one at 15 points)
Participation	5%
Current Events	8% (Four articles at 2 pts each)
Observation Report	12%
<u>Report Presentation</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

**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 5 points, so, if a test is on two chapters, then it is worth 10 points toward your final grade. **Late tests will only be accepted with the prior approval of the instructor.**

**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 November 10<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 Vista in real time. The grades will be expressed in a point value. For example: an exam is worth 10 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) can not 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.