

Wpunj.edu
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
Sociology Department
Essentials of Criminal Justice, CCJ 2610-80
Winter 2016: Dec 26, 2015 to Jan 14, 2016
Dr. Sheetal Ranjan

The failure of justice is as damaging to society as crime itself. --Clarence Darrow

Professor

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Dept. Secretary

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Office Hours

Meeting can be scheduled by email appointment. I respond to my emails very quickly during weekdays – my turnaround time is usually less than 24 hours on weekdays.

I am happy to talk over phone if you send me your phone number and a good time to call.

Required Text

- a. Siegel, L. & Worrall, J. (2015). Essentials of Criminal Justice, 9th ed. Belmont, CA: Cengage. ISBN: 978-128-544-1528

Other Requirements

- a. Use of College Email is required.
- b. This being an online course, Blackboard will be used for posting course lectures, announcements, submitting assignments, tests and all forms of communication. You should log in to Blackboard a couple of times every week to access course materials and complete the course requirements. I will be using, video, audio, PowerPoint, MS-Word, Adobe PDF file formats. Please make sure you have the necessary software on your computers.
- c. I have attached more details about BlackBoard and online courses at the end of the syllabus. If you have any doubts and concerns please email me.
- d. You are expected to read the assigned text book and participate in all activities of the class. All work **MUST** be submitted as per the deadlines. **No late submissions will be accepted.**
- e. Your submission towards discussion board participation will be counted as attendance. Standard WPU attendance policy applies.

Course Description

Students will examine the criminal justice system. We will begin with an overview of crime and criminal justice concepts. For the majority of the course we will discuss the three main branches of the system: the police, courts, and corrections. We will examine the policies and practices of the various criminal justice agencies by reviewing contemporary research articles and discussing current events. Additionally, the course will provide an introduction to the study and measurement of crime as well as an examination of victimology.

Course Objectives

1. To explore how criminal laws are made and broken and how society reacts to law breaking;
2. To examine and evaluate the major branches of the criminal justice system crime;
3. To consider the nature, extent, and patterns of crime in the contemporary US and internationally;
4. To examine and evaluate how criminal justice policies and practices affect the public as contextualized by race, class, and gender differences;
5. To consider how the criminal justice system is presented and discussed by the media in current events coverage.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course you will:

1. Understand the basics of how society makes laws and reacts to law breaking;

2. Be familiar with the major branches of the criminal justice system;
3. Understand the nature, extent, and patterns of crime in our global world;
4. Be aware of major criminal justice system's policies' differential effects based on race, class, and gender;
5. Be able to appreciate the interconnectedness of research, theory, and real-world application and results.

Topical Outline, Deadlines & Assignments

Required Readings and Activities			Quizzes 40%	Discussion Board (60%)
Sa	26-Dec	Review Syllabus		Introductions
Su	27-Dec	Chapter-1 Crime and Criminal Justice	Q1	
M	28-Dec	Chapter-2 The Nature of Crime and Victimization	Q2	
T	29-Dec	Chapter-3 Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure	Q3	
W	30-Dec	Main Response		DB1
Th	31-Dec	Respond to other students		DB1
F	1-Jan	Chapter-4 Police in Society: History and Organization.	Q4	
Sa	2-Jan	Chapter-5 The Police: Role and Function	Q5	
Su	3-Jan	Chapter-6 Issues in Policing: Professional, Social, and Legal	Q6	
M	4-Jan	Main Response		DB2
T	5-Jan	Respond to other students		DB2
W	6-Jan	Chapter-7 Courts, Prosecution, and the Defense	Q7	
Th	7-Jan	Chapter-8 Pretrial and Trial Procedures	Q8	
F	8-Jan	Chapter-9 Punishment and Sentencing	Q9	
Sa	9-Jan	Main Response		DB3
Su	10-Jan	Respond to other students		DB3
M	11-Jan	Chapter-10 Community Sentences: Probation, Intermediate Sanctions, and Restorative Justice	Q10	
T	12-Jan	Chapter-11 Corrections: History, Institutions, and Populations	Q11	
W	13-Jan	Chapter-12 Prison Life: Living in and Leaving Prison	Q12	
Th	14-Jan	Chapter-13 Juvenile Justice in the Twenty First Century	Q13	
F	15-Jan	Main Response		DB4
S	16-Jan	Respond to other students		DB4

LATE PAPERS AND POSTINGS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED! **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Here is what you will do:

- a. You will read the textbook chapters. You will also access and read/watch/listen to all material provided in the folder for each chapter in Course Documents on BlackBoard.
- b. You will participate and respond to the discussion board posts as scheduled. For Discussion Boards provide thoughtful ideas and comments from your end. You will also need to respond to at least two posts of another student. Your answers should be substantial and should include examples and perspectives from the text with your own interpretation of the material. I will be grading this very stringently so best effort is required to get good marks. Details of how the Discussion Board will be graded are provided in a grading rubric on BB and on this syllabus. **BE SURE TO CAREFULLY PROOFREAD YOUR POSTINGS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM. GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING ERRORS WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER GRADES!** The discussion boards have clear and non-negotiable deadlines. Early postings are welcome but late ones will not be accepted. Submission will be locked after the deadline. **You MUST use proper grammar and spelling**

in order to receive a decent grade! Be sure to follow the directions for each DB! You MUST cite your text book and use proper spelling and grammar. For ALL Assignments: Be sure to use proper grammar. You WILL earn a lower grade for run-on/incomplete sentences, misspellings, lack of proper citations, incorrect grammar, etc. Use ASA style citations, e.g. Siegel & Worrall 2015:53 or APA style, e.g. Siegel & Worrall, 2015, p. 53.

- c. Take the chapter quizzes a per the deadlines on the course schedule. Please note that as soon as you open a test you MUST complete it in 15 minutes or less in order to receive credit for it! You can find the tests (1 per chapter--15 multiple choice questions per test) under Quizzes

Discussion Board Rubric

Please BE SURE to follow the grading rubric, when you write your posts and CAREFULLY PROOFREAD YOUR PAPERS AND POSTINGS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM. As the rubric indicates, GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING ERRORS WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER GRADES! You may earn up to 10 points (100%) per Board., 9 points = 90%, 8 points = 80% (etc.) Each Discussion Board is worth 15% of your final grade.

You may earn up to 10 points per Board. Each DB Forum is worth 15% of your final grade				
	0 to 1.9 Points	2.0 to 3.9 Points	4.0 to 5.9 Points	6.0 Points
Content (6 possible points)	A1: Content is less than minimal AND/OR there are several factual errors (less than 500 words)	A2: Includes only minimal information and minimal critical analysis about the topic. (less than or equal to 500 words)	A3: Displays clear knowledge and critically analyzes the topic. Introduces good real world examples by way of external links/videos/news etc. Subject knowledge appears to be good and is different from postings submitted by other students earlier. (Equal to 500 words or more)	A4: Covers topic in-depth and provides an excellent critical analysis of the topic. Details and examples are different from those submitted by other students earlier. Introduces excellent real world examples by way of external links/videos/news etc and explains its relation to the topic. Subject knowledge is excellent (Equal to 500 words or more).
	0 to .4 points	.5 to .9 points	1.0 to 1.9 points	2.0 Points
Grammar/ Clarity (2 possible points)	B1: Contains so many grammatical and/or spelling errors it is difficult to comprehend.	B2: Contains multiple grammatical and/or spelling errors that make it somewhat difficult to follow.	B3: Contains few grammatical and/or spelling errors. The quality of writing is not a distraction.	B4: There are no grammatical and/or spelling errors and the writing is excellent.
	0 to .4 points	.5 to .9 points	1.0 to 1.9 points	2.0 Points
Discusses topic effectively with others (2 possible points)	C1: Does not mention or minimally mentions any other student's posting. Provides 1 to 2 additional postings.	C2: Mentions a student's posting but does not discuss it in any depth. Provides 2 additional postings.	C3: Discusses a classmate's posting in some depth and with some substance. Provides 2 or more additional postings.	C4: Discusses a classmate's posting effectively and offers a substantive critique of or support of it. Provides 2 or more additional postings.

Grading

Here is a break-up of the Total grade:

Quizzes 40% of grade, Discussion posts 60% of grade

The grading scale is as follows:

A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F<60

Refer to the Student Handbook for information about various policies and support services, especially: Services for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity Policies

Attendance

Complaints about Grades

Writing Center

The online version of the student handbook can be found at:

<http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/311881.pdf>

How to Access Blackboard:

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right. Some things to be aware of as you work with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your lastname and firstinitial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at https://webapps.wpunj.edu/misc/username_lookup/username_lookup.cfm
3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Extensive Bb help, including a number of dynamic animations, can be found at <http://www.wpunj.edu/irt/teambb/student/>
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at: <http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/bb/sc/> .