

ESSENTIALS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(CCJ2610-Winter Session - ONLINE)

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

Criminal justice consists of the study of crime and of the agencies concerned with its prevention and control. It is a very complex system, in which various actors work together to prevent crime from occurring, to punish those who have broken the law, and to ultimately ensure public safety and security. In an attempt to understand what causes people to commit crime, criminal justice uses knowledge from a wide variety of disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, medical sciences and politics.

In this course, we will examine the functions and the structure of primary agencies involved in the crime prevention and control process, which include the police, courts and corrections. We will also explore some contemporary challenges of the criminal justice system.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, students are expected to have learned and understood the contemporary issues facing the criminal justice system, the major components of the system and how these components work together to carry out the 'business of justice', and the role of law in the contemporary society.

To achieve the abovementioned outcomes, students are expected to contribute to the discussions of all the topics covered in this course, as well as actively participate in the learning process. Participation will be assessed according to the quality and thoughtfulness of student contributions.

REQUIRED READINGS

*Albanese, J. (2012). Criminal Justice, 5th Edition. Prentice Hall.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALE

Reflection Paper 1 (15%)	93-100% = A	73-76% = C
Reflection Paper 2 (15%)	90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
Midterm Exam (20%)	87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
Final Exam (30%)	83-86% = B	60-66% = D
Participation (20%)	80-83% = B-	0-59% = F
	77-79% = C+	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings: Students are expected to have read the assigned readings before class and must be prepared for class discussion.

Participation: Students are expected to participate in online discussion forums for each chapter/section within the specified period of time and by the due date outlined in the syllabus. If you decide to post your comments after the due date, you will receive no points for participation for that chapter/section. You will receive *two* points for each lecture section for participation, and thus accumulate 20 points if you participate in all.

Exams: Students are required to take the midterm and final exams on the day they are given, unless there is a documented medical or family emergency. Make up tests will not be given.

Reflection Papers: The purpose of these assignments is to prepare the students to think critically about the topics we cover in this course, as well as to give them the opportunity to explore and elaborate more on the topic that was most interesting to them. Specific instructions on the formatting of the paper, as well as the questions that need to be addressed, will be discussed two weeks prior to the due date of the paper. A detailed outline, as well as guidelines will also be posted on Blackboard.

The reflection papers must be submitted before 11:59 pm via Blackboard on the day they are due. Once a submission is made, you need to print out the confirmation page stating the date and time you submitted the paper. Keep this for your records. You may, occasionally, be asked to scan and email this page to me as proof of timely submission. Blank paper submissions will receive an automatic “**F**” grade for the assignment, regardless of the proof of timely submission. Submissions made after 11:59 pm on the day they are due will also received an automatic “**F**” grade. Give yourselves enough time to submit the paper, and don’t blame the computer for not uploading it on time!

Standards of Academic Integrity: Students are expected to conform to the highest ethical standards regarding academic integrity. If a student is caught plagiarizing a paper, he/she will receive an “**F**” grade for the course. I do not negotiate.

COURSE OUTLINE

Dec 26, 2012	(REVIEW THE SYLLABUS AND POST YOUR QUESTIONS UNDER THE “FORUM ENTRY 0” DISCUSSION THREAD)
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PART 1: CRIME IN AMERICA

CHAPTER 1	
Submission to Forum Entry #1 DUE: December 27, 2012	
CHAPTER 2	
Submission to Forum Entry #2 DUE: December 28, 2012	
CHAPTER 3	
Submission to Forum Entry #3 DUE: December 29, 2012	
REFLECTION PAPER 1 – DUE DECEMBER 30, 2012	

PART 2: POLICING

CHAPTER 4	
Submission to Forum Entry #4 DUE: December 31, 2012	
CHAPTER 5	
Submission to Forum Entry #5 DUE: January 2, 2013	
MIDTERM EXAM: JANUARY 3, 2013	

PART 3: ADJUDICATION

CHAPTER 6	
Submission to Forum Entry #6 DUE: January 4, 2013	
CHAPTER 7	
Submission to Forum Entry #7 DUE: January 5, 2013	
CHAPTER 8	
Submission to Forum Entry #8 DUE: January 6, 2013	
REFLECTION PAPER 2 – DUE JANUARY 7, 2013	

PART 4 – CORRECTIONS

CHAPTER 9	
Submission to Forum Entry #9 DUE: January 8, 2013	
CHAPTER 10	
CHAPTER 11	
Submission to Forum Entry #10 DUE: January 9, 2013	

PART 5 – THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

CHAPTER 12	
Submission of Forum Entry #11 DUE: January 10, 2013 (THIS SUBMISSION IS OPTIONAL AND IS FOR EXTRA CREDIT POINTS)	
FINAL EXAM: JANUARY 11, 2013	