
CCJ 2610-80: Essentials of Criminal Justice (ONLINE)
Winter Session: December 22, 2014 - January 11, 2015
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Course Description

This is an introductory course designed to provide students with a broad overview of the criminal justice system in the United States. Students will learn about the three main components of the criminal justice system, police, courts, and corrections, with emphasis on the history, structure, function, and philosophical orientation of criminal justice agencies. More specifically, students will study the role of criminal justice agencies and personnel in crime prevention and control and relate textbook concepts to current “hot topics” in the field. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to critically examine contemporary crime and justice issues.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Discuss the goals and objectives of the criminal justice system.
- Discuss the history, structure, and function of police, courts, and corrections agencies.
- Discuss philosophical differences about the purpose of the criminal justice system.
- Discuss current statistics related to crime and the criminal justice system.
- Discuss current “hot topics” and policy issues in criminal justice.
- Discuss ideas about how the criminal justice system may be improved.

Required Readings

1. Siegel, L. & Worrall, J. (2013). *Essentials of Criminal Justice, 8th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.
2. Chapter notes, supplementary readings, and web links posted on Blackboard in *Course Material*.

Course Requirements

Discussion Board – 20%

Quiz 1 – 20%

Quiz 2 – 20%

Final Exam – 40%

Discussion Board

Weekly discussion board questions will be posted on Blackboard in *Discussion Board*. Students will be expected to log in and respond to the discussion questions as well as other students’ responses to the discussion questions. Students must log in every day to keep up with the discussion board though they are not required to respond every day. At a minimum, each student

must respond at least twice each week in order to receive credit for that week's discussion board assignment. The purpose of the discussion board is to allow students the opportunity to engage with one another on some of the topics of the course. I am looking for thoughtful comments that demonstrate that you are actively thinking about and engaging with the material. Both quantity and quality of comments will be taken into account in grading of the discussion board.

Specific instructions:

- Each discussion board response should contain a minimum of 100 words and should make some meaningful contribution to the discussion (“I like what student X said” would not be a sufficient response; you would need to explain what, specifically, you like about Student X’s response and why.)
- You should refer to the textbook or supplementary readings to support your points. Provide references for facts that you use in your response. (Do not assume “common knowledge”; for example, if you want to say that men commit more crime than women, you must refer to UCR, NCVS, or other crime statistics to “prove” your point).
- You may disagree with one another and debate one another on controversial topics, but be courteous and respectful in your communication with other students.
- You should follow proper conventions of writing including spelling, grammar, etc. Please proofread your responses prior to posting to the Discussion Board.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes for this course and they will be posted on Blackboard in *Assignments*. Quiz 1 will cover Chapters 1-6 and will be due by midpoint on December 30th. Quiz 2 will cover Chapters 7-13 and will be due by midnight on January 9th. You may submit these quizzes at any time prior to the due date; however, please note that these quizzes will be timed and you will only have one opportunity to take them. Therefore, it is in your best interest to take the quizzes only after you have completed the assigned readings and when you feel prepared to take them. The quizzes will each have 30 questions (20 multiple choice and true false questions and 10 short answer questions) and you will have 90 minutes to complete them. Please make sure that you only log in to take them when you have 90 minutes of uninterrupted time.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a cumulative exam. It will be posted on Blackboard in *Assignments* and will be due by midnight on January 11th. You may submit the final exam at any time prior to the due date; however, please note that the final exam will be a timed exam and you will only be able to take it once. The exam will have 65 questions (60 multiple choice and true-false questions and 5 short answer questions) and you will have 2 hours to complete it. Please make sure that you only log in to take the final exam after you have completed the assigned readings and have 2 hours of uninterrupted time.

Grading Scale

A: 95-100
A-: 90-94
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86

B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72

D+: 65-69
D: 60-64
F: 0-59

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
12/22/14	Chapter 1: Criminal Justice System	
12/23/14	Chapter 2: Crime and Victimization	
12/24/14	Chapter 3: Criminal Law	
12/25/14		
12/26/14	Chapter 4: Police	Week 1 discussion board due by midnight.
12/29/14	Chapter 5: Police	
12/30/14	Chapter 6: Police	Quiz 1 due by midnight.
12/31/14	Chapter 7: Courts	
1/1/14		
1/2/14	Chapter 8: Courts	Week 2 discussion board due by midnight.
1/5/14	Chapter 9: Courts	
1/6/14	Chapter 10: Corrections	
1/7/14	Chapter 11: Corrections	
1/8/14	Chapter 12: Corrections	
1/9/14	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice	Week 3 discussion board due by midnight. Quiz 2 due by midnight.
Final Exam due by midnight on 1/11/14.		