

**CRJU 1101**  
**FOUNDATIONS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
Spring 2012

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*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.*

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Professor** Dr. Tanja C. Link

**Office Hours** Mondays 1-3 p.m., and  
by appointment

**Office** SO 5093

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**Class Hours** Friday 11:00 am – 1:45 pm., Room SO 1017

### **Overview**

Over the course of this semester, we will spend our time in class focusing on one of the most controversial and emotionally charged social systems in our lives – the American criminal justice system. We will examine the central actors and institutions that shape the criminal justice process and ask how the daily life of these organizations molds the nature and quality of American justice. We will review the main components of the American criminal justice system – the police, courts, and penal system – asking how each operates and examining the nature of their interrelationships. In doing so, we will trace the movement of a citizen through the criminal justice process and see what happens as we move from one element to the next. But we want to do more than simply accumulate information about how the system operates. We want to develop critical thinking skills necessary to develop answers and solutions to the questions we unveil, and be challenged to think broadly about why the system operates as it does and how its organization and daily practices impact justice.

By the end of this course you should be able to demonstrate an understanding of (1) the nature and extent of crime in the United States; (2) the structure and function of the American criminal justice system; (3) the different roles and responsibilities of criminal justice agencies and participants at each stage of the criminal justice process; (4) the various criminal justice careers and agencies.

*People who love sausage and people who believe in justice should never watch either of them being made.*

*~ Otto von Bismark*

## **Readings**

Course readings are available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

\* Cole, George F. & Christopher E. Smith (2011) Criminal Justice in America (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

\* Other readings or links to readings will be posted on the Course Website.

Please remember that you are expected to have completed the readings *before* class meets. Lectures are often quite different from the readings, even though they generally relate to each other. Some of the readings will not be covered in class, but you need to make sure that you understand the material you read so that we can have meaningful and informed discussions about the issues addressed in the materials. You need to develop a critical orientation to the course material, which means that merely skimming a reading will not suffice. Instead, highlight, underline, take notes, and summarize when you read. Think through the material, beyond lectures and readings, and attempt to develop your own innovative analytical connections. Question where your ideas about justice stem from, how they are implemented in your daily life, and most importantly, what other and better visions of justice are possible. As a class and on the individual level, we will only reach a well-informed critical and constructive foundation on issues of criminal justice if you stay prepared and engaged.

If you are confused about any information provided in class or in the readings, please ask me to clarify the concepts!

Changes in the reading schedule may occur and will be announced in class or on the course website. It is your responsibility to get this information.

*“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” ~Fyodor Dostoyevsky*

## **Evaluation Methods**

\* **EXAMS (50% of final grade)**. Grades depend, first, on three non-cumulative exams. Tests cover lecture, discussions, group work, text and readings, and may consist of multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer questions, and essay questions.

Exams will be taken during regular class hours. Details will be given in class.

Exams are scheduled well in advance so discretionary activity should be scheduled around these dates. *Missed exams* will be counted as *zeros* except for extraordinary circumstances.

Please note that any arrangements have to be made with me *before* the exam in order to be allowed to make up an exam. **DO NOT COME TO ME WITH EXCUSES AFTER THE EXAM!**

\* **QUIZZES (20% of final grade)** Grades depend also on various unannounced reading quizzes given throughout the semester. You are responsible for attending class regularly and making sure that you are not missing quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up. If your absence is excused, the quiz will not count against you. Otherwise, you receive a zero – no exceptions!

**If you come to class late and a quiz is in progress you will not be allowed to take the quiz!**

\* **IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES (20% of final grade).** You will be required to participate in several in-class group activities/assignments over the course of the semester. The nature of these activities will vary. Some involve writing, others require group work being presented to the class. If you are absent on the day of an in-class activity, you will not be able to get credit for the assignment or make it up. If your absence is excused and you have documentation, you can submit a writing assignment to substitute for the in-class group work. You will only be allowed to make up one in-class assignment.

\* **ATTENDANCE (10% of final grade).** You are an adult, and it is your decision whether and how often you attend class. However, success is not likely if many classes are missed. Quizzes, exams, and assignments cannot be made up if you missed class for an unexcused reason. Attendance will be taken every class at the beginning of lecture as well as towards the end of lecture. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Your presence will be counted only if you sign the attendance sheet at both times.

**Important:** The sign-in sheet is your indication that YOU attended class. It is a violation of the academic honor code to sign another student in or to have another student sign in for you, and/or to sign-in and leave class.

Attendance grades will be as follows:

0 classes missed	=	100	3 classes missed	=	80
1 class missed	=	95	4 classes missed	=	70
2 classes missed	=	90	5+ classes missed	=	0

**Extra Credit:**

1) A local, state, or national observation of criminal justice. This may involve a police ride along, attendance at a trial or hearing, a prison tour, an interview with an attorney or judge, an analysis of your own experience inside the justice system, or another instructor-approved observation. You must write a five page description of your experience,

contextualize your observations with clear references to course readings, and provide documentation of your experience. You may earn 10 extra credit exam points for this exercise, if conducted properly.

2) You may also earn 5 exam points if you attend 3 Sociology /Criminal Justice Club or criminal justice-related university or community events over the course of the semester and provide proof of this participation.

If interested in an extra credit opportunity, come see me to discuss guidelines. The project has to be approved by me or you will not get credit.

Final letter grades will be given on the following scale:

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79– 70
D	69– 60
F	59 - 0

### **Other Policies**

\* **Georgia VIEW.** This course has a course website. The syllabus and other important information is posted on Georgia VIEW. It is your responsibility to keep abreast with schedule changes, assignments, and other things posted on Georgia VIEW.

\* **Cell phones.** All cell phones and other portable electronic devices must be turned off and stowed away during class – **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

I realize that you don't want to miss out on the many exciting things that happen out in the world during class time, but since you are there voluntarily, I expect you to pay your full attention to what is happening in class. If I see your phone I will assume you are playing, and I will ask you to leave the class and expect you to comply.

\* **Computers.** In a similar vein, laptops may be used in **the front row** of class for **note-taking purposes only.** If I find you updating your facebook or google+ page or otherwise surfing the internet, you will be asked to pack up and leave.

\* **Professional Conduct.** You are expected to carry yourself professionally during class. That includes, but is not limited to, attending and being prepared for class, having read and understood the material, arriving to class on time, being engaged and an active participant. We will discuss controversial criminal and social justice issues, and it is imperative that we do so with respect. It is likely that you will have your view on an issue challenged, and disagree with comments made in the discussion. Most of these instances turn out to be valuable learning experiences if handled in a respectful and productive way, so I would request you to talk with me rather than end up feeling silenced or alienated by another's opinion.

\* **Academic Honesty.** You are expected to do your own work. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with in the appropriate manner. Cheating, plagiarism, and destruction of course materials violate the rules of the University. Such

violations of the rules regarding academic honesty can lead to a failing grade in the course and expulsion from the University. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to appropriate University officials as required by University rules and procedures. You are expected to be familiar with the content of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs.

**\* Disruptive Behavior.** This course is organized to encourage open, respectful exchanges on sometimes sensitive issues. Anyone perceived to conduct him/herself in such a manner as to obstruct or disrupt, or attempt to obstruct or disrupt, the class or its learning activities will be given a verbal warning and may be asked to excuse her/himself from the class period in which the conduct occurred. Further disruptive conduct may be reported and be subject to disciplinary procedures according to the KSU Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

**\* Disability.** If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, students must visit the Office for disAbled Student Support Services and make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. In most cases, certification of disability is required.



### Course Schedule

The syllabus is a tentative and general plan for the course. Adjustments may have to be made and will be announced in class or on Georgia VIEW.

8/17	Course Introduction The Criminal Justice System and Process	
8/24	What Is Crime? Why do people engage in crime? How much crime is there? How do we measure crime?	Chapter 1 & 2
8/31	Victimization & the Impact of Crime	Chapter 2
9/7	Models of Criminal Justice; Legal Foundations Is the System Just?	Chapter 3 Vera Institute. "Do Race and Ethnicity Matter?"
<b>9/14</b>	Wrap up of Part 1 of the course <b>Exam 1</b>	
9/21	History of the Police	Chapter 4

	Roles and Responsibilities of the Police	
9/28	Police Subculture Issues in Policing	Chapter 4 & 5
10/5	Police and Constitutional Law	Chapter 6
10/12	The Courtroom Workgroup Pretrial	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
10/19	Trial and Appeals Sentencing and Punishment	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
<b>10/26</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>  Does Mass Incarceration reduce crime?	
11/2	Prison and Prison Life	Chapter 10 Chapter 12
11/9	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 14
11/16	Alternatives to Incarceration Restorative Justice; Rehabilitation/Treatment; Community Sanctions	Chapter 11 Chapter 13
11/23	NO CLASS - FALL BREAK	
11/30	Analysis of the Criminal Justice System Final Thoughts - Where do we go from here?	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	