

**Social Issues: Perspectives in Criminal Justice
(CRJU 2105 – 2 semester credit hours)**

Syllabus for Fall Semester 2015

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Fridays, 11:00-1:45: **This is a ten (10) week course**

Course Prerequisites: ENGL 0099 and READ 0099 (If required)

Required Text: Beckett, K. & T. Sasson. (2004). *The politics of injustice: Crime and punishment in America*. (Second edition). Sage Publication, Inc.

Course Description: Social Perspectives in Criminal Justice 2105, satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education requirements. It addresses the Critical Thinking learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students will evaluate and synthesize information to support ideas and perspectives. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes please visit: http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=24&poid=2668

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- 1) explain the structure and functions of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections) and their philosophy and practices related to crime and criminality.
- 2) describe the crime trend of both property and violent crimes in the U.S.
- 3) discuss the nature and types of international crime and its impact on our society and its safety concerns.
- 4) demonstrate an ability to think critically how crime and criminality is defined and fostered through politics, news media, popular culture, interest group, and other American social institutions.
- 5) analyze potential strategies and approaches that might be useful to combat and prevent crime and criminal activities.

Course Requirements: Grades in the course are based on the following requirements:

- (1) **Three Exams (50 points each; 150 points total):** There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams. The first exam will be given in the 4th week of the semester. The second exam will be given in the 8th week of the semester. The third exam will be given during the final exam week. Exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth one point each chosen from the text.
- (2) **One Paper Assignment (50 points):** Each student will prepare a three (3)-page, double-spaced, typewritten paper, excluding the cover page. The paper will cover a

topic chosen by the student to demonstrate fulfillment of at least **three** of the Course Objectives listed above. Any CJ topic is allowed but **three** objectives must be addressed, relative to the topic. Two references must be cited. APA or MLA may be used.

Grading Policy: Final grades will be determined by totalling the number of earned points for all course requirements (3 exams and paper) and dividing by the total number of points possible for the course (200). The following grading scale will apply:

A = 90%-100% or 179-200 points
B = 80%-89% or 159-178 points
C = 70%-79% or 139-158 points
D = 60%-69% or 119-138 points
F = less than 60% or 118 or fewer points

Extra points can be earned for submitting a one page, double-spaced, report on any criminal justice topic. The papers are worth 1-3 points, at my discretion. No more than ten papers, per student, may be submitted.

Class Attendance and Participation: KSU expects students to attend class on a regular basis. Successful learning and understanding of the class materials require class attendance and active participation in classroom discussions. Note taking in the class is recommended since all readings from the text, handouts, and videos are subject to inclusion on exams.

Academic Dishonesty: KSU expects all students to engage in all pursuits in a manner that is academically irreproachable. Any student in this class who is involved in any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams or plagiarizing all or part of someone's paper, turning in an unoriginal paper, or collaborating with another person in preparing the paper, will receive an "F" grade for this class and be dealt with according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: KSU provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for students defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A number of services are available to help disabled students with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students must visit the Office of Disabled Student Support Services (located on the second floor of the Student Center) and arrange an individual assistance plan.

Writing Center: KSU also offers a free service to all students with the goals of not only helping students write better papers, but also making the students become better writers. I encourage you to visit their office in the Humanities Building (Room 242) and talk to their personnel about your writing assignments. You can also go to their website at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/> and click on the "Make an Appointment" link.

Incompletes: According to the KSU catalog regarding an “incomplete grade (I), a grade of incomplete “will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.”

Make-Up Exam Policy: Each student is expected to take all the exams on the scheduled dates. Students with a valid excuse (and hopefully with prior approval from the instructor) for missing a scheduled exam may make up one test. Make-up exams will be given at the end of the semester, or after class on Fridays, and may consist entirely of essay questions. Students can make up one exam only.

Reading Assignments

Classroom presentations by the instructor may go beyond the scope of the reading assignments. It will be assumed students know the concepts and terms presented in the reading materials. Do *not* assume all of the materials in the text will be presented in the classroom.

Week	Topic	Required Reading
1	Societal Responses to Crime (Three components in the CJ system: police, courts, and corrections)	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 1
2	Crime in the United States (past and present realities of crime in the U.S.)	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 2
3	Murder, American Style	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 3
4	Politics of Crime	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 4
5	Crime and The News Media	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 5
6	Crime and Popular Culture	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 6
7	Crime and Public Opinion	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 7
8	Crime and Interest Groups	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 8
9	Crime & Public Policy	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 9
10	Nature, Types, and Impact of International Crimes	Lecture and Assigned article(s)

The instructor reserves the “right” to modify, or remove, any course requirement with timely notification.