

Kennesaw State University
Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
CRJU 4499
Fall 2015

Classroom: English Bldg. 253
Class Meetings: HYBRID: In class: Fridays 11:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. & online
Instructor: Dr. Tanja Link
E-mail: tlink1@kennesaw.edu
Office: SO 4066
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course is a seminar designed for Criminal Justice majors in their senior year. It is organized as a capstone class with the goal of serving as a comprehensive and critical review of the criminal justice curriculum with a focus on specific contemporary issues in criminal justice. In addition, this seminar will help students explore and prepare for a career in criminal justice. Students will work on a research project as well as practical assignments that will improve their overall preparedness for the job market. Students are expected to show self-motivation and initiative throughout the semester.

Learning Objectives

- A. To expose the student to a more in-depth and critical examination of the American criminal justice network and its interrelated branches, namely the police, the courts, and corrections.
- B. To encourage the development of scholarly and intellectual appreciation for the problems confronting the field of criminal justice.
- C. To help the student develop critical thinking skills in the exploration of innovative solutions to the problems confronting the field of criminal justice.
- D. To assess student-learning outcomes in fulfillment of the program mission, goals, and objectives.
- E. To help the student develop important skills for reaching his/her current career goals and achieving professional success.

Course Prerequisites

CRJU 1101, 3301 Research Methods in Criminal Justice

Textbooks and Readings

Pollak, Lindsey. 2012. *Getting from College to Career, Revised Edition: Your Essential Guide to*

Succeeding in the Real World. Harper Business. ISBN: 978-0062069276.

Careers in Criminal Justice Website:

http://college.cengage.com/criminaljustice/1111831181_wadsworth/student/index.html?titleisbn=9781111831202&eISBN=9781111831189&pid=446429

Class Format: This course is delivered in a hybrid format, which includes a combination of on-line learning activities and assessments, a mock interview, 5-6 face-to-face class meetings, and (at least) one individual face-to-face meeting with the instructor (scheduled at the beginning of the semester). Progress toward completion of the research study or theoretical paper will be discussed at the individual student and instructor meeting. Students are required to attend all face-to-face meetings.

Nota Bene: KSU defines a semester credit hour as one hour (50 minutes) of classroom or direct faculty instruction and one hour forty minutes of out-of-class student work each week for 15 weeks in a semester (a minimum of 750 minutes of class plus 1,500 minutes of out-of-class academic engagement to equal 2,250 engaged minutes per semester credit hour), or an equivalent amount of laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, field experience, and other academic work. Educational activities that involve no classroom or direct faculty instruction require an equivalent amount of work as stated above.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Resume and Mock Interview

Students will schedule an appointment with the KSU Career Services Center at (470) 578-6555 in order to create a professional resume and participate in a digitally recorded or in-person mock interview. All appointments must be scheduled by **September 11, 2015** and must be completed by **December 4, 2015**. Once the appointments have been made students will not be permitted to reschedule for any reason. Students must dress professionally for the interview. The grade for the interview will be determined by the evaluation of the Career Services representative.

2. Online reflections

Please read carefully, this assignment has multiple parts!

For this course requirement, the class will be divided into two groups, and each group will be assigned alternate chapters of *Getting from College to Career*. You will write a one page reflection post on the assigned chapter discussing in detail which of the author's tips you found relevant and how specifically you might put them into action. You should also discuss which tips you are not likely to utilize, and describe why not. You should suggest additional tips not included in the book that you think might also be appropriate for the chapter topic. Students need to post this reflection to the D2L Discussion Board. [Please

make sure you put your group number and the chapter number in the subject line of your post].

Reflection posts must be posted by **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **September 8, September 15, September 22, September 29, and October 6.**

In addition, you must **reply to two reflection posts created by members of the other group**. In your reply you should NOT ONLY state whether you agree or disagree with your colleagues' assessments of the author's tips BUT ALSO describe why or why not, and offer insightful suggestions. **Replies** must be posted by **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **September 11, September 18, September 25, October 2, and October 9.**

If you do not post by the deadline, you will receive 0 points for the post.

September 8

Group 1 Chapter One
Group 2 Chapter Two

September 29

Group 1 Chapter Seven
Group 2 Chapter Eight

September 15

Group 1 Chapter Three
Group 2 Chapter Four

October 6

Group 1 Chapter Nine
Group 2 Chapter Ten

September 22

Group 1 Chapter Five
Group 2 Chapter Six

3. Research Presentation

You will present the results of your research study at the end of the semester in class as assigned. Attendance on presentation days is mandatory for all students in the class. Those not presenting are expected to provide constructive feedback and suggestions. The presentation should last between about 10-12 minutes and utilize PowerPoint or a comparable presentation software (please prepare a professional presentation – no videos or flashy time-fillers). Presentations that last less than 10 minutes will not receive full credit. Although your final research paper is not due until NOVEMBER 30 (10 pm), it is expected that most of your research is done by the time of your presentation, meaning that you should not present a proposal but rather results.

Attendance on presentation days is mandatory. An absence that does not qualify as officially excused AND is discussed with me beforehand (see student handbook) will result in a 15 point deduction from your presentation grade.

4. Research paper

Each student will complete a senior research project. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate what you have learned throughout your course of study in the major (practical knowledge, theoretical understanding, critical thinking skills, and intellectual curiosity) and apply it to a real world problem of crime and justice.

There are several mandatory steps to receive full credit for the final paper:

1. Students are required to submit their proposed projects with clearly delineated outlines and five references to the D2L dropbox by Friday, August 28 for review and approval.
2. Students are required to submit a **full draft** of their paper by October 23 via D2L dropbox.
3. Students are required to meet with the professor to discuss their paper between October 26 – November 6.
4. Students are required to revise and improve the draft based on recommendations received from the professor.
5. The final paper is due on **December 4 by 10 p.m. via D2L dropbox. Late papers are not accepted, so please plan ahead. You are welcome to turn in your paper early.**

The final version of the paper must be **10-12 pages in length** (excluding cover page, maps, diagrams, attachments, and references), double-spaced, type written, with 1-inch margins, and include at least 10 scholarly references. Failure to have the mandatory pages and references will result in a **one grade deduction per missing page and/or reference**. All references should be made in conformity with the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style. All scholarly sources must be cited within the body of the work. All sources must be referenced in the APA format. Failure to do so could result in an “F” grade. Any paper that has more than six grammatical or spelling errors will automatically go down to a “C” grade and will get worse from there. *Note: Please make sure to keep separate copies of all your papers that have been turned in for a grade.*

If you choose to conduct a research project that includes human subjects, you are required to complete a **Human Subjects Research Certification**.

The KSU Institutional Review Board is responsible for ensuring that research participants are treated ethically. The certification process requires one to two hours to complete.

1. Read the CITI Registration instructions posted on the course website.
2. Go to <https://citiprogram.org>
3. Create a personal profile with your username and password. Do not forget to add your affiliation to KSU. Your role is Student Researcher – Undergraduate.
4. Complete the Students in Research module, and the associated quiz.
5. Save a copy of the Course Completion Report with your name, and print one copy and bring it to class.

Class Requirements and Grading

Resume & Interview	15%
Online Assignments	20%
Research Presentation	20%
Research Paper (Draft and Final)	45%

Grading Scale

100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = F

Grades are firm and will not be rounded up.

IMPORTANT:

1) Failure to complete any of the required assignments according to the guidelines (such as turning in a full draft by the deadline) will result in a 0 for that assignment. Failure to complete more than 3 individual assignments will result in a one-letter grade deduction from the final grade for each missed assignment (e.g., if you miss 2 online assignments and the deadline for the interview set up, the absolute best letter grade you could earn in the class is a C).

2) Failure to meet with me to discuss your research project will result in a 30 points (3 letter grades) deduction, meaning that the best grade you could get for a perfect paper is a 70. I expect you come to our meeting prepared.

3) I do not “give” grades – you earn them.

3) Any type of plagiarism will result in a zero for the paper/presentation at the very least. It is your responsibility to make sure you are not plagiarizing. Use the resources available to you at KSU! Research librarians are your friends!

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled class meetings. Please make every effort not to arrive late; late arrival distracts the professor as well as the students. Similarly, anyone who wishes to leave the class early must obtain the professor's permission before class. Any student who leaves early or fails to return to the classroom after the class recess will be considered absent from the entire class period. In the event that absence from a particular class session is necessitated by legitimate reason(s), the professor should be notified in advance.

Academic Honesty

You are required to adhere to the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at:

http://www.kennesaw.edu/academicaffairs/acadpubs/acadpub/ucat2006-07/x.General_Policies.pdf

Accommodations

This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and make the appropriate arrangements with Disabled Student Support Services at (470) 578-2666.

Writing Center

The KSU Writing Center helps students in all disciplines and at all levels of ability improve their written work. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. For more information or to make an appointment, please visit www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change contingent on class size, progress, activities, guest speaker's availability, and other unanticipated factors.

August 21	F2F Class Meeting – attendance mandatory
August 28	F2F Class Meeting – attendance mandatory Research paper topics, outline, and 5 references due via D2L dropbox
September 4	F2F Class Meeting – attendance mandatory KSU career Center Read Chapters 1&2 of Pollack Reflections due: September 8 Responses due: September 11
September 11	Read Chapters 3&4 of Pollack Reflections due: September 15

Responses due: **September 18**
Deadline to make appointment with KSU career center

September 18 Read Chapters 5&6 of Pollack

Reflections due: **September 22**
Responses due: **September 25**

September 25 Read Chapters 7&8 of Pollack

Reflections due: **September 29**
Responses due: **October 2**

October 2 Read Chapters 9&10 of Pollack

Reflections due: **October 6**
Responses due: **October 9**

Deadline to schedule individual meeting with professor

October 23 **Full draft of paper due!**

Week of
October 26 individual meetings with professor

Week of
November 2 individual meetings with professor

November 6 **F2F Class Meeting**

Presentations – attendance mandatory

November 13 **F2F Class Meeting**

Presentations – attendance mandatory

December 4 **F2F Class Meeting**

Presentations (if needed) – attendance mandatory

Deadline for research paper via D2L Dropbox, 10 p.m.