

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

Syllabus for Spring Semester 2016

Instructor: Gary Shoats
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Class Time: M/W 8:00am – 9:15am

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:

The class will take four written examinations, consisting of short answer, true or false and/or essay questions. The exams will cover material combined from required readings, classroom lectures, classroom discussions, guest speakers and educational videos. **(There will be several pop quizzes for extra credit) You are responsible for reading your Book.** Furthermore, much of the lecture and class discussions include material not in your required reading, thus your **attendance** and participation is of utmost importance. The final will be comprehensive. **You must be on time for class to take the exams. Each exam will start at 8:00 am (Please do not come late) Bring a #2 pencil to class on exam days. (Test will be graded on the date of the exam)**

Exam Dates: Test 1 February 3rd Test 2 February 29th Test 3 March 23rd Final March 28th

Grading Policy: Final grades will be determined by totalling the number of earned points for all course requirements (4 exams) and dividing by the total number of points possible for the course (400).The following grading scale will apply:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = less than 60

Class Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is important since material will be covered that is not in the text. The student is responsible for any material covered in class. The instructor is not responsible to the student for any material, information or **Test** missed due to unexcused absences to minimize interruptions, class will start @ **8:00am** and I expect all students to be present prior to that time.

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.

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: Students are expected to take the exams as scheduled. Should circumstances prohibit this, you should inform me as **soon as the emergency arrives** and arrange to take the exam by the next scheduled class if it has been agreed upon to do so. **Please don't send me an e-mail or text to acquire permission to miss a test as my cell number is provided on this syllabus (404-310-2111).** A grade of **zero** will be given for any unexcused missed test and factored into your four-test average.

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 Public Opinion	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 6
7	Activism and the Politics of crime	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 7
8	Crime and Public Policy	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 8
9	Alternatives	Beckett & Sasson, Ch. 9
10	Conclusion	Class Discussion

NOTE: This is an interactive course and I expect and encourage class participation. Opinions, counterpoints and contributions of other class members will be respected at all times. Respect and courtesy will be shown by actively listening when others are speaking and by refraining from “chit chatting “on the side. We are all adults, and will behave accordingly.

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time throughout the duration of the semester