

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2015

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Textbook: Introduction to Criminal Justice: by Larry J. Siegel, John L. Worrall
Fifteenth Edition

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system. The class will concentrate on important legal terms and concepts. We will examine state and federal court system and we will learn about relevant US Supreme Court decisions. Major emphasis will be placed on police, courts, juvenile and adult probation, Drug Court, Intensive Supervision Probation, Corrections and Parole. Students will gain a better understanding of the current and future critical issues such as Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, Drug addiction, and the treatment of Veterans. It will review the options available and resources provided by the state. Encompassing both the foundation of American Criminal Justice and each stage after arrest including due process will fully **describe** all aspects including helping the community and preventing recidivism.

Course Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to provide the student with the expertise he or she needs to critically analyze the issues, challenges and trends as they exist in Criminal Justice today. After successful completion of the course, the student should:

- (A) be able to clearly distinguish each step of the process from arrest to sentencing, and the degree grading New Jersey gives to the crimes committed
- (B) be able to significantly appreciate the value of intermediate punishments or sanctions as correctional alternatives
- (C) have an accurate, detailed, understanding of the many facets within Criminal Justice and the United State Supreme Court cases that help shape them
- (D) appreciate and understand the value of a variety within Criminal Justice and to be able to distinguish the difference between theory and real world
- (E) understand the impact of current issues, challenges and trends have on Criminal Justice

Final Assessment of Grades will be as follows:

Mid-Term 25%

Class Participation/Attendance 25%
Final Examination 50%

Class Participation is weighted in this course because discussions aid in the student's ability to understand the impact of probation in our society. Also, an interactive approach aids in the student's learning and creates an environment where an exchange of ideas is valued.

Attendance is mandatory; your grade will be lowered if you miss more than 3 classes.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Overview of Class Schedule, which is subject to change depending on the progress of the class:

Class 1: September 2, 2015-Discussion of course syllabus; Overview of Chapter 1: Crime and Criminal Justice

Class 2: September 9, 2015- Chapter 2: The nature and extent of crime

Class 3: September 14, 2015 -Chapter 2: Guest Speaker: New Jersey State Trooper David Sodowitz

Class 4: September 16, 2015-Chapter 3: Understanding Crime and Victimization

Class 5: September 21, 2015-Chapter 4: Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure: Guest Speaker Melissa Underwood Prosecutor Office Victim Witness

Class 6: September 23, 2015- Chapter 5: Public Policing and Private Security

Class 7: September 28, 2015-Chapter 6: The Police: Organization, Role, and Function

Class 8: September 30, 2015-Chapter 7- Issues in Policing: Guest Speaker Officer Mackie Somerset County Sheriff's Dept. Gang Unit

Class 9: October 5, 2015-Supervising Probation Officer Steven Mandraccia, Juvenile and Drug Court Probation

Class 10: October 7, 2015- Chapter 8- Police and the Rule of Law

Class 11: October 12, 2015- Mr. James Janci, Hunterdon Prosecutors Office

Class 12: October 19, 2015-Chapter 9- Court Structure and Personnel

Class 13: October 21, 2015

Guest Speaker: Master Probation Officer John Manzo, Sex Offender/Domestic Violent caseload

Class14: October 26, 2015- Lt. Raquel Ortiz, NJ Parole

Class 15: October 28, 2015-**Midterm**

Class 16: November 2, 2015-Chapter 10-PreTrial and Procedures

Class 17: November 4, 2015-Chapter 11-Punishment and Sentencing

Class18: November 9, 2015-Chapter 12-Community Sentences

Class 18: November 11, 2015- Chapter 13-Corrections

Class 19: November 16, 2015-Chapter 14-Prison Life

Class 20: November 18, 2015- Mr. Joseph McNulty

Class 21: November 23, 2015-Chapter 15-Juvenile Justice

Class 22: November 25, 2015-Chapter 16-Crime and Justice

Class 23: November 30, 2015-Criminal Justice mental illness

Class 24: December 2, 2015- NAMI Presentation

Class 25: December 7, 2015-Ethical dilemmas (handout provided)

Class 26: December 9, 2015-Drug Addiction/Veterans their role in the criminal justice system

Class 27: December 14, 2015-Last Day of Class; Final Review

Final Exam: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>