



CJS 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Middlesex Community College
Criminal Justice Department
Course Syllabus

STUDENT COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE: Introduction to Criminal Justice

COURSE NO: CJS 101

SEMESTER: Fall 2019 – 5 Week/August 27 – Sept 29

SEMESTER HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Dawn M. Bradanini

CLASS TIME: Online

EMAIL: Please contact me through the Blackboard shell. If Blackboard is down email: dbradanini@mxcc.commnet.edu **OFFICE HOURS:** Upon Request

A. COURSE SCOPE/DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students with fundamental principles relative to the structures, functions, and processes of those agencies that deal with the management of crime-the police, the courts, and corrections. The course examines the organization of Criminal Justice agencies and the evolution, principles, and concepts which act as variables in the Criminal Justice system. The course also examines the such diversity issues as women in policing, roles of different ethnic groups from the 1800's to present, social stratification, and discrimination. The course serves as a foundation on which other courses in the program build.

PRE- OR CO-REQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Fagin, J. (2018). *CJ2017*. Boston, MA: Pearson.: ISBN: 9780134548630

TECHNOLOGY:

Course materials will be delivered via Blackboard. Students may also use PowerPoint, MS Word and any other systems deemed necessary.

B. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To acquaint students with the fundamental principles relative to the structures, functions, and processes of those agencies that deal with the management of crime-the police, the courts, and corrections.
2. To be able to explain the various legal precepts upon which agencies and

personnel in the criminal justice system operate.

3. To be able to trace the evolution of Criminal Justice from pre-colonial times to the modern day and explain the historical significance in terms of modern day Criminal Justice methodology and practice.

C. COURSE REQUIREMENTS- OVERVIEW:

1. Blackboard will be utilized and students will be able to complete their academic work in a flexible manner - completely online. The course is broken down into five modules as units: Unit #1, Unit #2, Unit #3, Unit #4, and Unit #5.
2. It is strongly recommended that students read the textbook and consider all positions of the subsections.
3. You must contact the instructor **in advance** if you have a good reason to miss any assignment. If you contact after the due date, you will still be subject to the late penalty regardless of reason!
4. Reading assignments must be completed before completing the discussion forum. Questions may be posted on the discussion forum to assure that the readings have been completed, the materials understood, and to stimulate class discussion.
5. Any discussions and/or assignments must be turned in on time. **If late work is accepted, you will lose 10 points for each day it is late. After 5 days you will receive an F.** Instructor reserves the right to modify this rule only in exceptional cases.
6. Your grade is the calculation of points earned and total possible points based on the results of:

Discussion Forums: Weighted equally
Research Summaries: 4 out of 5

60 points
40 points
Total: 100 points

NOTE: The Discussions are worth 60 percent due to the fact there are no quizzes/exams (although I reserve the right to give a pop up quiz if I feel students are not participating).

“Extra credit” opportunities will not be offered on an individualized basis. This course is structured in such a way that student reading, participation and the course writing assignment provide each student with the opportunity to achieve a satisfactory grade.

Self-motivation will be very important for success in this class. It is an intellectually

rigorous course with challenging discussions and difficult analysis. Staying on top of your weekly work is most important. You must be able to access and review Announcements daily as there will be specific necessary information.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade and Percentage:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79

Letter Grade and Percentage:

C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62'
F	Below 60

DISCUSSION BOARD: (similar to a legal puzzle from other classes)

The Discussion Board questions (which you may have known as a legal puzzle) is either a hypothetical scenario/a real scenario or in depth question in which students must analyze, deduce and possibly apply laws, then answer the question being asked. The main objective for students is to utilize critical thinking skills and apply information that they are learning in the course (or have learned in prior courses).

There will be ten discussions total posted for the five weeks of class. You will find them each week on the Discussion page. Students must complete all ten discussions which are worth 60 percent of your final grade.

Each student must post the individual, initial response to the questions on the **Discussion Board by 11:59 pm on Wednesday. Five points will be deducted each day the initial post is late thereafter see late work policy.**

Students must interact with other students in the course by posting questions and addressing the initial posts of **TWO** of their classmates. **Response posts are due by Sunday evenings by 11:59 pm.** These responses must be informative and contribute to the advancing knowledge of the topic. "Good job," or "nice post," are not acceptable.

Initial Post Requirements: (Due every Wednesday)

- Minimum 250 words in length – (refers only to the body of your response)
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure

- Supported by two scholarly sources (when a source is necessary) – one will be the textbook and the second is the student's choice. **Wikipedia** is not a scholarly source.
- In text citations and references required.
- Please note that all rules in regards to plagiarism and proper citations must be followed.
- ****When you have a question about citing information correctly – ASK FOR HELP!****
- DO NOT send assignments via a message or email – they will not be accepted.
- Five points deducted for each day initial post is late.

Response Posts Requirements: (Due every Sunday by 11:59pm)

- Respond to at least 2 classmates' initial posts.
- Each post must be at least 125 words in length.
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- See late policy in discussion description.

RESEARCH SUMMARIES – see Research Summary Tab in Blackboard:

Since there are many interesting articles constantly being published in law enforcement magazines, scholarly journals, and on the internet concerning the Criminal Justice System, students will read at three of these articles and summarize their findings. Learning to summarize research articles is an invaluable skill that will greatly assist student in their academic and professional careers. Students will be assigned to complete **5 Article Summaries**. The four highest grades for these summaries will be counted into the final grade (thus a student can miss only one). Articles are available in the “Research Summaries” Folder in Blackboard, and then click on the “Research Summary #1” folder. Students can select from any of the articles in the folder.

The main objective of this exercise is for student to become familiar with scholarly sources in the form of peer reviewed journal articles. Students will also learn how to identify the main points in the article and summarize the findings. In the summary, students must explain how the article relates to some part of the course. Does the information seem correct or do you question the information in the article? Located in the “Research Summaries” Folder on Blackboard are copies of exemplars to help students in drafting their article summaries.

Your summary should answer the following questions:

- Who, When, where, why, and how was the study conducted? Be certain to include specific data on the research.

- What was the outcome of the research? Use specific data to support your answer.
- How does the article relate to the chapters currently being studied in the course?
- The summary must be in your own words – minimize the number of direct quotes to 1 or 2.

Summary Requirements:

- 200 to 250 words in length – no more no less (refers only to the body of the summary)
- 12 font – Times New Roman – 1 inch margins – 1.5 spacing.
- Proper citation of the article using APA.
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Do not use first person – No I, we, us, you, etc.
- Please note that all rules in regards to plagiarism and proper citations must be followed
- When you have a question about citing information correctly – ASK FOR HELP!

All Research Summaries must be submitted to the instructor electronically via Safe Assign (automatic in your upload) in Blackboard Sunday evenings.

D. IMPORTANT DATES: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Discussion Forums (Further Exploration): All Initial posts due on **Wednesdays by 11:59pm**. Responses due **Sunday by 11:59pm**.

Tuesday, August 20	Access to Class – PreUnit Review
Tuesday, August 27	Class Officially Begins Pre Unit/Unit 1
Sunday, September 1	Week 1 Discussion # 1 and 2 Due Research Summary 1 Due
Wednesday, September 4	Week 2 Discussion #1: <u>Initial</u> Post Due Week 2 Discussion #2: <u>Initial</u> Post Due
Sunday, September 8	Week 2 Student Responses Due Research Summary 2 Due
Wednesday, September 11	Week 3 Discussion #1: <u>Initial</u> Post Due Week 3 Discussion #2: <u>Initial</u> Post Due
Sunday, September 15	Week 3 Student Responses Due Research Summary 3 Due
Wednesday, September 18	Week 4 Discussion #1: <u>Initial</u> Post Due Week 4 Discussion #2: <u>Initial</u> Post Due
Sunday, September 22	Week 4 Student Responses Due Research Summary 4 Due

Wednesday, September 25

Week 5 Discussion #1: Initial Post Due

Week 5 Discussion #2: Initial Post Due

Sunday, September 29

ALL Week 5 Work Due

Research Summary 5 Due

ALL FINAL WORK DUE BY SUNDAYS 11:59PM.

REMINDER: MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, QUIZZES OR EXAMS:

These all have scheduled dates. The college does not provide facilities for making up tests nor do I allow make-ups. If I see a need for a make-up (valid reason and prior permission) within a reasonable time frame a minimum of 10 points will automatically be deducted each day it is late. After 5 days you will receive a failing grade.

ANTI-PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE

SafeAssign, TurnItIn or other anti-plagiarism detection software products may be used in this course. Anti-plagiarism detection software products assist faculty and students in preventing and detecting plagiarism. Professors may utilize such software in order to check the originality of the academic work students submit in a course by comparing submitted papers to those contained in its database consisting of submitted papers and other sources. Anti-plagiarism detection software returns an "originality report" for each submission. The report is limited in scope to merely identifying passages that are not original to the author of the submitted work and which may include correctly cited quotations and information. Professors and students must carefully review such reports. No adverse action may be taken by a professor with respect to a student solely on the basis of an originality report which indicates the potential for plagiarism.

In this course you may be asked to submit your academic papers and other creative work containing personally identifiable information for originality reporting. By doing so, your work along with personally identifiable information will be retained in the product database and may be subsequently reported out containing your personally identifiable information not only to your professor, but also to professors of other universities and colleges within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) as part of subsequent originality reports.

You may decline to submit your work for originality reporting. If so, you must be provided an alternative method in which to submit your work. However, your professor, after removing your personally identifying information, may nonetheless submit limited portions of your academic work for originality reporting.

The Discussions and Research Summaries will be submitted via a Safe Assign Assignment in the Blackboard Course Shell. Please note that assignments that are not submitted via Blackboard will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Please see link: <https://mxcc.edu/catalog/academic-policies/>

COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: NEW MATERIAL RELEASED SUNDAY TO SUNDAY OF EACH WEEK.
EXCEPTION WEEK 1 TUESDAY TO SUNDAY

WEEK 1:

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Chapter 2: Crime: The Search for Understanding

Chapter 3: Measuring Crime and Victimization

WEEK 2:

Chapter 4: Criminal Law: Crimes and the Limits of the Law

Chapter 5: An Overview of the Law Enforcement: History Agencies, Personnel, and Strategies

Chapter 6: Oversight and Professionalism of Law Enforcement

WEEK 3:

Chapter 7: The Court System

Chapter 8: Courtroom Participants and the Trial

Chapter 9: Sentencing

WEEK 4:

Chapter: 10: Jails and Prisons

Chapter: 11: Probation and Parole

Chapter: 12: Corrections and the Community

WEEK 5

Chapter: 13: Juvenile Justice: An Overview:

Chapter: 14: Homeland Security

Instructor reserves right to adjust dates/chapters due to any unforeseen changes.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of this syllabus to meet the educational needs of the students in the course.

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Info: Please email to dbradanini@mxcc.commnet.edu no later than Week 1.

Name: _____

Contact info
(phone/email): _____

Best way to contact you: _____

Education (Prior CJ Courses and highest level of education):

Reason for taking this
course: _____

Have you taken an online course prior to this? _____

Personal issues that might impact your ability to succeed in this class (this info will be not be released without student permission). This includes allergies, medical conditions, learning challenges, etc:

Questions, Comments, or Concerns about this course:

Topics Covered In Introduction to Criminal Justice:

Below is a list of topics that will provide a guide for students during the semester. The students should become familiar with each of these topics. Each topic includes important concepts and vocabulary with which the students will develop competencies. Lectures will be used to present and elaborate on these topics. Readings from the text will provide the students with an introduction to these topics and a means for the student to continue their learning and as a review of the material presented in lecture.

Unit #1:

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

- Models of the CJ System
- Key Factors in the CJ System

Chapter 2: Crime: The Search for Understanding

- The Nature of Crime and Criminal Law
- Theories of Crime Causation

Chapter 3: Measuring Crime and Victimization

- *Uniform Crime Reports*
- Crime Victims Statistics

Unit #2:

Chapter 4: Criminal Law: Crimes and the Limits of the Law

- Limits of the Law
- Elements of Crimes and Classifications

Chapter 5: An Overview of the Law Enforcement: History Agencies, Personnel, and Strategies

- Emergence of Modern Policing and Police Systems in the U.S
- The Function of Police, Police Bureaucracy, Organization, and Community Policing.

Chapter 6: Oversight and Professionalism of Law Enforcement

- Police Integrity, Corruption, and Explanations
- Police Violence and Controlling Police Misconduct.

Unit #3:

Chapter 7: The Court System

- Evolution of U.S Courts: State vs. Federal Courts.
- Criminal Law versus Civil Law

Chapter 8: Courtroom Participants and the Trial

- Right to Counsel, Legal Aid, Assigned Counsel, and Public Counsel.
- Legal, Prosecutorial, and Judicial Misconduct.

Chapter 9: Sentencing

- Factors the influence sentencing
- SCOTUS and the Death Penalty.

Unit #4:

Chapter: 10: Jails and Prisons

- Types of Prisons, Organization, Administration, and Routines.
- Prison Discipline, Sex in Prison, and Inmate Social System.

Chapter: 11: Probation and Parole

- CJ Diversion, Probation, Parole, and Trends in Community-Based Corrections.

Chapter: 12: Corrections and the Community

- Role of Community Sanctions
- Reentry Programs

Unit #5

Chapter: 13: Juvenile Justice: An Overview:

- Nature of Juvenile Justice, Processing, and Critical Issues
- Juveniles and the Constitution.

Chapter: 14: Homeland Security

- Domestic Terrorism versus International Terrorism
- Balancing Civil Rights.