



**Criminal Justice: CJS 294: Contemporary Issues in CJ (CRN 1032)**  
**Middlesex Community College**  
**Criminal Justice Department**  
**Course Syllabus: Online**

**TIME:** Spring 2018 Online Accelerated 5-Week Course: April 8<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 CRN 1032

**PLACE:** Online

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Christian Moore  
**Office Hours:** Snow Hall Room #509  
 By appointment  
 Office Phone: 860-343-5809  
**E-Mail:** Please contact via the Message feature in the Blackboard shell.  
 If Blackboard is down email: Cmoore@txcc.commet.edu  
 Cell phone for emergencies only: 203-947-9461

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** ENG 101, ENG 101 E or ENG ALP with a “C-” or better AND instructor approval.

**TEXT:** Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Crime and Criminology: Twelfth Edition. Hickey. ISBN: 9781259670626

**I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

In this course students will be exposed to the contemporary issues that impact the functions, and organization of Criminal Justice agencies in the United States. Topics in the course includes issues such as; racial profiling, torture, capital punishment, gender, social stratification, social class, politics, and use of force. The focus and content of the course will change each year to reflect the changes in political and social thought and their impact on public policy.

**II. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Identify the critical arguments for and against various contemporary issues within the field of criminal justice.
2. Appreciate how research is being utilized to support or disprove various theories of crime and punishment.
3. Utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills to successfully defend their stance on a controversial topic.

**III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS- LECTURE:**

1. Course materials will be delivered via Blackboard and will enable student to complete their academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. The course is broken down into five units: Unit #1: Topics 1-4, Unit #2: Topics 1-5, Unit #3: Topics 1-4, and Unit #5: Topics 1-3. There is total of 21 topics.
2. The “lectures” for this course consist of PowerPoint presentations with an audio component. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard for students to access. It is strongly recommended that students read the PowerPoints AND listen to the audio lectures.
3. You must contact the instructor **in advance** if you have a good reason to miss an assignment, discussion board, or quiz. **Only students with a prearranged absence will be permitted to make up assignments or quizzes.**
4. Reading assignments must be completed before each class.
5. Assignments must be turned in on time. **Late work will not be accepted.** Instructor reserves the right to modify this rule only in exceptional cases.
6. Your grade is the average of points earned and total possible points based on the results of:

Reading Quizzes (10 of 12)	(30 points each)	300 points
Discussion Boards (5)	(50 points each)	250 points
Syllabus Quiz	(50 points)	050 points
Final Research Project	(400 points)	400 points
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		Total: 1000 points

## IV. IMPORTANT DATES: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### 1. Quizzes:

04/15: Reading Quiz #1: Topics 1.1 and 1.2  
04/15: Reading Quiz #2: Topics 1.3  
04/22: Reading Quiz #3: Topics 2.1 and 2.2  
04/22: Reading Quiz #4: Topics 2.3 and 2.4  
04/22: Reading Quiz #5: Topic 2.5  
04/22: Reading Quiz #6: Topics 2.6  
04/29: Reading Quiz #7: Topics 3.1  
04/29: Reading Quiz #8: Topic 3.2 and 3.3  
04/29: Reading Quiz #9: Topics 3.4  
05/06: Reading Quiz #10: Topics 4.1 and 4.2  
05/06: Reading Quiz #11: Topics 4.3  
05/06: Reading Quiz #12: Topic 4.4

### 2. Research Project:

04/22 Topics Due – 50 Points  
05/13 Annotated Bibliography Due – 150 Points  
05/13 Pamphlet/Brochure – 100 Points  
05/13 Presentation Forum – 100 points  
05/14 Presentation Response

### 3. Discussion Forum: Legal Puzzles: Initial Posts Due on **Wednesday**.

04/11 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
04/18 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
04/25 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
05/02 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due  
05/09 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

## V: QUIZZES:

- Quizzes will be online with a **20-minute** time limit.
- 12 reading quizzes will be assigned and only the top 10 grades will be counted towards the final grade.
- They are a combination of multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer. Quizzes are not generally cumulative, but may be semi-cumulative if necessary. Quiz material comes from textbook reading, lecture material, chapter PowerPoints, or any other material posted in the Blackboard Shell.
- Quizzes must be completed before the deadline of 11:59 pm on the due dates. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Please make certain to read all the chapters and complete all assignments prior to starting the exam.
- Please note that it is the student responsibility to make certain that they have a continuous internet connection for the duration of the quiz. Quizzes will not be reset if they lose internet access during the exam.
- **Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of “F” for the course and immediate referral to the Academic Dean for further disciplinary action.**

## VI: DISCUSSION FORUMS: RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

***DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in articles discussed during this class are those of the authors’ and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Middlesex Community College or Professor Moore. Assumptions and conclusions made within the articles are not reflective of the position of MxCC or Professor Moore.***

At the end of each topic discussed in class are two discussion questions. Students must utilize their critical thinking skills and apply information that they are learning in the course when answering each question.

There will be several topics to select from for each discussion form. Each topic has at least two questions in which students must respond. Students will select a set of topic questions and write a response. The topic questions are located in Blackboard within each discussion. Students must complete **all 5** forum discussions.

Each student must post his/her individual response to the topic discussion questions on the Discussion Board by 11:59 pm on Wednesdays. Late submission will not be accepted; however, students can still submit response posts for partial credit.

Students must interact with at least two other students in the course by posting questions and addressing the initial posts of **TWO** of their classmates. Response posts are due by Sunday evening, 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. Please note that the final discussion board responses are due by 11:59 pm on May 13<sup>th</sup> (the last day of class).

### **Initial Post: Discussion Question Requirements: Due Wednesdays**

- 200 to 250 words in length – no more no less (refers only to the body of your response)
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Do not use first person.
- Label your legal puzzle with a title indicating which puzzle was selected.
- Supported by Two Scholarly Sources – one will be the textbook and the second is the student's choice.
- **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.

### **Response Posts: Requirements: Due Sundays**

- Respond to at least 2 classmates' initial posts.
- Each post must be at least 125 words in length.
- Response posts must be made on different days of the week: ex. Thursday and Sunday.
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure

### **Please adhere to all Netiquette rules when responding to other students' posts.**

- Respect others' opinions and perspectives. It is perfectly acceptable to agree to disagree on a topic. It is also acceptable to disagree with the authors and/or Mr. Moore, as long as the argument is formed in a respectful manner.
- Avoid using stereotypes.
- The purpose of the course is to use peer reviewed journal articles, data, and studies to support or refute your stance on a particular topic. Use the scholarly data to support your position.
- Absolutely no name calling or derogatory language on the discussion boards.
- Students who are unable to maturely and respectfully contribute to the class discussion may be asked to leave the class.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR INITIAL & RESPONSE POSTS!**

## **VII: RESEARCH PROJECT:**

Since there are many interesting topics and articles constantly being published in law enforcement magazines, scholarly journals, and on the internet concerning the Criminal Justice System, students will complete a final research project instead of a final exam. Students will research their topic and summarize their findings. The project will consist of 4 parts: a topic, annotated bibliography, project/pamphlet, and a Power point presentation. Further instructions will be provided in class as well as posted under the "Research Project" link on Blackboard.

The main objective of this exercise is for students to become familiar with scholarly sources in the form of peer reviewed journal articles. Students will also learn how to identify the main points of the articles, summarize their findings, and present them to their peers.

## VIII: SYLLABUS QUIZ:

**Syllabus Quiz:** Students will take a brief quiz on the syllabus and introductory material during the first two days of the course. Students should review the Introduction PowerPoint which will outline the expectations for the course. Questions on the syllabus quiz will pertain to policies, procedures, and the general format of the course. The quiz is meant as a vehicle to test students' understanding of the expectations for the course.

## IX: CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADING SCALE:

<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>	<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

## X: WITHDRAWAL:

Withdrawal: Student may withdraw from the class with a grade of "W" before the 11th week of classes. After that date, students will receive a "W" or an "F." Students may withdrawal from the course only after speaking with the instructor and filing all the proper paperwork. Note: The primary responsibility for initiating a withdrawal rests with the students. Withdrawal from the course is official only when initiated in writing through the Records office, all requested signatures are obtained, and the proper papers are filed with the Records Office by the indicated deadlines.

**THE FINAL DAY THAT I WILL SIGN A WITHDRAWAL WILL BE May 4<sup>th</sup> (75% Point in Class). No withdrawals will be signed after that point.**

## XI: CLASS CANCELLATION AND OTHER MxCC POLICIES:

In the event of inclement weather either before the start of the day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc, but listing to the local radio stations and television stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at [www.mxcc.commnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu) and an announcement is made on the college's main phone number (860) 343-5800. When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option #1 from the menu for school closings. If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

**Additional Syllabus Information:** For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)

## XII: 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.

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

## IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/) or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/).



### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator  
Dr. Adrienne Maslin  
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123|

## April and May 2018: CJS 294 Due Date's

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>First Day of Class</b>			Introduction			
Intro material			Forum Discussion			
Intro PowerPoint			Initial Post Due			
			Topic 1.1	Topic 1.2	Topic 1.3	Topic 1.4
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Syllabus Quiz Due						
Reading Quiz #1			Unit #1			
Reading Quiz #2			Forum Discussion			
	Research Project	Research Project	Initial Post Due	Topic 2.3	Topic 2.4	Topic 2.5
	Topic 2.1	Topic 2.2				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Reading Quiz #3			Unit #2			
Reading Quiz #4	Research Project	Research Project	Forum Discussion	Topic 3.3	Topic 3.4	Topic 3.5
Reading Quiz #5						
Reading Quiz #6						
Topics Due	Topic 3.1	Topic 3.2	Initial Post Due			
Response posts Due						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Reading Quiz #7			Unit #3			
Reading Quiz #8	Research Project	Research Project	Forum Discussion			
Reading Quiz #9	Topic 4.1	Topic 4.2	Initial Post Due	Topic 4.3	Topic 4.4	Research Project
Response posts Due					Last day to Withdrawal	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Reading Quiz #10			Unit #4			
Reading Quiz #11	Research Project	Research Project	Forum Discussion	Research Project	Research Project	Research Project
Reading Quiz #12			Initial Post Due			
Response posts Due						
13	14					
Last Day of Class						
Final Projects Due						
Presentation Forum	Response posts Due					

**It is STRONGLY recommended that students print this calendar and post it by their computer.**

\*Lecture Schedule may be subject to change due to extenuating circumstance or to meet the educational needs of the students in the course.

## Topics Covered In Contemporary Issues in 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 #	Instructional Unit	Topics	Specific Objectives of Unit
1	Explanations of Crime	1.1: Is Crime Beneficial To Society? 1.2: Is Criminal Behavior Determined Biologically? 1.3: Does a “Warrior Gene” Make People More Prone to Violence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ List the arguments for and against crime being beneficial to society.</li> <li>▪ Explain the different theories on whether criminal behavior is determined biologically.</li> <li>▪ Outline the argument for a warrior gene.</li> </ul>
2	Contemporary Public Policy Issues in Criminology and Criminal Justice	2.1: Are Stand your Ground” laws an effective way to stop violent crimes? 2.2: Is Racial Profiling an Acceptable Law Enforcement Strategy? 2.3: Should Juvenile Courts be Abolished. 2.4: Is Exposure to Pornography Related to Increased Rates of Rape? 2.5: Does the U.S have a Right to Torture Suspected Terrorist? 2.6: Should it be a hate crime to display the confederate flag?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define racial profiling and explain if it is an acceptable law enforcement strategy.</li> <li>▪ List the arguments for and against abolishing juvenile courts.</li> <li>▪ Explain how exposure to pornography related to increased rates of rape.</li> <li>▪ Outline the pros and cons for the controversy in regards to whether the United States has the right to torture suspected terrorists.</li> <li>▪ Explain the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment implications of the confederate flag.</li> </ul>
3	Punishment	3.1: Does the use of solitary confinement or “administrative segregation” constitute cruel and unusual punishment. 3.2: Do 3-Strikes Sentencing Laws and other “Get Tough” approaches to Crime Really Work? 3.3: Should Private “For-Profit” Corporations be Allowed to Run U.S Prisons? 3.4: Is Capital Punishment Bad Public Policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explain the controversy in regards to using solitary confinement as a way to punish hardened criminals.</li> <li>▪ Outline the “three strikes” law and explain the “get tough” approach.</li> <li>▪ List the pros and cons for private “for profit” corporation running U.S prisons.</li> <li>▪ Explain the arguments for and against the use of capital punishment.</li> </ul>
4	Modern Trends in Criminology and Criminal Justice	4.1: Should the United States pass strict gun control laws? 4.2: Should Marijuana be Legalized? 4.3: Should the Police Enforce be required to wear body camera? 4.4: Should Apple be forced to assist the Government’s efforts to crack cell phones needed for criminal investigations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explain the pros and cons for stricter gun control and does the policy reduce crime in the United States.</li> <li>▪ Outline the pros and cons for police use of body cameras.</li> <li>▪ List the various rationales both for legalizing and criminalizing marijuana.</li> </ul>