Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Text

- Bohm, Robert M. and Keith N. Haley. Introduction to Criminal Justice. 4th edition. New York, NY, McGraw-Hill, 2006. ISBN: 9780072961164 [This text is available as an etextbook at purchase or students may find used, new, or rental copies at this link]

Course Description

This course examines the past, present, and future of the American criminal justice system. Topics discussed include how laws are created: the history and types of law enforcement; structure of the court system; and the changing philosophies of the American correctional system. Students also examine the role of legal precedent, the death penalty, prison life, and the juvenile justice system.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:
- Identify the main components of the criminal justice network.
- Compare and contrast the crime control model and the due process model.
- Differentiate between crimes against a person versus crimes against property, felonies, and misdemeanors.
- Interpret crime statistics (UCR, NCVS, self-report crime surveys).
- Define civil law.
- Define and differentiate the two types of criminal law: substantive and procedural law.
- Define and differentiate statutory and case law.
- Illustrate the effects precedent has on current and future criminal cases.
- Summarize the functions of the police, including types of training and community involvement.
- Describe the U.S. court structure, including determination of jurisdiction.
- Illustrate the movement of court cases by jurisdiction and the dual court system.
- Recall the types of court personnel and their related functions.
- Recall the process of sentencing and appeals.
- Review early U.S. corrections procedures and facilities; evaluate correction reform.
- Compare and contrast the various objectives of corrections.
- Illustrate the levels of correctional facilities and their respective inhabitants.
- Define and analyze the impact of recidivism.
- Examine the benefits and/or problems associated with probation.
- Describe the process of parole and reintegrating an inmate into society.
- Describe the functions and structure of county, state, and federal law enforcement.
- Assess the scope and effectiveness of homeland security in America.

Course Prerequisites

Privacy Policy | Student Handbook
There are no prerequisites to take Introduction to Criminal Justice.

**Important Terms**

In this course, different terms are used to designate tasks:
- **Proctoring:** all final exams require proctoring which can be completed conveniently from your home. A webcam is required.
- **Tutoring:** memberships include online tutoring for students to access with any content/subject related questions in the place of faculty. If your tutor is not able to answer your questions please contact a student advisor.
- **Practice Exercise:** A non-graded assignment to assist you in practicing the skills discussed in a topic.
- **Homework:** short, ungraded review which students can attempt unlimited times. Students will receive feedback, text references and the correct answers after submitting.
- **Quiz:** A short, topic-based graded online assessment.
- **Exam:** A longer, cumulative graded online assessment.

**Course Evaluation Criteria**

StraighterLine provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. See Academic Questions section in FAQ for further details on percentage scores and grading scale. A passing percentage is **70%** or higher.

If you have chosen a Partner College to award credit for this course, your final grade will be based upon that college's grading scale. Only passing scores will be considered by Partner Colleges for an award of credit.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Topic 1 Quiz</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Topic 2 Quiz</td>
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<td>Topic 3 Quiz</td>
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<td>Topic 4 Quiz</td>
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<td>Topic 5 Quiz</td>
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<td>Topic 6 Quiz</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Graded Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Topic 11 Quiz</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Topic 12 Quiz</td>
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<td>Topic 13 Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Topic 14 Quiz</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Subtopics</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Crime, Justice, and Social Control, The Criminal Justice Network, Two Models of Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Identify the main components of the criminal justice network. Compare and contrast the crime control model and the due process model. Describe the ideal system and relate it to the actual system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Criminological Theories</td>
<td>Classical and Neoclassical Crime Theories, Positivist Crime Theories, Critical Crime Theories</td>
<td>Define classical and neoclassical crime theories and describe the perceived causes of crime and the policy implications. Define positivist theories and describe the perceived causes and policy implications. Define critical crime theories and describe the perceived causes and policy implications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Law: A Social Contract</td>
<td>Types of Law, Precedent</td>
<td>Define civil law. Define and differentiate the two types of criminal law: substantive and procedural law. Define and differentiate statutory and case law. Illustrate the effects precedent has on current and future criminal cases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>History of</td>
<td>English Background</td>
<td>Recall the continental origins of the...</td>
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</table>
| American Law Enforcement | American criminal justice system.  
| ● Development of American Law Enforcement  
| ● Structure of American Law Enforcement  
| ● Three Divisions of Law Enforcement  
| ● Homeland Security  
| 6 | Working the Front Lines: The Police | ● Operational Styles  
| ● Police Functions  
| ● Community Policing  
| ● Describe the different types of police operational styles.  
| ● Summarize the functions of the police, including specific types of investigations.  
| ● Describe the types of police community involvement and their purposes.  
| 7 | Issues and Ethics | ● Politics in Criminal Justice  
| ● Discretion in Criminal Justice  
| ● Impact of Public Opinion  
| ● Recruitment and Training  
| ● Describe the politics affecting policing.  
| ● Outline and analyze the proper and improper uses of law enforcement authority.  
| ● Describe an officer’s use of discretion in any given situation.  
| ● Outline and analyze public opinion of the criminal justice system and the police.  
| ● Describe police training.  
| 8 | The Courts | ● Court Structure  
| ● Court Personnel  
| ● Describe the U.S. court structure.  
| ● Illustrate the movement of court cases by jurisdiction and the dual court system.  
| ● Interpret the determination of jurisdiction.  
| ● Recall the types of court personnel and their related functions.  
| 9 | Pretrial | ● Pretrial Motions and Hearings  
| ● Bail  
| ● Arraignment  
| ● Plea Bargaining  
| ● Describe the types of pretrial motions and hearings.  
| ● Compare and contrast the consequences of bail for the public, accused, and victim.  
| ● Summarize the purpose and effects of arraignment.  
| ● Assess the merit of plea bargaining and its effects on a trial.  

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<td>The Death Penalty</td>
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<td>Corrections</td>
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<td>Prison Life and Associated Problems</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Correction Alternatives</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Future of Criminal</td>
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- **Criminal Trial**
  - Summarize the steps of a trial process.
  - Recall the process of sentencing.
  - Assess the merit of appeals and their overall function.
  - Define the role that victims and witnesses play in the trial setting.

- **The Death Penalty**
  - Historical Context in the United States
  - Guidelines for Death Penalty Sentencing
  - Explain the history of the death penalty and its present day effects.
  - List the factors for applying the death penalty and the reforms that have occurred.

- **Corrections**
  - Historical Overview
  - Reform
  - Corrections Objectives
  - Review early U.S. corrections procedures and facilities.
  - Evaluate reform in corrections.
  - Compare and contrast the various objectives of corrections.

- **Prison Life and Associated Problems**
  - Incarceration Facilities
  - Rehabilitation
  - Illustrate the levels of correctional facilities and their respective inhabitants.
  - Classify the aspects of prison society.
  - List the problems associated with incarceration facilities and their inmates.
  - List types of rehabilitation programs.
  - Define and analyze the impact of recidivism.

- **Correction Alternatives**
  - Parole
  - Probation
  - Intermediate Sanctions
  - Community Correctional Programs
  - Reintegration
  - Recall the types of community correctional programs.
  - Examine the benefits and/or problems associated with probation.
  - Describe the process of parole.
  - Identify types of intermediate sanctions.
  - Outline the process to reintegrate an inmate into society.

- **Juvenile Justice**
  - Historical Overview
  - Juvenile Justice Process
  - Dilemmas
  - Recall the history of juvenile justice.
  - Diagram the formal process of juvenile justice.
  - Compare and contrast the proper age and actual age of responsibility.
  - Evaluate the shortcomings of juvenile justice.

- **The Future of Criminal**
  - Predictions
  - New Uses of
  - Describe possible uses of technology in law enforcement, administration,
| Justice Technologies and corrections.  
- Terrorism and International Crime  
- Identify predictions of possible changes throughout the system.  
- Evaluate current efforts to control terrorism and international crimes. |
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<tr>
<td>17 Review</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Review and final assessment.</td>
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