

CRIMINOLOGY-1-51543
Introduction to Criminology (3 units)
Fall 2023
08/07/2023 - 12/09/2023
Web-Based (Online) Asynchronous Delivery
Instructor – Jose Garza, Chief of Police
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Office Hours: Available as needed via Zoom or In-person

Required texts:

Essentials in Criminal Justice by Siegel- CENGAGE Publishing. Older editions are acceptable, and students are encouraged to either rent books or obtain used ones from the Internet.

Students must check Canvas for important information, changes, or updates to the class.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the history and philosophy of the United States Criminal Justice System. It also analyzes theories of crime and crime causation in conjunction with how the law is developed. Additionally, the course examines sentencing and incarceration processes.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, it is expected that the student will:

1. Recognize the major components of the criminal justice system.
2. Describe the differences between Federal and State Courts.
3. Identify the major theories which attempt to explain crime causation.
4. Explain the processes by which a criminal case progresses from investigation to appeal.
5. Recognize which Amendments to the United States Constitution have the greatest impact on the criminal justice system.

Learning Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, development, structure, and function of the American police, courts, and corrections systems.
2. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories used to explain crime and criminality.
4. Demonstrate the ability to follow appropriate writing styles practiced within the social sciences arena while gathering and organizing the material required for a case brief or other selected written project.
5. Show an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections, as well as the functions of prisons and jails.
6. Convey an understanding of the process of adjudication.
7. Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Reedley College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at (559) 638-3641 (**DSP&S:** <http://www.reedleycollege.edu/index.aspx?page=260>). A copy of the appropriate form, Notification of Authorized Services, needs to be submitted to the instructor – preferably within the first two weeks of the semester.

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM AND
ONLINE**

- The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
- The instructor can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
- Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

- Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating.
- At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will be subject to significant consequences, including failure of the assignment and/or course.
 - Cheating - is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner. Cheating may include but is not limited to copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, and giving or receiving copies of examinations without the instructor's permission.
 - Plagiarism - is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others and submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved.
 - See the Reedley College Catalog for further information regarding cheating and plagiarism.
- Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment or education, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or education environment. This includes any online harassment.

Disclaimer:

Due to the nature and reality of work in the criminal justice system, real-life examples, verbal and non-verbal expression, and role-playing by the instructor may be used to demonstrate to students important learning points. These examples are not meant to demean or insult any group or individual but simply to give students an understanding of the reality that exists in this profession and prepare them to deal with different types of people and situations in a professional manner.

Help:

If you are having trouble in this class due to a change in life circumstances or something you do not understand, please contact the instructor immediately. There are a number of services available to assist you at Reedley College. **Your success in this class is very important to me**, and I will work with you to assist you in succeeding in this course. However, you must remember that success in this course cannot happen without you doing everything you need to do to succeed. (See keys to successful course completion.)

Course changes:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus but will discuss these changes and their implications to the students before they are implemented. Please review this course in Canvas and check your e-mail daily, as I regularly use these methods to communicate information to students.

Course Requirements:

All assignments are required to be submitted by the date/time due. Because this an online course and you will have a full week to complete an assignment, I will not accept late work or exams. You must get your work done by the end of the week the assignment or exam is expected to be completed. **Your grade will be based on the successful completion of the following:**

1. ***Weekly Assignments:*** Most weeks, you will be given a weekly assignment which must be completed during the week. These weekly assignments will be scored. They will generally be relatively simple. **They will have a due date that may not be missed.**

I will use the completion of these weekly assignments to track your attendance for this class. Failure to complete the assignment for the week will count as an absence for the week. Weekly assignments are worth a total of 50 points.

2. ***Exams*:*** Weekly Exams, Midterm, and Final
3. ***Final:*** The final is worth 50 points.
4. ***Other Assignments:*** This will include a variety of assignments to help understand the Criminal Justice System. You will be expected to produce a variety of writings. These assignments will be added during the semester, and no late assignments will be accepted.

Grading Criteria/Scale:

Weekly Assignments	50 points
Midterm	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
<i>Research paper</i>	<i>40 points</i>

Grade Scale:

90 – 100%	= A
80 – 89%	= B
70 – 79%	= C
60 – 69%	= D
00 – 59%	= F

Attendance:

Students are expected to participate online every week. This is usually accomplished through the completion of the weekly assignment, although other or additional assignments may be given. **Students who fail to complete the check-in online assignment within the first two full days of the class (by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, August 11th, will be dropped unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees to hold the student's position in the class.** Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled. Be mindful of the drop dates listed in the Catalog and the final drop date halfway through the semester.

Keys to successful online course completion:

This class is designed to provide students with a positive learning experience and to give them valuable knowledge that will benefit them in a career in criminal justice. I see every student as exceptionally valuable and encourage them to do their best to succeed. I will be there for you to help you achieve this success.

1. Do something with your class every day. Do not allow yourself to fall behind.
2. Ask questions when you are unsure of the material. Contact me by e-mail.
3. **Carefully** read all assigned chapters.
4. Make good notes of the material you review and are presented.
5. Participate actively and thoughtfully in-class work.
6. Get assignments done on time.
7. Study and prepare for exams. Never wait until the last minute to take an exam.
8. Take advantage of any extra credit opportunities given to the class.
9. Seek my assistance when you are struggling with learning a topic for added assistance.

Additional concerns for this online course:

Because this is an online course, you must consistently consider your plan to achieve your goals for each week of class. Do not procrastinate and miss deadlines that cannot be made up.

1. **Must check in by August 9th, Wednesday at 11:59 pm, through the canvas check-in assignment, or you will be dropped from the class.**
 - a. In face-to-face classes, you must be present for the first class, or you will be dropped. The same holds true for this class. I will post a check-in assignment in Canvas. All you will have to do for the check-in assignment is simply check in through the Canvas assignment. But this must be done by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, or you will be dropped, and a student on the wait list will take your place.
2. E-mail and Canvas announcements
 - a. You are responsible for checking your e-mail and Canvas announcements daily. This is a must for an online class. I do not want you to miss something important.
3. Asynchronous Class Delivery
 - a. This class will be delivered asynchronously. This means we will not have regular Zoom class meetings. I will instead post material and assignments for you to review at a time during the week that works best for you. However, all assignments due for the week must be completed during the week, without exception. For our purposes, each class week ends on Sunday night at 11:59 PM. Please do not procrastinate and run out of time. It will affect your grade.

Student Resources:

Reedley College, in an effort to provide you the best possible education this semester, is offering a variety of services to you.

1. This link is to a video explaining tutorial resources available to you <https://youtu.be/xvRD7kSjNhs>
2. Making technology available to you, including laptops and MiFi hotspots. First come, first served <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/news/2020/technology-checkout-fall-2020.html>
3. Counseling and advising <https://www.reedleycollege.edu/student-services/counseling/index.html>

More resources are available and updated regularly on the Reedley College home page.

Semester Outline: COR = Course Outline of Record

Week #1 August 7th

Introductions – Review of Syllabus
Section #1-Overview of the Criminal Justice System (COR I)
Online check-in assignment, as announced on Canvas
Weekly Assignments 1, as announced on Canvas

Week #2 August 14th

Section #2 – Evolution of the Present System of Justice (COR II)
Weekly Assignments 2 as announced on Canvas

Week #3 August 21st

Section #3 – Explanation of Contemporary Crime(COR III)
Weekly Assignments 3 as announced on Canvas

Week #4 August 28th

Section #4- Scope of the Crime Problem (COR IV)
Weekly Assignments 4 as announced on Canvas

Week #5 September 4th

Section #5- Law Enforcement in America (COR V)
Weekly Assignments 5 as announced on Canvas

Week #6 September 11th

Section #6 – The Court System (COR VI)
Weekly Assignments 6 as announced on Canvas

Week #7 September 18th

Section #6 – Corrections (COR VII)
Weekly Assignments 7 as announced on Canvas

Week #8 September 25th

Section #7 – Special Topics/Criminal Victimology and Victim's Rights
(COR VIII & COR IX)
Weekly Assignments 8 as announced on Canvas

Week #9 October 2nd

Section #8 – Drug Abuse and the Criminal Justice System / Overview of the System
(COR X & XI)
Weekly Assignments 9 as announced on Canvas

Week #10 October 9th

Section #9 – Evolution of the Present System of Justice (COR XII)
Weekly Assignments 10 as announced on Canvas

Week #11 October 16^h

Section #9 – Explanation of Contemporary Crime (COR XIII)
Weekly Assignments 11 as announced on Canvas

Week #12 October 23rd

Weekly Assignments 11 as announced on Canvas
Section #10 – Scope of the Crime Problem (COR XIV)

Week#13 October 30st

Section #11 – Law Enforcement in America (COR XV)
Weekly Assignments 12 as announced on Canvas

Week#14 November 6th

Section #12 – The Court System & Corrections (COR XVI & COR XVII)
Weekly Assignments 13 as announced on Canvas

Week#15 November 13th

Weekly Assignments 11 as announced on Canvas
Section #13 – Correctional Professionals Misconduct and Responses (COR XVII)

Week#16 November 20st

Section #14 – Special Topics & Criminal Victimology and Victim's Rights
(COR XVIII & COR XIX)
Weekly Assignments 14 as announced on Canvas

Week#17 November 27th

Section #25 – Drug Abuse and the Criminal Justice System & Our Criminal Justice
System – Today and Tomorrow (COR XX & XXI)
Weekly Assignments 11 as announced on Canvas
The final week of classroom instruction

Week# 18 December 6th

Final must be completed by Thursday evening at 11:59 PM