

LIU-Post

## Introduction to Criminal Justice, CJ 11

### Course Outline/Syllabus

Required Text: ***Criminal Justice Today; An Introduction Text for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*** by Frank Schmalleger - 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. Prentice Hall, 2011.

#### Course Objectives:

- To introduce and acquaint students with the many aspects of the American criminal justice system on both the federal, state and local levels.
- To increase the awareness of certain conflicts that exist today between an accused persons individual rights under our laws and Constitution and the freedom of a citizen to be safe from crime in his/her home and neighborhood. This especially takes on different meaning in the post 9/11 era.
- To explore job opportunities in the criminal justice fields in order to heighten student's awareness so that they may make an intelligent career choice.

Registration for the class: The **LIU-Post Scholars** portal is now open so that you may register for Criminal Justice (CJ 11).

**To register**, please go to: **liu.edu/hss**. Fill our pertinent information as asked. At the bottom of the page, where it asks the name of your high school, a drop box appears; find **Wantagh HS**. The name of this semester class is **CJ 11**.

#### Criminal Justice Syllabus:

Date (approx.)	Subject	Related Readings/Assignments
Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1: <i>What is Criminal Justice?</i>

#### Learning objectives:

- Describe the history of crime in America
- Highlight the differences between the individual-rights and public-order perspectives
- Explain society's need for a system of order maintenance, and detail the role of law within that system
- Describe the personal sacrifices necessitated by public order

- Expound upon the relationship of criminal justice to social justice and other wider notions of equity and fairness
- Explain the structure of the criminal justice system in terms of its major components
- Describe the differences between the consensus and conflict models of the criminal justice system
- Describe the process of American criminal justice, including the stages of criminal case processing
- Explain the meaning of due process of law, and identify where due process guarantees can be found in the American legal system
- Explain how multiculturalism and diversity present special challenges to, and opportunities for, the American system of criminal justice

Week 1/2

The Crime Picture

Chapter 2: *The Crime Picture*

Learning Objectives:

- Name and compare the two major national crime data-gathering programs in the United States today
- Explain what crime statistics can tell us about crime in America
- Discuss some of the limitations inherent in statistical reports of crime
- Describe the FBI's Crime Index, and list the eight major crimes that make up the index
- Explain why crime statistics are generally expressed as rates instead of simple numerical tabulations
- Describe the two major categories of Part I offenses in the Uniform Crime Reports
- Explain the hierarchy rule, and discuss how it affects crime reporting
- Discuss the meaning of the term *clearance rate*
- Explain how the National Incident-Based Reporting System operates, and describe how it differs from the traditional Uniform Crime Reporting Program
- Identify the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter

Week 3

Crimes

Chapter 3: *The Search for Causes*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the Classical School of criminology and show how it continues to influence criminologists today
- Describe the basic features of *biological theories* of crime causation
- Describe the fundamental assumptions of *psychological explanations* for crime, and know their shortcomings
- Describe the basic features of *sociological theories* of crime causation

- Describe conflict theories of criminality, and identify the kind of crime-control policies that might be based on them

Week 4: Criminal Law Chapter 4: *Criminal Law*

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the basic purposes of policing in democratic societies
- List and describe the three major levels of public law enforcement in the United States today
- Identify the three styles of policing, and discuss differences in these approaches
- Describe community policing, and explain how it differs from traditional policing
- Describe the changed role of American police in the post-9/11 environment
- Explain police discretion, and identify factors that influence a police officer's use of discretion

Assignment #1

Week 5 Policing Chapter 5: *Policing: History and Structure*

Learning Objectives:

- Explain how law enforcement developed in America
- What impact did the Era of Prohibition played on policing in America?
- Describe the three major levels of public law enforcement in the US today
- Identify significant federal law enforcement agencies, and describe their responsibilities
- Explain the role of state law enforcement agencies play in enforcing the law, and explain the role of local law enforcement agencies play in enforcing the law
- Describe private protective services in the US today and describe what role these might play in the future

Week 6 Policing Chapter 6: *Policing: Purpose and Organization*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the police working personality, and relate it to police culture
- List and describe different types of police corruption, and discuss methods for building police integrity
- Explain the dangers of police work, and discuss what can be done to reduce those dangers
- Describe terrorism's impact on police agencies in America today

- Describe the civil liability issues associated with policing, including racially biased policing
- Describe efforts to enhance police professionalism
- Discuss ethnic and gender diversity in policing today
- Describe the nature and extent of private protective services in the United States today, and describe the role these services might play in the future
- Explain the relationship between private security and public policing in America [Trevon Martin case??]

Week 7

Policing

Chapter 7: *Policing: Legal Aspects*

Learning Objectives:

- Identify legal restraints on police action, and be able to identify instances of the abuses of police power
- Explain the role of the Bill of Rights and other democratic inspired legal restraints help protect and preserve personal freedoms in our society
- Describe the circumstances under which police officers may properly conduct searches or seize property
- Define arrest and describe how popular depictions of the arrest process may not be consistent with the legal understanding of the term
- Describe the intelligence function, including police interrogations, and explain the role of the *Miranda vs. Arizona* ruling

Week 8

Policing

Chapter 8: *Policing: Issues and Challenges*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the police working personality
- List and describe the various forms of police corruption
- Explain the dangers of police work and discuss what can be done to reduce those dangers
- Explain the situations where police officers are more likely to use force, and provide guidelines for determining when too much force is being used
- Describe racial profiling and biased policing and explain why it has become a significant issue today
- Describe the civil liability issues associated with policing, and identify common sources of civil suits against the police

Assignment #2

Week 9

The Courts

Chapter 9: *The Courts; Structure & Participants*

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and explain the roles of the various professional members of the courtroom work group
- Discuss indigent defense, and know what forms it takes in the United States
- Identify and explain the roles of the various nonprofessional courtroom participants
- Explain how professional and nonprofessional courtroom participants work together to bring most criminal trials to a successful close
- Explain the roles of expert and lay witnesses in a criminal trial, and describe how their testimony might differ
- Describe the various stages in a criminal trial
- Explain the hearsay rule, and identify recognized exceptions to it
- Explain the possible benefits of a professional jury system
- Describe methods that have been suggested for improving the adjudication process

Week 10

The Courts

Chapter 10: *Pretrial Activities and Trial*

Learning Objectives:

- List and explain the steps typically taken during pretrial activities
- Describe the nature and the purpose of a criminal trial
- Identify the various stages of a criminal trial
- Describe suggestions that have been made for improving the adjudication process

Week 11

The Courts

Chapter 11: *Sentencing*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the five goals of contemporary criminal sentencing
- Illustrate the difference between indeterminate and structured sentencing
- Describe the different types of structured sentencing models in use today
- Explain the importance of federal sentencing guidelines
- Describe truth in sentencing
- Define mandatory sentencing, and explain how it came about
- Describe the nature and importance of the presentence investigation report
- Describe the history of victims' rights and services, and discuss the growing role of the victim in criminal justice proceedings today
- List the four traditional sentencing options
- Outline the arguments for and against capital punishment

Week 12:

The Courts

Chapter 12: *Probation, Parole & Corrections*

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the nature and the purpose of probation and parole
- Explain the difference between probation and parole, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Describe in detail the legal environment surrounding the use of probation and parole, including the names of significant court cases
- Explain the nature of the job of probation and parole officers
- List the advantages of intermediate sanctions over more traditional forms of sentencing
- Describe the likely future of probation and parole

Assignment #3

Week 13:

Prisons

Chapter 13: *Prisons & Jails*

Learning Objectives:

- What is the purpose of prisons in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- Describe the prison population today?
- Give a daily account of a typical day in the life inside of a jail/prison in America
- Look at Fig.13-1, page 454, and explain the various stages of prison development in the US.
- What is the “just deserts” model and how its led to overcrowding?
- Should prisoners have to pay for their stay while in prison? Explain your response
- Look at figure 11-1, what is it saying about the prison population in the US? Why the spike in rates beginning in mid 1980’s?
- How much does it cost to keep an individual incarcerated per year?
- What is recidivism?
- How many security-level prisons are there? How do they differ?
- Look at fig. 11-6, explain some of the basic causes of death to prisoners
- Why are some prison systems overcrowded?
- What are some of the arguments for and against privatization of prisons?

Week 14

Prisons

Chapter 14: *Prison Life*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the realities of prison life and subculture from the inmate's point of view
- Explain the concept of prisonization
- Illustrate the significant differences between men's prisons and women's prisons
- Describe the realities of prison life from the correctional officer's point of view
- Describe the causes of riots, and list the stages through which prison riots progress
- Explain the nature of the hands-off doctrine, and discuss the status of that doctrine today
- Discuss the legal aspects of prisoners' rights, and explain the consequences of precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court cases in the area of prisoners' rights
- Explain the balancing test established by the U.S. Supreme Court as it relates to prisoners' rights
- Explain state-created rights within the context of corrections
- Describe the major problems and issues that prisons face today

Week 15

Prisons

Chapter 15: *Juvenile Justice*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the history and evolution of the juvenile justice system in the Western world
- Name the important US Supreme Court decisions relating to juvenile justice, and describe their impact on the handling of juveniles by the system
- Explain the similarities and the differences between the juvenile and adult systems of justice

Assignment #4

Week 16

Drugs

Chapter 16: *Drugs & Crime*

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the nature of illegal drugs and the role that society plays in deciding what is legal and what is not
- Discuss the history of drug abuse and antidrug legislation in America
- Explain the link between illegal drugs and other social problems, including different forms of criminal activity

Week 17

Terrorism

Chapter 17: *Terrorism & Multinational Justice*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the principles that form the basis of Islamic law
- Identify important criminal justice organizations, and explain their role in fighting international crime
- Distinguish between human trafficking and human smuggling and describe the extent of both problems today

Week 18

Final Assignment/Exam

Film Assignment Due

All students are expected to attend class, on time, on a regular basis. Wantagh HS and LIU-Post have attendance policies in place; read up on them please. Excessive absences/lateness may lead to failure or removal from the class as per Wantagh/LIU Post policy.

You are responsible for the readings and/or assignments that are assigned. Tests, exams, papers, etc. are to be handed/taken in/on time, typed, PROPER English format and meet the standards than LIU-Post would render; THIS IS A COLLEGE LEVEL COURSE, THUS IT IS EXPECTED THAT COLLEGE LEVEL WORK/ASSIGNMENTS TO BE HANDED IN.