RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Syllabus

Introduction to Criminal Justice – Spring 2011  
Tuesday & Friday – 9:50 – 11:10 a.m.  
Voorhees Rm. 105

Dr. John M. Paitakes, Professor
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Tel: (973) 275-5886
Office Hours: Prior to and after class

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction, overview, and survey of the American criminal justice system and its subsystems - police, courts, juvenile justice, corrections, and victim/witness assistance. We will examine the role, development, policies and management of the different public agencies and organizations that constitute the criminal justice system. Emphasis is also placed on the study of current and future critical issues such as due process, discretion in the administration of justice, community policing, police ethics, domestic violence intervention, probation and parole effectiveness and correctional issues.

In addition, differences between the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems will be emphasized. Current issues and changes in the criminal justice arena will be introduced. In addition, various career positions within the criminal justice sector will be introduced. Crime causation and prevention will also be topics of discussion. Critical thinking by students is strongly encouraged as is class participation.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, 8th ed. by Frank Schmalleger, Prentice Hall, 2008. There may be additional handouts and readings distributed by the Professor.

EXAMS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be two exams. Each exam is worth 45% of your grade. The format will be multiple choices and short answer. Exam questions will be based on the reading assignments in the text, class handouts, lectures and information from guest speakers. The end term exam will not be cumulative. Attendance, participation and possible surprise quizzes will count for 10% of the grade. There generally are no make-up exams.

Attendance will be taken periodically. Your chances of receiving a respectable grade decreases substantially and proportionally to the number of classes you miss.
It is very important to keep up with the chapter readings. Class lectures, in addition to discussing certain major points in the assigned chapters, will involve different but related material. I may bring in data from other sources that you will be responsible for comprehending. Class and student participation and discussion are very important and encouraged. All points of view are welcome. One of the goals of the class is to acquaint you with the relationship that exists between the community and the criminal justice system and to prepare you to make informed and reasonable arguments and opinions about the subject matter. I strongly urge each of you to contribute to class discussions by completing the reading assignments on time and by voicing your opinions.

**GRADING:**

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\begin{array}{ll}
\text{A} &= 90 \text{ & above} \\
\text{B+} &= 86 - 89 \\
\text{B} &= 80 - 85 \\
\text{C+} &= 76 - 79 \\
\text{C} &= 70 - 75 \\
\text{D} &= 60 - 69 \\
\text{F} &= 59 \text{ & below}
\end{array}
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There will not be any extra credit component to the grading in class.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:**

Jan. 18 & 21:    Course orientation and requirements reviewed; discussion of current issues and trends; career opportunities.
                Chapter 1 – *What is Criminal Justice?*

Jan. 25 & 28:    Chapter 2 – *The Crime Picture*
                Chapter 3 – *Criminal Law*

Feb. 1 & 4:      Chapter 4 – *Policing: Purpose and Organization*

Feb. 8 & 11:     Chapter 5 – *Policing: Legal Aspects*

Feb. 15 & 18:    Chapter 6 – *Policing: Issues & Challenges*

Feb. 22 & 25:    Chapter 7 – *The Courts*

Mar. 1:          Exam #1

Mar. 8 & 11:     Chapter 8 – *The Courtroom Workgroup and the Criminal Trial*

Mar. 15:         Spring Recess

Mar. 22 & 25:    Chapter 9 – *Sentencing*

Mar. 29 & Apr. 1: Chapter 10 – *Probation, Parole and Community Corrections*

Apr. 5 & 8:      Mock Parole Hearing
                Chapter 11 – *Prisons and Jails*
Apr. 12 & 15: Chapter 12 – *Prison Life*

Apr. 19 & 22: Criminal Characteristics and Case Scenarios
Chapter 13 – *Juvenile Justice System*

Apr. 26 & 29: Chapter 13 – *Juvenile Justice System (Con’t)*

**N.B. (1):** *Final exam date to be announced (will not be cumulative).*

**N.B. (2):** This is a tentative outline; topic dates may be altered dependent on availability of guest speakers, or current information. Reaction papers will be due the class immediately following a guest speaker’s presentation. The format for a reaction paper to a guest speaker is as follows: Summary of major points covered by the speaker; your reaction (positive or otherwise) to the speaker and his/her topic. This should be a 2-page single spaced stapled report submitted the class immediately following the speakers presentation. This will be part of your class participation and is not graded per se. A ✓ is an acceptable and a ☐ is an unacceptable paper. This must be submitted in hardcopy; e-mailed reports are not acceptable.

**N.B. (3):** Network – It is strongly recommended that you network with another student or students in the class and exchange e-mails and/or telephone numbers. In the event you cannot attend a class, it is advisable to contact another student to borrow their notes and become aware of any other pertinent information you may have missed. This can also be helpful if you want to organize a study group.