



Introduction to Criminal Justice
Fall 2012
01:202:201:02
T, F 8:40-10:00 am
Livingston Classroom Building Rm. 102

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Office Hours: Prior to or after class and by appointment

Program in Criminal Justice
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Learning Goals:
A Statement of Principles

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major. These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors



1. **Competence:**

- a.) **Theory.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
- b.) **Institutions.** Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
- c.) **Research Methods.** Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

2. **Critical Thinking:** Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.

3. **Scholarship:** Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

Course Specific Learning Goals

The following are the course specific learning goals for Intro to Criminal Justice, adapted from the Permanent Core Curriculum Learning Goals. Upon completion of this course students will be expected to:

- j. Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history.
- n. Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.

Assessment

The course specific learning goals will be assessed at one point during the semester where students will be required to answer questions that articulate with each of the course specific learning goals. Learning goals will be assessed and during the final examination.

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.

REQUIRED TEXT

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, 9th ed. By Frank Schmalleger, Prentice Hall, 2011 ISBN 10:0-13-706983-9. There may be additional handouts and readings distributed by the Professor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students are responsible for:

- 1) An increased knowledge of the criminal justice system
- 2) An increased understanding of the current initiatives in the criminal justice system, and the additional topics that are covered separate from the book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) *Attendance & Participation*

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An e-mail is automatically sent to me. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class. Students are encouraged to take an active part in all classroom discussion and will be called on regularly. Please remember that participation will be graded accordingly.

2) *Disability Policy & Accommodations*

- Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

3) *Reading Material*

Readings are assigned for every class.

4) *Newspaper Article Review*

A part of your grade will be a write-up of a newspaper article. Hard copy newspaper articles can be searched, as well as outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post, which would allow you to search by key word. No Wikipedia. The article should be attached to a 1 page type-written write-up. Students should outline the problem or topic in the article and depending on the content; they should offer suggestions, opinions or remedies- DO NOT SIMPLY REGURGITATE THE ARTICLE.

5) *Unannounced Quizzes*

There will be several unannounced quizzes on covered topics in assigned reading assignments. There are no make up dates for any quiz.

Oct. 16 & 19 Midterm
Newspaper articles

Oct. 23 & 26 Chapter 8- The Courtroom Workgroup and the Criminal Trial

Oct 30 & Nov 2 Chapter 9- Sentencing

Nov. 6 & 9 Chapter 10- Probation, Parole

Nov. 13 & 15 Chapter 11- Prisons and Jails

Nov. 21 (**Wednesday**) Case Scenarios **No Class Fri (Thanksgiving Recess)**

Nov. 27 & 30 Chapter 12- Prison Life

Dec. 4 & 7 Chapter 13- Juvenile Justice

Dec. 11 Review

Dec. 18 Final Exam 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

For any changes that may unexpectedly occur