

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the American criminal justice system to assess whether or not it effectively reduces crime and achieves justice. We will evaluate its proficiency as an instrument of social control, as well as the ideals and objectives of law enforcement, in order to develop more effective strategies in the planning and development of crime policy.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** **Justice Blind? Ideals and Realities of American Criminal Justice**. Matthew B. Robinson. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, N.J.

**EVALUATION PLAN:** Final grades will be assigned based upon successful completion of all course requirements, the quality of work and the timeliness of completed assignments. Specifically, your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Mid-Term Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%
Attendance, Participation & Assignments	20%

The final grade will be assigned based upon the following scale:

A	=	90-100	C	=	70-74.9
B+	=	85-89.9	D	=	60-69.9
B	=	80-84.9	F	=	below 60
C+	=	75-79.9			

**PREPARATION:** The assigned readings are the basis of discussion for each class session. Students are expected to have read the assigned material **before** class.

**PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in all class discussions, including the discussions led by fellow students. Solid preparation and participation will result in an improved Grade.

**MAKE-UP EXAM:** The administration of make-up exams will be contingent upon a **legitimate** excuse (i.e., illness, family death, unexpected emergency situation), presented **prior** to the test period in most cases. The make-up will be given IMMEDIATELY upon termination of the condition that caused the student to miss the original exam. Failure to take the make-up as scheduled will result in a grade of zero. Note: there is no RIGHT to take a make-up; it is a PRIVILEGE permitted only under extenuating circumstances **at the discretion of the professor**.

**ATTENDANCE:** Given the size of this class, regular attendance will not be taken. However, consistent attendance (or absence) will be noted to assist with borderline grades. Nevertheless, the exams are composed of information from class lectures, reading material and oral presentations. As a result, it is nearly impossible to pass the class without a consistent attendance pattern.

**LATENESS:** It is essential that you arrive on time for the beginning of the class. The instructor will exclude persistent latecomers. On the day of a test, any late arrivals will result in a ½ letter grade deduction from the test score.

**CHEATING:** You are expected to do your work. Sanctions for cheating and plagiarism will be levied in accordance with the **University Policy on Academic Integrity**. You should familiarize yourself with this policy, which can be accessed at [www.Rutgers.edu/catalog/nb-ug.html](http://www.Rutgers.edu/catalog/nb-ug.html). Suspected cases of policy violations will be reported to the Department Chair and to the appropriate Dean.

**LATE SUBMISSIONS:** It is essential that all requirements be completed on the date specified by the Professor. Failure to follow the schedule will result in a deduction of a letter grade from the assignment and additional letter grades deducted from the assignment and letter grades deducted for each subsequent 24 hour period.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for this class are encouraged to meet with me or the appropriate disability service provider on campus as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students must be registered with the appropriate disability service provider on campus and must follow the University procedure for self-disclosure. Students will not be afforded any special accommodations for academic work completed prior to disclosure of the disability and completion of the registration process with the appropriate disability service provider on campus.

**COURSE  
OUTLINE:**

- I. What is the Criminal Justice System? Ideals
- II. The Role of Politics and Ideology in Criminal Justice: Realities
- III. The Law: Providing Equal Protection or Creating Bias?
- IV. Crime: Which is Worse, Crime on the Streets or Crime in the Suites?
- V. Media Portrayals of Crime and Criminal Justice
- VI. Law Enforcement: To Serve and Protect?
- VII. Right to Trial? Injustice in Pretrial and Trial Procedures
- VIII. Punishment: Does it Work and is it Fair?
- IX. Incarceration: Lock 'Em Up and Forget About 'Em
- X. The Ultimate Sanction: Death as Justice?
- XI. The "War on Drugs": Focusing on the Wrong Drugs?
- XII. The War on Crime as a Threat to Equality: Innocent Bias Against the Poor, People of Color, and Women
- XIII. Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations for the Future