

Introduction to Criminal Justice
01:202:201:04
Monday and Wednesday
6:40 PM to 8:00 PM
Tillett Hall, room 226
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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.

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 Goals: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the functions of the various components of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts and corrections) and explain the interrelationship of these components;
2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of criminal law and the rights of individual citizens;
3. Describe the role of the criminal justice professional in the community and the organization and administration of the various entities in the criminal justice system;
4. Explain the social, political, economic, and cultural factors within society that influence the development of criminological theory, laws and criminal justice practices and their application to criminal behaviors and sanctions;
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills within the context of evaluating the complexity of criminal justice issues; and
6. Communicate effectively with accurate 'criminal justice' terminology in written and/or oral form.

Course Description:

This introductory course on the principles and problems of the criminal justice system analyzes the role of the criminal justice officer in the community, the rights of the individual citizen, and the laws under which we live. The course examines in depth the organization and administration of the courts, corrections, and law enforcement agencies. The course includes analysis of the opportunities and obligations of the criminal justice officials, and those in law enforcement, correctional services, and courts.

Required Text

Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, 11th ed. By Frank Schmalleger, Prentice Hall ISBN 978-0-13-359131-06

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 Email or text the instructor prior to class to indicate the date and reason for your absence. 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) Assignments may be given during the course

COURSE GRADING

The following factors will be taken into consideration in the determination of the student's final grade:

Midterm 40%, Final 40%, Assignments 10%, and Attendance/Class participation 10%

Grading Scale

90-100% **A**

87-89% **B+**

80-86% **B**

77-79% **C+**

70-76% **C**

60-69% **D**

00-59% **F**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Rutgers University has a well defined academic integrity policy, which will strictly enforced in this class. All students in this class should review and be familiar with the policy of the university, which can be found at

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Reading Material for Semester

Chapter 1: What Is The Criminal Justice?

Chapter 2: The Crime Picture

Chapter 3: Criminal Law

Chapter 4: Policing: Purpose & Organization

Chapter 5: Policing: Legal Aspects

Chapter 6: Policing: Issues & Challenges

Chapter 7: The Courts

Chapter 8: The Courtroom Work Group & the Criminal Trial Chapter 9: Sentencing

Chapter 10: Probation, Parole, & Community Corrections Chapter 11: Prisons & Jails

Chapter 12: Prison Life

Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice

**Every attempt will be made to cover the above-noted material and schedule within the time constraints of this course. This schedule may vary in order to allow sufficient time for class discussion and complexity of the material.*

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ rhscaps.rutgers.edu/ CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer

Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.