INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Overview of the American criminal justice process with emphasis upon its constitutional foundations (police, courts, and corrections), its constitutional limits, ethical issues, and the right of the individual from arrest through sentencing to release.

COURSE OVERVIEW:
In this course students will become acquainted with the criminal justice system in the United States. They will examine how the United States has dealt with the problem of criminal behavior over time. The impact of immigration and varying ethnic concerns about the definition of crime and criminality will be introduced to students. The course will use a traditional textbook which can is supplemented with e-mails, web-based materials, and CD-ROM abstracts which contain updated information on criminal justice issues.

COURSE GOALS:
The goals of the course are to:
! Increase the students’ knowledge and end mythical beliefs concerning the American Criminal Justice System and its development.
! Increase the students’ understanding of how crime affects the victim, offender, community, and society as a whole.
! The impact of immigration and varying ethnic concerns about criminality will be discussed.
! The War on Drugs and the need to deal with Terrorism in the world will be introduced to students.
! Citizen accountability towards participation in the criminal justice system and war on crime.
! This course contributes to general education by increasing the students’ ability to:
  Goal 1: Write and speak effectively
  Goal 2: Acquire, process, and present quantitative and qualitative information using the most appropriate technologies including computers
  Goal 3: Reason critically, both individually and collaboratively, draw sound conclusion from information, ideas, and interpretations gathered from various sources and disciplines and apply those conclusion to one’s live and society
  Goal 10: Understand the development of cultures and organizations of human societies throughout the world and their changing interrelationship with Western Society
  Goal 11: Evaluate the impact of theories, events, and institutions of the social, economic, legal and political aspects of society
  Goal 12: Comprehend and appreciate the development of diversity in America in all its forms

LEARNING OUTCOMES
The learning outcomes listed below are for this course and are universal in the state:
1. Describe the contributions of each of the components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections) to the administration of the justice system (including the juvenile justice system).
2. Explain the origin and evolution to the criminal justice system and how it has led to its current form.
3. Identify the major theories of criminal behavior and victimization.
4. Outline the process of a case as it progresses through the criminal justice system, commencing with the offense and culminating with the release from a disposition.
5. Trace the path of both the offender and the victim through the criminal justice system.
6. Define restorative justice and identify its role in serving the needs of participants in the criminal justice process.
7. Identify the mission, roles and strategies of policing.
8. Compare and contrast the differences between community-based and institutional corrections.
9. Discuss the competing rationales and justifications for sanctions.
10. Recognize and explain the impact of diversity in the system and on all those involved in the system.
11. Identify and discuss ethical issues in criminal justice.
12. Identify the different types of crime and their extent in society.
13. Identify emerging trends and technologies in the criminal justice system.
14. Explore the many different career paths in criminal justice.
15. Understand the basic concepts related to the elements of criminal law and procedure.
16. Identify and discuss various types of courts and court systems (e.g. juvenile, civil, etc.)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance will be taken and is required. After 3 un-excused absences, your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

3 EXAMS

(100 points each)
The exams will consist of both objective questions and short essay questions. The exams will cover lecture materials, reading materials (both text books), films, presentations, and all other materials presented in class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN AS LONG AS THE STUDENT PROVIDES DOCUMENTED MATERIAL/PROOF FOR THE FOLLOWING EXCUSES: death in immediate family, hospitalization of self or immediate family member, personal illness.

3 SUMMARY PAPERS

(50 points each)

STEP 1 (Obtain an Article):
You must read an article in the local paper which deals with the criminal justice system. The first paper should focus on a criminal court case. The second paper should deal with the police (policies, arrests, hires, training, etc.). The third paper should focus on the correctional system; again, this paper may focus on policies, development of new facilities, hires, training, etc. If you are not able to find an article on a local issue, you may then look on-line at news articles in the state of Ohio.
STEP 2 (Write a One-Half Page Summary):
- Each paper must be properly cited and referenced according to Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (APA).
- papers must be typed, double-spaced
- the margins must be 1" top/bottom/left/right
- you must use a standard font (Courier/Times New Roman size 12 pt.) DO NOT use a “larger” font in order to take up more space
- The required length of the summary paper is ½ page.
- The assignment must be turned into the instructor in person unless other arrangements are made with the professor beforehand, no later than the beginning of class on the due date
- REMEMBER, THIS IS A SUMMARY PAPER, NOT AN OPINION PAPER. MAKE SURE YOU WRITE IT IN THE 3RD PERSON

READING ASSIGNMENTS and DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WEEK 1  Chapter 1  What is Criminal Justice?
- Crime in the Last Half Century
- American Criminal Justice: The System
- American Criminal Justice: The Process
- Due Process and Individual Rights
- Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Multiculturalism and Diversity in Criminal Justice

WEEK 2  Chapter 2  Understanding Crime and Victimization
- Theories of Crime Causation: Why They Do It
- Choice Theory
- Biological Theories
- Psychological Theories
- Sociological Theories
- Social Structure Theories
- Social Process Theories
- Control Theories
- Conflict Theory
- Integrated Theories
- Theories of Female Criminality
- Theories of Victimization

Week 3  Chapter 3  The Crime Picture
- The Uniform Crime Reports
- The National Crime Victimization Survey
- Comparisons of the UCR and NCVS
- Special Categories of Crime

Week 4  Chapter 4  Criminal Law
- The Nature and Purpose of Law
- The Rule of Law
Week 5 Chapter 5 Police Organization and Management
Development of Professional Policing in the United States
Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
State-Level Agencies
Local Agencies
Police Administration
Police Departments as Learning Organizations
Discretion and the Individual Officer

Week 6 Chapter 6 Policing: Legal Aspects
The Abuse of Police Power
Individual Rights
Search and Seizure
Arrest
The Intelligence Function

Week 7 Chapter 7 Issues in Policing
Police Personality and Culture
Corruption and Integrity
The Dangers of Police Work
Police Civil Liability
Racial Profiling
Police Use of Force
Professionalism and Ethics
Private Protective Services

Week 8 Chapter 8 The Courts
American Court History
Pretrial Activities

Week 9 Chapter 9 The Courtroom Work Group and the Criminal Trial
The Courtroom Work Group: Professional Courtroom Actors
Outsiders: Nonprofessional Courtroom Participants
The Criminal Trial
Improving the Adjudication Process

Week 10 Chapter 10 Sentencing
The Philosophy and Goals of Criminal Sentencing
Indeterminate Sentencing
Structured Sentencing
Truth in Sentencing
Federal Sentencing Guidelines
Innovations in Sentencing

Types of Law
General Categories of Crime
General Features of Crime
Elements of Specific Criminal Offense
Types of Defenses to a Criminal Charge
The Sentencing Environment
The Victim - Forgotten No Longer
Traditional Sentencing Options

Week 11  Chapter 11  Corrections
What is Probation?
What is Parole?
Probation and Parole: The Pluses and Minuses
The Legal Environment
The Federal Probation System
The Job of Probation and Parole Officers
Intermediate Sanctions
The Future of Probation and Parole

Week 12  Chapter 12  Prisons and Jails
Prisons Today
Jails
Private Prisons

Week 13  Chapter 13  Prison Life
The Male Inmate’s World
The Female Inmate’s World
The Staff World
Prison Riots
Prisoner’s Rights
Issues Facing Prisons Today

WEEK 14  Chapter 14  Returning to Society
History of Prison Release
Early Release Today
Time Off for Good Behavior: “Good Time”
Bad Time
Parole
Parole Board
Parole Hearings
Parole Guidelines
Suing the Parole Board
Parole Rules
Parole Supervision
Returning to Prison: The Effectiveness of Parole
Legal Issues in Parole Revocation
Making It on the Outside
Losing Rights

WEEK 15  Chapter 15  Juvenile Justice
History of the Juvenile Justice System
Juvenile Court Jurisdiction
Police Processing of the Juvenile Offender
The Pretrial Stage of Juvenile Justice
The Waiver of Jurisdiction
The Juvenile Trial
Disposition and Treatment
Institutionalization
Postdisposition: The Rights to Treatment
History of Capital Punishment and Juveniles

GRADING:
Grades will be computed based on a point system. There are 450 points possible in this course.

A = 450 - 414 (92% - 100%)
B = 413 - 360 (80% - 89%)
C = 359 - 315 (70% - 89%)
D = 314 - 270 (60% - 69%)

Academic Honesty is expected!

File: Into to criminal justice – syllabus redacted 3.17.15