INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE: COURSE SYLLABUS

CRM JST 110, Online

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Office Hours: By appointment only

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(Leave a message with your full name, spell your last name, and provide your phone number)

** Important note: All emails and calls will be returned approximately 24 hours after they are received, so plan accordingly **
Course Text (REQUIRED):


Syllabus:

Students are required to read, be familiar with, and understand this syllabus. Students are bound by this syllabus, and are expected to follow its’ directions and requirements. If a student has any questions regarding the syllabus, please contact the instructor by email.

The link, http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf, maintained by the Secretary of the University, contains university policies that affect the instructor and students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the present structure, philosophy, procedures, and future prospects of police, courts, corrections, and of the penal system in American society.

Course Goals:

To learn, explore, and comprehend through a variety of reading, discussion, and interactive online activities. To successfully complete this course, a student will possess and display a basic understanding of the structures and procedures of the American criminal justice system, including the police, courts, and corrections components. Additionally, a student will possess and display a basic understanding of current problems, debates, and the future of the criminal justice system.

Attendance:

Attendance in and participation with the online discussions and response posts are crucial to the successful completion of this course and are required. Students are required to participate in the online discussions and response posts in accordance with the assignment. Module assignments (including discussions and response posts) will be accessible for approximately 9 days (with varying due dates within the 9 day span), so there should be little to no reasonable excuse for a student to not be able to participate. In extremely rare cases, exceptions may be made if an emergency medical issue arises and the student provides an official doctor’s note (on physician/hospital letterhead).

Communication:

Formal:

Most formal course communication should be done via email (i.e. questions about scheduling, assignment structure, missing an assignment, or about any course requirements). Email exchanges are stored by the instructor as official documentation of instructions (this way there is no question or
dispute about what was stated). If a student requests something related to the course in person or via phone, the instructor will also require that the student send an email stating the request (again, to create official documentation).

Informal:

If you have a question, just ask! Questions that are related, at least in part, to current course material can be asked anytime during class via posting in the open questions forum. If you have a question that is not related to the course material or one that you do not wish to share with the class, please approach the instructor via email, phone, or schedule an office appointment.

** Instructor is not an attorney and will not provide students with legal advice of any kind. All statements made by the instructor regarding criminal justice related issues are based on research, academic readings, law enforcement training and experience, and personal observations.

Students with Disabilities or Needing Accessibility Assistance:

Please notify the instructor immediately, with your Student Accessibility Center (SAC) form, to discuss any special accommodations that you may need. Please provide a copy of your Verified Individual Services and Accommodations (VISA) form to the instructor to indicate the accommodations needed. Students needing assistance are encouraged to speak with the instructor as soon as possible for the purpose of accommodations concerning the course. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements with the instructor and with SAC. Accommodations should be made well in advance of all assignments and/or quizzes. Failure to make preparations sufficiently early may complicate your ability to successfully receive a grade for any course component.

D2L:

The entire course is operated through D2L, accessible at [www.d2l.uwm.edu](http://www.d2l.uwm.edu).

For help or technical assistance with D2L:

Self help via D2L website

- [https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/groups/sa/ltc/D2L/Documentation/10%20Learner%20Help/10%20Learner%20Help/index.htm](https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/groups/sa/ltc/D2L/Documentation/10%20Learner%20Help/10%20Learner%20Help/index.htm)

- Then click > Learning Environment

- Then select the topic related to the issue you are having

UWM Help Desk

- [http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/index.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/index.cfm)
Quizzes:

Online quizzes will be issued at the end of each of the 8 modules. The quizzes will be 15 questions (worth 1 point per question, with a total of 15 points possible per quiz) and will be timed. Quizzes are timed in order to reduce the amount that a student can spend researching answers. Only one attempt will be allowed per quiz. Further quiz instructions will be stated at the beginning of each quiz. Additionally, the lowest (1) quiz grade during the course will be dropped and not counted toward a student’s final grade.

Discussions:

Discussions and responses are a critical component of course learning and are required (as previously stated). Please read the Discussion Response Guidelines in the Introduction Module for a detailed explanation of discussion expectations and requirements. Grade points are assessed based on discussion and response posts. For an explanation of the discussion and response post grading process, please refer to the discussion rubric attached to the Introduction Module.

Additionally, initial discussion posts and response posts have separate due dates within the time that a module is open. PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE DUE DATES LISTED IN EACH DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT. For example, when a module is open from 12:00AM on Saturday 01/04/14 until 11:59PM on Sunday 01/12/14, the INITIAL DISCUSSION POST will be due by 11:59PM on Friday 01/10/14 and the RESPONSE POST will be due by 11:59PM on Sunday 01/12/14. THIS STRUCTURE WILL BE UTILIZED IN EVERY MODULE UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE IN THE DISCUSSION INSTRUCTIONS.

Grading:

Grading will follow the UW-Milwaukee standard structure. Grading will NOT be done on a curved scale. Points will be assessed on quizzes, discussion posts, response posts, and all other course assignments. The total number of points possible will be stated (below) for each graded item. Percentage grades shall compute to letter grades as follows (i.e. total points accumulated divided by total possible points):

There are 207 points possible in this course: 4 points from the student introduction post; 105 total points from seven quizzes; 12 total points from the three “muddiest points” discussion; 54 total points from nine initial discussion posts; 32 total points from eight response posts.

93% thru 100% = A

90% thru 92.99999% = A-

87% thru 89.99999% = B+
A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the School.

**Extra Credit:**

There is an “extra credit“ opportunity included in this class for a student wishing to attempt to raise their grade. The opportunity is further explained in the module titled (in part) “extra credit“. Offering “extra credit“ is at the sole discretion of the instructor and is NOT guaranteed. Additionally, the extra credit opportunity can only be completed once (i.e. no additional points will be awarded if a student completes the extra credit opportunity in multiple locations or criminal justice components). The extra credit assignment is due by 11:59PM on the date the course ends.

**Academic Misconduct:**

The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity, and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic work. Anyone deemed by the instructor to be cheating shall receive a failing grade for the course, and shall be referred to the University to receive appropriate discipline. Any and all quizzes, assignments, or other course work shall be completed and submitted solely by the student who will receive credit for the quiz, assignment, or other course work. Any violation of this policy will be deemed cheating by the student responsible for the quiz, assignment, or other course work, and the student who submitted or aided in the quiz, assignment, or other course work. The instructor will be the sole decision maker as to cheating in the course and the issuance of a failing course grade. University authorities will be the decision makers regarding University sanctioned discipline. Student academic
misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 and can be found at: [http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm).

**Class Participation:**

Online class participation is crucial for learning, discussion, exploration of multiple viewpoints, and an interesting course. All viewpoints will be respected, subject to intelligent and respectful discussion or disagreement. You are expected to have read and be ready to discuss the assigned material for each online discussion.

**Syllabus Changes:**

The instructor maintains the goal that the syllabus shall not be changed during the semester. However, due to circumstances unforeseen, anything and everything in the syllabus is subject to change at any time by the instructor. Syllabus changes that have advanced notice shall be announced in the online course news section (opening page) and via UWM email.

**Religious Observances:**

Students will be allowed to complete course assignments that are missed due to a religious observance. Students are requested to notify the instructor before any religious observance absence in order to make proper arrangements as may be needed for course assignments.

**Sexual Harassment:**

Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the instructor or the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well being of students, faculty, staff, and the University. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community which creates an unacceptable working and learning environment.

**Active Military Duty/Call-Up:**

Accommodations are in place at the university to address students who are placed on active military duty/called-up. Please refer to [http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm) for more information and notify the instructor as soon as practical.

**Complaint Procedures:**

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific University policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate University office responsible for enforcing the policy.
Other University Policies:

In this course, all University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Helen Bader School of Social Welfare policies will be strictly adhered to. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with these policies and how they may affect the student.

Assigned Readings:

Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings by the date the reading is listed as due on the course schedule (the close of the module); however, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that students complete the readings prior to the initial discussion post due dates (Fridays at 11:59PM), as these readings will be necessary for a thorough and informed discussion post. In addition, the instructor may assign other readings during the course. Assigned readings would be distributed by posting on the D2L course site.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Module open and close dates/times; reading assignments (CHAPTERS from Schmalleger); discussion assignments; other assignments

Introduction Module (08/23/14 @ 12:00AM → no closure date)

- Instructor introduction video and course information
- Student introductions (required posting)
- Discussion Response Guidelines
- Grading rubric (discussions and responses)

Module 1 (08/30/14 @ 12:00AM → 09/07/14 @ 11:59PM)

- Student introduction post – thread/discussion board is under “Introduction Module”
- Ch 1: pg 3-26
- Ch 3: Criminological Theory pg 71-73; The Classical School pg 73-76; Biological Theories pg 76-79; Sociological Theories pg 85-89; Social Process Theories pg 89-92; Conflict Theories pg 93-96
- Ch 4: pg 106-122 (end at the title “Excuses”)
• Crime Classification and Reporting (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
• Safety and justice discussion
• Quiz #1

Module 2 (09/06/14 @ 12:00AM → 09/14/14 @ 11:59PM)
• Ch 5: pg 136-155
• Ch 6: pg 160-188
• Use of force (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
• Force Intervention Options (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
• Discretion discussion
• Quiz #2

Module 3 (09/13/14 @ 12:00AM → 09/21/14 @ 11:59PM)
• Ch 7: pg 196-202 (end at the title “The Warren Court”); pg 209 (begin at the title “Arrest”) - 226 (end at the title “Gathering Special Kinds of Non-testimonial Evidence”)
• Ch 8: pg 240-264
• Deadly Force (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
• Use of force decision making video/assignment
• Police “muddiest point” discussion
• Quiz #3

Module 4 (09/20/14 @ 12:00AM → 09/28/14 @ 11:59PM)
• Ch 9: pg 272-302
• Ch 10: pg 308-316 (end at the title “The Criminal Trial”)


- Legal Issues (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
- Granville crash case study (part 1)
  - Statutory requirements and definitions
  - Crash photographs
  - Crash diagram
- Granville crash case study discussion (part 1)
- Quiz #4

**Module 5 (09/27/14 @ 12:00AM → 10/05/14 @ 11:59PM)**
- Ch 10: pg 316 (begin at the title “The Criminal Trial”) - 332
- Ch 11: pg 336-371
- Adversarial System (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
- Death penalty discussion
- Courts “muddiest point” discussion
- Quiz #5

**Module 6 (10/04/14 @ 12:00AM → 10/12/14 @ 11:59PM)**
- Ch 12: pg 380-401
- Ch 13: pg 408-423 (end at the title “Prisons Today”)
- Drugs, Crime, and Prison (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
- Granville crash case study (part 2)
- Granville crash case study discussion (part 1)
- Decriminalization discussion
Quiz #6

Module 7 (10/11/14 @ 12:00AM → 10/19/14 @ 11:59PM)

- Ch 13: pg 423 (begin at the title “Prisons Today”) - 440
- Ch 14: pg 448-479
- Rehabilitation vs. Retribution (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
- Wishing for prison news articles (readings)
- Products of prison discussion
- Corrections “muddiest point” discussion
- Quiz #7

Module 8 (10/18/14 @ 12:00AM → 10/25/14 @ 11:59PM)

- Ch 15: pg 493 (begin at the title “Categories of Children in the Juvenile Justice System”) - 507
- Ch 17: pg 561 (begin at the title “Terrorism”) - 575
- Ch 18: pg 593 (begin at the title “Criminalistics: Past, present, and future”) - 605 (end at the title “Criminal Justice in 2040”).
- Terrorism (voice-over PowerPoint or PDF file)
- Liberty vs. security discussion
- Quiz #8