

# INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## CJS 101 - Course Syllabus

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MWF – 9AM to 10AM; TR – 9AM to 11AM

**Course Description:** "History, development, and philosophy of law enforcement; introduction to criminal justice agencies. Required for all criminal justice majors and minors." (SFASU Catalog, CJ section, p. 4) Essentially, this course is an overview of the criminal justice system in the United States. For example, the text discusses the history, development, and contemporary status of the police, the courts, and correctional agencies.

**Class Times and Location:** CJS 101.03 meets in F471 at 2 PM - 3:15PM TR.

**Textbook:** *Criminal Justice*, 7th edition, Joel Samaha, ISBN 0-534-64557-7; the companion *Study Guide*, 7th edition, George R. Franks, Jr., is recommended but not required. (ISBN 0-495-00052-3)

**Program Learning Objectives.** The learning outcomes specifically outlined in the “The Criminal Justice Learning Outcomes Matrix by Course” for CJS 101 include:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the three major components of the CJS, and the concepts of policing, corrections, courts, juvenile justice, probation and parole, and victimology.
2. The student will demonstrate a fundamental understanding of human behavior from a historical, criminological and sociological perspective.
3. The student will demonstrate critical reasoning, problem solving abilities, communications skills, and technology skills.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the functions of policing in the United States in terms of its historical roots, structure, and contemporary issues.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to identify and discuss correctional practices in the United States in relation to philosophies of punishment, sentencing practices, victim’s rights and institutional limitations.
6. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the court system in the United States in terms of structure, constitutional issues and historical precedents.
7. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that influence the development of criminological theory and its application to criminal behaviors.
8. The student will demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues in criminal justice, and how to use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote positive organizational and professional trust.

**Assessment of Program Learning Objectives.** PLO’s will be assessed through Pre and Post testing. The assessment tool (a ten question quiz) will attempt to capture the knowledge of students regarding the content of the PLO’s listed above.

## **General Student Learning Objectives:**

1. **Reading** - This class cannot be successfully completed without reading the required textbook chapters. Please pay special attention to bolded headings, words in italics, bullets, marginal notes, illustrations, the chapter summary, and the list of key terms.
2. **Writing** - There will be one formal paper to be completed in this class. A complete description will be given later. Essentially, the paper is a Journal-Reflection on a criminal justice topic of your choice.
3. **Speaking** - Students will be given the opportunity to give oral presentations, details to be given later.
4. **Computer Literacy** - Students will be expected to utilize a word processing program, preferably Microsoft Word, send and receive communications by email, and navigate the textbook's website ([http://cj.wadsworth.com/samaha\\_cj72](http://cj.wadsworth.com/samaha_cj72)).
5. **Critical Thinking Skills** - Understanding and functioning within the criminal justice system is not a matter of just learning facts. The ability to think critically is essential. Stories and scenarios presented in class will address this skill.

## **Class Assignments:**

1. Quizzes - During the course of the semester **five** unannounced quizzes will be administered. They will be presented verbally via PowerPoint, will require **true or false** responses, and will be worth **twenty points** each (ten questions). The quizzes will be on the scheduled **topic of the day**.
2. Exams - There will **three** major exams including the final exam. The final exam will not be comprehensive. A written review will be distributed before each exam. An **882 Scantron** and sharpened **number two pencils** will be required for each exam. Exams completed on crumpled Scantrons or in ink will not be graded.
3. Journal/Reflection - This paper will be a **minimum** of 750 words, or approximately 2 1/2 to 3 pages in length, double-spaced. The paper will be word processed 12 cpi, Times Roman or Courier, black ink, white paper, with no binder. First, **identify** a criminal justice topic that especially interests you. Second, **describe** in detail or **define** that topic. Third, tell a **story** or give an **illustration** of the topic you selected. A personal experience is preferred, but a second hand account is acceptable. This is not a research paper so an outline, footnoting, and a works cited page are not required.
4. Group Activities and Extra Credit - There will be several group activities throughout the semester. Some will be graded, some won't be graded. Most will require some form of verbal presentation. Examples include socio-dramas, fantasy-reforms, role-plays, etc. The sum of all extra credit activities will offer the opportunity to earn **20 extra credit points**. In addition, **perfect attendance** will be rewarded with a "carry over privilege." For example if your final average is 89.1 you would receive an "A" in the class.

### **Grading:**

1. Quiz questions are worth 2 points each. Therefore, the five quizzes (ten questions each) are worth a total of 100 points, the equivalent of a major exam.
2. Exam questions are graded at 2 points each, a total of 100 points per exam; therefore, the three exams including the final are worth 300 points.
3. The Journal/Reflection is worth 100 points. The criteria for grading include following the three stage structure, meeting format requirements, clarity, grammar, spelling, and qualitative measures.
4. Students will be graded on a 500 point scale. In other words, 450 points or above is an "A," 400 points or above is a "B," and so on. The extra credit points are added to the total.

### **Student Requirements:**

1. Attendance is critical. **The instructor reserves the right to access a 5 point deduction per missed class.**
2. Missed quizzes will not be made up resulting in a 20 point deduction per quiz.
3. Missed exams will be made up on a day to be announced. It will most likely be at the end of the semester and the make up exam **may** be all essay in nature.
4. The Journal/Reflection will be due the same date as Exam II. Late papers will be assessed a 50% reduction in grade.
5. **No emailed papers of any kind will be accepted.** That includes journals, research papers, extra credit, etc. Only **hard copies** of assigned papers actually exist for grading purposes. Keep a hard copy and/or electronic copy of any and all written assignments. Be ready to present these copies upon request. If you do not have a copy of a paper when asked, that paper **does not exist** for grading purposes.
6. All make-up work of any kind must be completed and turned in **two weeks before the start of final exams.**

## **Class Decorum and Student Conduct:**

Many criminal justice settings such as court proceedings for example are formal in nature. They involve specific and "traditional" standards of personal conduct. The key elements are order, personal restraint, and courtesy. There is no better place to start practicing these behaviors than in this class. Students will be expected to raise their hand to be recognized, to not speak while others are speaking, to deactivate **all** electronic devices (not notebook computers or watches), especially **cell phones (NO TEXTING!)**, to avoid "sidebar" remarks or other annoying disruptions such as **tardiness or early departures**, and to be rational, civil, and self-controlled at all times. **Cheating** of any kind is strictly forbidden. Violating these standards will evoke one or all of the following remedies: **a verbal warning, a consultation and written warning, a request to leave the classroom, expulsion from the class.** Thank you in advance for proper deportment.

## **Acceptable Student Behavior**

The University's official policy on this issue is stated as follows:

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (*see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1*). **Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.** Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. **The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.**

Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

## **Withheld Grades:**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to the University website.

### **University Calendar (Fall 2010):**

- 8-30-10 - Classes begin
- 9-2-10 - Last day to change schedule and last day to register
- 9-6-10 – Labor Day Holiday
- 9-15-10 – Twelfth class day
- 10-20-10 – Mid-semester
- 10-25-10 – Last day to apply for degrees to be completed in December 2010
- 10-27-10 - Last day to drop courses, and last day to withdraw from the University without WP or WF.
- 11-24-10 – 11-28-10 – Thanksgiving Holidays
- 11-29-10 – Last day to withdraw from the University
- 12-13-10 - 12-17-10 - Final examinations
- 12-18-10 - End of Term/ Commencement

### **“Grade Whining”**

This especially annoying condition can be avoided by diligence and hard work. Carefully monitor your progress. A pattern of C and even B grades are unlikely to result in an A semester average. Professors don't make grades, they report them. Comparisons to other students are usually unwise and unproductive. Students are often not aware of deductions or penalties that others may have experienced. Every effort is made to be fair and equitable: reviews for exams, revisions of papers, and extra credit, but some students have a boundless sense of entitlement. Ultimately, students determine what their final grades are going to be, not professors. Please take responsibility for your work and make every effort to do your best.

## **Tentative Schedule**

8-31, Introductions and overview

9-2, The Sociological Foundations of Criminal Justice

9-6, **Labor Day**

Week of 9-7 → 9-10, **Chapter 1 - Criminal Justice in the United States**

Week of 9-13 → 9-17, **Chapter 2 - Crime, Criminals, and Victims**

Week of 9-20 → 9-24, **Chapter 3 - Explanations of Criminal Behavior**

Week of 9-27 → 10-1, **Chapter 4 - Criminal Justice and the Law**

Week of 10-4 → 10-8, **Chapter 6 – Policing Strategies**

10-12, **Exam I**

10-14 - **Chapter 7 - Police and the Law**

Week of 10-25 → 10-29 - **Chapter 7 - Police and the Law, cont.**

Week of 11-1 → 11-5, **Chapter 8 - Courts and Courtroom Workgroups & Chapter 9 - Proceedings before Trial**

Week of 11-8 →, 11-11, **Chapter 10 - Conviction by Trial and Guilty Plea**

11-16 **Chapter 11 - Sentencing**

11-18 **EXAM II & JOURNAL/REFLECTION DUE**

11-23, **Chapter 12 - Community Corrections**

**11-24 →11-28 Thanksgiving Holidays**

Week of 11-29 →12-3, **Chapter 13 - Prisons, Jails, and Prisoners & Chapter 14 - Prison Life**

Week of 12-6 →12-10, **Chapter 15 - Juvenile Justice**

Week of 12-13 → 12-17, **FINAL EXAMS**

**12-18 – Commencement, Last Day of Semester**

