

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Department of Political Science
Criminal Justice Program

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 103
SURVEY OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Tuesday and Thursday – 12:30-1:45 (CENT 2304/Canvas)

The fundamental concepts and contemporary issues associated with criminal law, policing, the judicial systems, and corrections are presented.

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will help the student:

- become familiar with the organization of the American criminal justice system;
- understand important terms and concepts associated with crime and justice;
- understand the functions of the police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice systems;
- learn about various careers available within the criminal justice system; and,
- critically assess popular portrayals of the criminal justice system in the media.

TEXT

Cole, G. F., Smith, C. E., & DeJong, C. (2019). *The American System of Criminal Justice* (16th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson. (ISBN: 0-495-59965-4)

Additional readings will be available online when relevant.

OFFICE HOURS

Students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor whenever necessary. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face office hours will not be offered. I am happy to set up a time for a phone call or online meeting at time that works for both of us. Please feel free to email me anytime and I will generally respond the same day.

ATTENDANCE

Because your participation in class is encouraged so that you may most competently master course materials, your regular attendance is expected. This is technically a traditional, face-to-face course, but I have structured it in a way that you will be able to participate virtually. I will stream lectures via Collaborate Ultra in Canvas each Tuesday and Thursday at the normal class time. These will be shorter lectures that will not be the full class time. It is expected that you will use the remaining class time (and additional time outside of class) to carefully read the assigned chapters in the textbook to acquire the information.

ASSIGNMENTS

Autobiography

The first assignment each student will complete is a brief autobiographical essay (less than one typed double-spaced page) that should address the following questions:

1. What is your major?
2. What is your dream job?
3. What criminal justice careers are you interested in?
4. Why did you enroll in this class?
5. What would you like to learn about in this class?
6. Have you had any experience with the criminal justice system?
 - a. As a victim (optional)?
 - b. As an offender (optional)?
 - c. As a practitioner (worker)?

The purpose of this exercise is for the instructor to assess student familiarity with the criminal justice system. Additionally, the instructor will incorporate issues discussed in these autobiographies in class in an effort to make the class more interesting for each individual student. This assignment is worth a maximum of ten points.

Autobiography due:

Tuesday, 2/9

Current Issues

Students will also complete two assignments relating to current issues in the news. Students must select an article that was written in the two weeks preceding the due date (from a reputable newspaper, magazine or other written media source) which discusses some aspect of the criminal justice system. Students must integrate course material with individual analysis about the topic discussed in the article. The more discussion of course concepts, the better. The written portion should be 400-500 words in length. Students also must include a link to the article they read with the completed assignment. Each current issues assignment is worth a maximum of twenty points.

Current issues assignment 1 due:

Thursday, 2/25

Current issues assignment 2 due:

Thursday, 4/15

Movie Essays

You will watch two documentaries in this class. The first will be about an incident that happened in Waco, Texas in the early 1990s (“Waco: The Rules of Engagement”). The second will be about a murder that occurred in Florida in 2000 (“Murder on a Sunday Morning”). Both videos are available online (links on the syllabus and Canvas). For both, I want you to write a 400-500 word essay discussing your thoughts on the film, while including specific references to material covered in the course. Just like the current issues assignments, the more you can integrate discussion of course material the better. Each paper is worth up twenty points and will be graded mostly on content, but points will be deducted for spelling and grammar mistakes.

Waco paper due:

Thursday, 3/4

Murder on a Sunday morning paper due: Thursday, 4/1

Late Assignments

All assignments are due at 12:30pm on the due date (normally the start of class). Assignments that are turned in on the due date, but after 12:30pm, will be penalized 2 points. Assignments that are turned in the next calendar day late will receive half credit (even if there is no class on that day). **Assignments that are more than one calendar day late will not be accepted** (as consistent with University policy).

EXAMINATIONS

Regular exams may include multiple-choice, true/false, short answer and/or brief essay questions and will cover all the material discussed since the previous exam. This includes the readings assigned in the textbook, additional readings posted online, or anything discussed in class. In short, anything discussed in class or in the text is a potential exam question. These will be open book/open notes, but you will only have 30 minutes to complete them (50 minutes for the final) so you need to be prepared (watching the lecture, reading the material, filling out the outline) in detail ahead of time. It is expected that you will complete these exams by yourself. You can use your notes and book, but no other human being can help. You must start the exam with enough time to finish it before it is due at 1:05pm. Said another way, the exam opens at 12:30 and you have 30 minutes to finish it, but if you start the exam at 12:45, you will only have 20 minutes to finish it.

Each regular exam will be worth 40 points and the comprehensive (cumulative) final exam will be worth 50 points. Careful evaluation of all assigned readings, along with attentive notetaking during virtual lectures should adequately prepare students for all exams. Students who are having difficulty understanding a topic, concept, or approach discussed in either the text or in lecture are encouraged to seek assistance from the instructor immediately. Most problems can be resolved if addressed early in the semester.

<i>Exam 1:</i>	Thursday, 2/18
<i>Exam 2:</i>	Tuesday, 3/16
<i>Exam 3:</i>	Thursday, 4/8
<i>Exam 4:</i>	Tuesday, 4/27
<i>Comprehensive Final Exam:</i>	Thursday, 5/6

Make-up exams are highly discouraged. If an emergency arises which necessitates that you miss a scheduled exam, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Some special considerations can be made in these circumstances. Make-up exams will be different from the regularly scheduled exam, and may be in a completely different form (i.e., essay or short answer).

NOTE: 72 hours after the scheduled date, a missed exam will automatically become a 0 and cannot be changed for any reason, within the guidelines of University policy.

GRADES

Grades will be determined based on the assignments, the four regular exams, and the final

exam. A total of 300 points will be available. A cumulative outline of a student's standing in the course (updated regularly) will be available on Canvas.

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Autobiography:	10	3.3
Current Issues Assignment 1:	20	6.7
Current Issues Assignment 2:	20	6.7
Waco Paper	20	6.7
Murder on a Sunday Morning Paper	20	6.7
Exam 1:	40	13.3
Exam 2:	40	13.3
Exam 3:	40	13.3
Exam 4:	40	13.3
Final Exam:	50	20.0
Total	300	100.0

Students who would like to challenge the grade received on any assignment may do so, in writing, to the instructor. The written challenge must be submitted to the instructor within 72 hours of when the grade was posted. A meeting will be set up between the student and the instructor to discuss the merits of the challenge and determine whether additional points may be warranted.

The final grade for the course will be determined by summing all of the points earned throughout the semester. Final grades will be distributed using the following scale:

Points Earned	Percent of Total Points Earned	Final Grade
280	93.33	A
270	90.00	A-
260	86.66	B+
250	83.33	B
240	80.00	B-
230	76.66	C+
220	73.33	C
210	70.00	C-
200	66.66	D+
190	63.33	D
180	60.00	D-
Less than 180	Less than 60.00	F

ACADEMIC HONESTY

It is expected that students will conform to the highest professional and ethical standards at all times. Students are encouraged to study together for exams. However, **any student found cheating on an exam will receive a “0” for that exam.** The standard of proof for such an incident is less than that of the criminal justice system; therefore, make certain that you do not act in any way that might lead the instructor to believe you were working with another student (or nonstudent) on your exam. If a student witnesses this type of breach in professional conduct, it is his or her responsibility to report it to the instructor as soon as

possible. I consider any academic misconduct in this course as a serious offense, and I will pursue the strongest possible academic penalties for such behavior. The disciplinary procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described on the Dean of Students website (<https://www.uwec.edu/dean-of-students/dos-faculty/academic-misconduct/>) and in Chapter UWS 14—Student Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures. (See also University Policies below).

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that students will:

1. Participate in the online lectures. It is understood that the readings assigned for the class period will have been read so that the student can contribute to the discussion and ask the instructor about material that was not clear. The reading load of this course is moderate: the student will read approximately 30-50 pages of text each week.
2. Have access to email. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT THIS SEMESTER.** Every student has a free email account through UWEC. Students should check their University email and Canvas at least daily as important notices and reminders will be sent to the class via these mediums. Students are responsible for this information, and must make arrangements with the instructor if a problem should arise.
3. Not interfere, in any way, with the learning environment in the classroom (virtual or physical). Disruptive students will be asked to leave, and further disciplinary action may be taken if necessary.
4. Know and understand all of the information written in this syllabus.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honesty: “The Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the University of Wisconsin System believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the University of Wisconsin System. 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 endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.” CHAPTER UWS 14—STUDENT ACADEMIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Accommodations for Disabilities: Any student who has a disability and is in need of classroom accommodations, please contact the instructor and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office in Centennial Hall 2106 at the beginning of the semester.

Dropping this Course: The last day to drop this course with no record is **Friday, February 12th**. The last day to withdraw from this course, resulting in a “W” on your transcript, is **Friday, April 16th**. See <https://www.uwec.edu/files/5969/AcadRegCal2020-2021-3.pdf> for all important academic dates for the semester.

Absences: *Religious Observance:* If you wish to be absent from class to observe a religious holiday, make arrangements in advance with the instructor. *Missing Class to Participate in a Required Activity:* To be excused from this class to participate in a required activity for

another course or a university-sanctioned event, you must provide the instructor with adequate advanced notice and a written authorization from the faculty member of the other course or from a university administrator. *Other Authorized Absences:* The instructor will provide an opportunity to make up any points missed in class as a result of an authorized absence. The student must contact the instructor before the absence, when known in advance, to make arrangements. In the event of an unexpected authorized absence, the student must contact the instructor within 72 hours of the absence to make arrangements.

Liberal Education Learning Outcomes: The UW-Eau Claire Liberal Education (LE) Core curriculum serves as a strong foundation for all of our academic programs. Our LE Core embodies the Power of [AND] in its design. It has been developed to ensure that you acquire the knowledge AND skills AND responsibility that you will need to actively engage in a global society. Through meeting the requirements of the LE Core you will develop the ability to think critically, creatively and independently. You will learn to integrate and apply your knowledge and develop the values essential to becoming a constructive global citizen. The outcomes below will empower you and prepare you to deal with complexity, diversity, and change in multiple settings. They will also develop highly marketable skills and lead to life-long learning and civic engagement.

KNOWLEDGE: Build knowledge and awareness of diverse peoples and cultures and of the natural and physical world through the study of arts, histories, humanities, languages, mathematics, sciences and technologies, and social sciences. This course emphasizes

K2. Use knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and social institutions.

This course will focus specifically on the outcome highlighted above by introducing students to issues of crime and justice in the United States. Students will understand the nature of substantive and procedural law, law enforcement, courts, and correctional institutions, and how all impact diverse populations within the U.S. Regular exams will assess the student's comprehension of these perspectives.

Final Notes

Incorrect dates, changes in the course outline, or other inconsistencies in this syllabus will be clarified in class and/or on Canvas as needed. It is the student's responsibility to attend class to obtain that information.

PLEASE NOTE: The course will, on occasion, discuss issues of violence, victimization, and self-harm (including suicide and sexual assault). Videos may include testimony from victims or depictions of violence (e.g., abused individuals or images of deceased bodies). If you are concerned about any of this, contact the instructor for accommodation.

CRMJ 103 – Survey of the Criminal Justice System – Tentative Schedule

Date	Topics	Assignments
	Part I – Introduction	
Tuesday – 2/2	Introduction to class and syllabus; test technology	None
Thursday – 2/4	Crime and justice as public policy issues Defining crime; Types of crime The crime problem today	Cole & Smith: Chapter 1
Tuesday – 2/9	Crime victimization Causes of crime	Cole & Smith: Chapter 2 Autobiography Due
Thursday – 2/11	The goals of the criminal justice system Criminal justice in a federal system Operations of criminal justice agencies Decision making in the CJ system Crime and justice in a multicultural society	Cole & Smith: Chapter 3
Tuesday – 2/16	Foundations of criminal law Substantive and procedural criminal law The Supreme Court today	Cole & Smith: Chapter 4
Thursday – 2/18		Exam 1 – Part I
	Part II – Police	
Tuesday – 2/23	The development of police in the U.S. Law enforcement agencies Police functions; Organization of the police Police policy; Police actions; Police and the community	Cole & Smith: Chapter 5
Thursday – 2/25	Who are the police? The police subculture Police response and action; Delivery of police services Issues in patrolling	Cole & Smith: Chapter 6 Current Issues Assignment Due
Tuesday – 3/2	Federal Law Enforcement – WACO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i1rW-iW554	None
Thursday – 3/4	Federal Law Enforcement – WACO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i1rW-iW554	Waco Paper Due
Tuesday – 3/9	Police abuse of power; Civic accountability Policing and new technology; Homeland security Security management and private policing	Cole & Smith: Chapter 7
Thursday – 3/11	Legal limitations on police investigations Plain view doctrine; Warrantless searches Questioning suspects; The exclusionary rule	Cole & Smith: Chapter 8
Tuesday – 3/16		Exam 2 – Part II
	Part III – Courts	
Thursday – 3/18	The structure of American courts Effective management of the state courts To be a judge From arrest to trial or plea Bail: pretrial release; Pretrial detention	Cole & Smith: Chapter 9
Tuesday – 3/23	The prosecutorial system The defense attorney: image and reality	Cole & Smith: Chapter 10
Thursday – 3/25	The courtroom: how it functions Plea bargaining; Trial: the exceptional case; Appeals	Cole & Smith: Chapter 11

Tuesday – 3/30	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning – Trial Process https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFLbptkb1eM	
Thursday – 4/1	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning – Trial Process https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFLbptkb1eM	Murder on a Sunday Morning Paper Due
Tuesday – 4/6	The goals of punishment Forms of the criminal sanction The sentencing process	Cole & Smith: Chapter 12
Thursday – 4/8		Exam 3 – Part III
Part IV – Corrections		
Tuesday – 4/13	Development of corrections Organization of corrections in the U.S. Jails: detention and short-term incarceration The law of corrections; Correctional policy trends	Cole & Smith: Chapter 13
Thursday – 4/15	Community corrections: assumptions Probation: correction without incarceration Intermediate sanctions in the community The future of community corrections	Cole & Smith: Chapter 14 Current Issues Assignment Due
Friday – 4/16	***LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CLASS***	
Tuesday – 4/20	The modern prison: legacy of the past Goals of incarceration; Prison organization Governing a society of captives Correctional officers Who is in prison? The convict world Women in prison; Prison programs Violence in prison; Prisoners' rights	Cole & Smith: Chapter 15
Thursday – 4/22	Prisoner reentry; Release and supervision Release mechanisms Parole supervision in the community Future of prisoner reentry Civil disabilities of ex-felons; Pardon	Cole & Smith: Chapter 16
Tuesday – 4/27		Exam 4 – Part IV
Thursday – 4/29	Youth crime in the United States The development of juvenile justice The juvenile justice system Problems and perspectives	Cole & Smith: Chapter 17
Tuesday – 5/4	Flex day, prepare for final exam	
Thursday – 5/6		Final Exam