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SOCI 221.01: Criminal Justice System

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SOCI 221 (Section 01): Criminal Justice System
University of Montana
Spring 2022

Course Details

Class Location: Stone Hall 304
Meeting Time: M/W/F 10-10:50 a.m.
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Instructor: James Tuttle, Ph.D.
Email: james.tuttle@mso.umt.edu
Office: Social Sciences 307
Office Hours: M/W 11 p.m.-Noon
Phone: (406) 243-5912

Teaching Assistant: Alexa Hansen
Email: alexa.hansen@umontana.edu
Office: Social Sciences 322
Office Hours: M 1-3 p.m.

Course Description

This course fulfills a portion of the requirement of the Criminology concentration within the Sociology major. This course is a systematic survey of crime and the administration of justice in the United States, including the organizational structures, processes, and dynamics of law enforcement, criminal adjudication, and corrections.

Learning Goals and Objectives

By the end of the course, each student should be able to:

- describe how a criminal justice system operates in a democratic society.
- outline the civil rights protected by the U.S. constitution.
- analyze the tradeoffs between protecting civil rights and pursuing criminals.
- delineate the steps of criminal adjudication.
- critique criminal justice practices that perpetuate inequality or injustice in society.
- describe the societal impact of different criminal justice practices.

Course Expectations

Class attendance is key for success in this course. In addition to regular attendance, students need to read the assigned chapter for each week before class on Monday. During class, students are expected to take notes as well as engage in discussion. Students are expected to interact with each other and their instructor in a respectful manner, both in person and through electronic communications.

Classroom Policy on COVID-19

Students are expected to help to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic within the classroom. Students are required to wear face coverings (over their nose and mouth) in an effort to prevent asymptomatic spread of the virus. Students must not attend class when they are feeling ill and must immediately inform their instructor or officials at the University if they have contracted the COVID-19 coronavirus. Portions of the course, including meetings with students, will take place virtually to the extent possible. Additional classroom expectations, aligning with University guidelines, will also be enforced.

Required Textbooks

Title: Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction

Author: Frank Schmalleger

Edition: 13th

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN: 9780135209028R180

Grading

Grades are rounded to nearest whole number. Letter Grades will be calculated using the following grading scale:

A: 93 or higher

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 84-86

B-: 80-83

C+: 77-79

C: 74-76

C-: 70-73

D+: 67-69

D: 64-66

D-: 60-63

F: 59 and lower

Earning Your Grade:

Each student can earn up to 100 points in this course. The final grade is computed by dividing the number of points you earn by 100. The point breakdown is as follows:

- **Exams:** **60 points (60%)**
- **Course Assignments:** **20 points (20%)**
- **Class Attendance and Participation:** **15 points (15%)**
- **Reading Quizzes** **5 points (5%)**

Exams (60 Points Total):

After each section of the course, there will be an exam. There are three sections in total. The first two section exams are not cumulative, but cover all course materials (assigned readings, lessons from assignments, lectures, etc.) within the section. The final exam is cumulative. The format of the questions will be close-ended questions, with potential fill-in-the blank, true/false, and multiple-choice questions. The first two exams are worth 18 points apiece, while the final exam is worth 24 points.

Students will have the option to take the exam for Section #3 as the final exam. In this option, all three exam scores throughout the semester will be averaged together for the final exam score.

Course Assignments (20 Points Total):

There are four course assignments, each worth five points each. These assignments include a discussion boards and short writing assignments that will be outlined in more detail on the Moodle page.

Class Attendance and Participation (15 Points Total):

Students will also be graded on their attendance, participation, and completion of in-class activities. Disruption and failure to comply with course (or university) rules will result in point deductions. An excessive number of missed classes will result in a '0' for this grade criterion.

Reading Quizzes (5 Points Total):

There will be five unannounced quizzes during the semester, worth one point each. These quizzes will gauge the reading and comprehension of assigned readings.

A Note on Late Submissions or Incomplete Assignments:

If a student misses an assignment and does not present the appropriate paperwork for the absence to be excused, he or she receives a '0' for the assignment. Late work is accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

University Policies

Excused Absence Policy:

Under some circumstances, students will be excused from missing class and assignments. When a student is absent from class and/or misses an assignment due to an excused absence, it does not count against the student's grade. Missed assignments due to an excused absence are granted an extension (at the discretion of the instructor).

Students requesting an excused absence need to inform the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the class that is missed. Excused absences include illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance, cultural/ceremonial events, participation in a University sponsored activity, military service, or mandatory public service. Students must gain clearance from the instructor before the class that is missed or provide documentation after missing class. More about the University Policy on class attendance and absences can be found here: <https://catalog.umt.edu/academics/policies-procedures/>

University of Montana's Cultural Leave Policy:

"Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor."

Accessibility Services for Students:

"The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or

406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.”

Food Pantry Program

“UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12 to 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email umpantry@mso.umt.edu, visit the UM Food Pantry Website (www.umt.edu/pantry) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um_pantry on Instagram).”

ASUM Renter Center

“The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources (<https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>) for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity. Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.”

TRiO Student Support Services

“TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring.

Students can check their eligibility (www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php) for TRiO services online. If you are comfortable, please come see members of the teaching team. We will do our best to help connect you with additional resources.”

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this class. By submitting an assignment in this course, students are acknowledging that the work that they have submitted is their own work and that they have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance in completing the assignment. Plagiarism is not accepted and will be punished by failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion. Please review the ‘Student Conduct Code’ (<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>) for further information on student responsibilities in maintaining academic honesty.

Course Schedule

Please note that the assigned readings and the dates of assignments are subject to change. I reserve the right to make changes to course materials and class activities as the instructors see fit to facilitate achievement of the course objectives. The assigned materials are to be read at the beginning of the week that they appear on the schedule.

Section #1: Criminal Justice in a Democratic Society

Week 1: Course Introduction (January 18-21)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Course Syllabus

Class Activity:

January 19: Course Syllabus and Introduction to Course

January 21: The ‘Ideal Type’ of Criminal Justice System in a Democratic Society

Week 2: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (January 24-28)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #1: “What is Criminal Justice?”

Class Activity:

January 24: Origins of the Criminal Justice System

January 26: Tensions within the Criminal Justice System

- **January 27: Extra Credit Opportunity – Brendan McQuade Presentation (Reflection Due February 4)**

January 28: The Purpose of Punishment

- **Assignment #1: Discussion Board - Crime Control vs. Due Process (Due January 28)**

Week 3: What is Crime? (January 31-February 4)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #3: “Criminal Law”

Class Activity:

January 31: Defining Crime

February 2: Criminal Defenses

February 4: Types of Crimes

Week 4: Tracking and Preventing Crime (February 7-11)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #2: “The Crime Picture”

Class Activity:

February 7: Measuring Crime

February 9: Preventing Crime

February 11: Crime and Social Control

Week 5: Know Your Rights (February 14-18)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #5: “Policing: Legal Aspects”

Class Activity:

February 14: Civil Rights and the Supreme Court

February 16: Section Wrap-up

February 18: **Section Exam #1: Criminal Justice in a Democratic Society**

Section #2: The Operation of the Criminal Justice System

Week 6: System Overview (February 21-25)

Class Activity:

February 21: **NO CLASS**

February 23: Guest Speaker: Mr. Brad Giffin

February 25: Overview of the Criminal Justice System

Week 7: The Function of the Police (February 28-March 4)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #4: “Policing: Purpose and Organization”

Class Activity:

February 28: The Function of the Police

March 2: History and Structure of Policing

March 4: Being a Police Officer

- **Assignment #2: Reflection - Function of the Police (Due March 4)**
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Week 8: The Courts (March 7-11)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #7: “The Courts”

Class Activity:

March 7: The Courts

March 9: Controversies in the Court

March 11: Controversies in the Court, cont.

Week 9: Sentencing (March 14-18)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #9: “Sentencing”

Class Activity:

March 14: Sentencing

March 16: The Sentencing Hearing

March 18: Punishment in Modern Context

Week 10: SPRING BREAK (March 21-25)

- NO CLASS

Week 11: Corrections (March 28-April 1)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #11: “Prisons and Jails”

Class Activity:

March 28: Using Confinement as Punishment

March 30: Managing the Prison

April 1: Life Behind Bars

- **Assignment #3: Application - Stage of the Criminal Justice Process (Due April 1)**

Week 12: Non-Custodial Sanctions (April 4-8)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter 10: “Probation, Parole, and Reentry”

Class Activity:

April 4: Guest Speaker: Mr. Mark Henkel

April 6: “Non-Custodial” Sanctions

April 8: **Section Exam #2: The Operation of the Criminal Justice System**

Section #3: Societal Implications of the Criminal Justice System

Week 13: Policing the Police (April 11-15)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter 6: “Policing: Issues and Challenges”

Class Activity:

April 11: Critiques of the Criminal Justice System

April 13: Police Accountability

April 15: Policing in the 21st Century

Week 14: Bias in the Courts (April 18-22)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter 8: “The Courtroom Work Group and the Criminal Trial”

Class Activity:

April 18: Bias in the Courts

April 20: Bias in the Courts, Cont.

April 22: Miscarriages of Justice

Week 15: Mass Incarceration (April 25-29)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter 12: “Prison Life”

Class Activity:

April 25: Mass Incarceration

April 27: Mass Incarceration, Cont.

April 29: The Uses and Abuses of State Power

- **Assignment #4: Reflection – Reforming One Element of the Criminal Justice System (Due May 2)**

Week 16: Juvenile Justice (May 2-6)

Assigned Reading Materials:

- Chapter #13: “Juvenile Justice”

Class Activity:

May 2: Juvenile Justice

May 4: A Path Forward?

May 6: Final Exam Prep

Final Exam

Final Exam – Thursday, May 12 (10:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.)