

POLS 3600
Criminal Justice Administration
Fall 2019

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Office: Baldwin Hall 101 Z
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. or by appointment
Classroom: Baldwin Hall 102
Class time: T/R 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Course Description

This course examines the institutions and actors that make up America’s criminal justice system. Topics covered include law enforcement officers, arrests, bail, prosecution, defense, plea-bargaining, trials, conviction, sentencing, corrections, probation, and reentry. The constitutional context surrounding many of these topics, including relevant Supreme Court cases, will also be considered.

Required Text

Most required reading will be from the following text:

Cole, George F., Christopher E. Smith, and Christina DeJong. 2017. *Criminal Justice in America*, 9th ed. Boston, MA: Cengage.

Other readings will be distributed via eLC.

Grading

Exam 1: 30%
Exam 2: 30%
Assignments: 15%
Final Project: 15%
Participation: 10%
Extra Credit: 5% possible

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|----|--------|----|-------|
| A | 94-100 | C | 74-77 |
| A- | 90-93 | C- | 70-73 |
| B+ | 88-89 | D | 60-69 |
| B | 84-87 | F | <60 |
| B- | 80-83 | | |
| C+ | 78-79 | | |

Exams. The two exams (worth 30% each) will consist primarily of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Makeup exams are only administered when there is a valid documented excuse. If you know you will be absent on an exam date, you must take the exam before the scheduled date. Exam questions will come from the text, lectures, and class activities. The second exam is **NOT** cumulative.

Assignments. There will be two assignments (worth 7.5% each) throughout the semester. The first, “Crime Tracking Assignment,” will help you understand how criminal cases work their way through the criminal justice system from the initial investigation to the release of the accused individual. The second assignment, “Criminal Justice as Entertainment,” will require

you to critically analyze an episode of a popular criminal justice television show (such as *Cops*, *Girls Incarcerated*, or *60 Days In*). The assignment due date is TBD, and more information will be distributed in class and on eLC.

Final Project. In groups, students will choose a criminal justice policy area. Each group will select a specific policy and propose a reform. This final project (worth 15%) will consist of a short individual writing assignment and a group presentation. More details will be distributed as the semester progresses. On the last day of class, **12/3**, groups will have 5 minutes to present their policy reforms. Individual papers are due via eLC on **12/2** by 5:00 p.m. More details will be distributed as the semester progresses.

Participation/Attendance. A significant portion of the tests will come from material covered in class lectures. Because of this, regular attendance is important for success in this course. Attendance will not be taken. It is entirely a student's decision to attend class on a given day. However, habitual absences may count against your participation score, as you cannot participate when you are absent.

Extra Credit. There will be five opportunities for extra credit (1% each). These opportunities will consist of podcasts and/or short writing assignments. Extra credit will be randomly announced in class and only those present on the announcement day will be allowed to complete the extra credit assignment. The assignment will be due at the start of the next class.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services office will be accommodated according to university policy. If you have documentation for accommodations from Disabilities Services, please present it to me as soon as possible so arrangements can be made. All documentation is considered confidential. For more information, contact Disabilities Services at 706-542-8719.

Academic Integrity

Please see UGA's extensive policies on academic honesty (<http://honesty.uga.edu>). Be advised that cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are strictly prohibited in this class.

Class Conduct

Criminal justice is a nationally controversial political issue. People hold strong opinions across a wide range of topics. This course is designed to incorporate multiple viewpoints and interpretations of the justice process. However, when expressing their own views, students must practice the respect, decency, and patience necessary to excel as effective citizens. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for failing to meet this important responsibility.

Course Schedule

*Any changes to this schedule will be announced at least a week in advance. All readings should be done prior to the date listed.

8/15: Course Introduction

8/20 – 8/22: The Criminal Justice System

Criminal Justice in America (CJA), Ch. 1

8/27 – 8/29: Crime and Causation; Introduction to Crime Data

CJA, Ch. 2

***** Crime Tracking Assignment Due Thursday, 8/29 by 11:59 p.m. *****

9/3: No class. Group policy selection due 9/5 at start of class.

9/5; 9/10: Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law

CJA, Ch. 3

9/12; 9/17: Police

CJA, Ch. 4

9/19; 9/24: Police: Contemporary Issues and Challenges; Police and Law

CJA, Chps. 5 & 6

9/26: Catch-Up and Review for Exam 1

***** 10/1: Exam 1 (Chapters 1-6) *****

10/3: Guest Speaker

10/8 – 10/10: Courts and Adjudication

CJA, Ch. 7

10/15 – 10/17: Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, and the Criminal Trial

CJA, Ch. 8

In-class film: *Gideon's Army*

10/22 – 10/24: Punishment and Sentencing

CJA, Ch. 9

10/29 – 10/31: Corrections

CJA, Ch. 10

11/5 – 11/7: Incarceration and Prison Society

CJA, Ch. 11

11/12 – 11/14: Probation, Intermediate Sanctions, and Reentry into the Community
CJA, Chps. 12 & 13

***** 11/19 – 11/21: Second Exam Week *****

Thursday: Catch up and Review for Exam 2

Thursday: Exam 2 (Chapters 7-13)

11/26: Group Project Workday

***** 11/28: *No class. Happy Thanksgiving!* *****

***** 12/2: Paper due by 5:00 pm *****

***** 12/3: Group Presentation Day *****

Final Exam (12/12): 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.