

POLS 3600  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Fall 2022

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<b>Instructor:</b> Jake S. Truscott	<b>Time:</b> MWF 1:50-2:40pm
<b>Email:</b> jake.truscott@uga.edu	<b>Place:</b> Baldwin Hall 301

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## Office Hours

Office: Baldwin Hall 109B

In Person: Wednesday 12-1 pm or By Appointment

ZOOM: By Appointment Only

## Textbooks

The main text for this course will guide most of our weekly discussions. However, additional materials may be assigned weekly to supplement course material. These can include: journal and newspaper articles, podcasts, or videos. Hyperlinks to these additional reading materials are available at the end of the syllabus in the *Weekly Schedule*, but the links will also be made available on ELC. It is expected that you will have read all of the assigned readings prior to the start of each class.

- George F. Cole, Christopher E. Smith, and Christina DeJong, *Criminal Justice in America*, 9th ed., Wadsworth Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-305-26106-8.

## Course Description

The course serves as an introduction to the major institutions, actors, and agencies responsible for the administration of criminal justice in the United States. We will primarily focus on the broad and discrete areas of the criminal justice system - including, but not limited to: criminal behavior and theory, police, arrest, bail, prosecution, plea bargaining, conviction, sentencing, correction, probation, and reentry. We will also spend a good deal of time focusing on current events and the broader legal implications of modern criminal justice.

## Course Objectives

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- Correctly identify the major actors, institutions, and agencies within the American criminal justice system, as well as the roles that they play.
- Correctly identify the common procedures and practices within American criminal justice.
- Illustrate a concrete understanding of broad and niche topics within criminal justice, including their progression throughout history.

## Evaluation

**Examinations:** The two exams (Midterm and Final) will combine multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Personal makeups or any other adjustments to our exam schedule can only be permitted in extraordinary circumstances such as documented medical emergencies. The exams will test material from your readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. While some topics discussed before the midterm will naturally spillover into topics later in the semester, the exams will not be strictly cumulative.

**End of Semester White Paper Report:** By the end of the semester, you will complete an original report that analyzes a major area of criminal justice in the United States. The topic is entirely at your discretion, but the report you submit should cover: its importance → history and evolution → modern circumstances and/or criticisms → and a discussion on possible remedies and reforms. A detailed prompt, rubric, and report tips will be available in ELC under *Course Documents* alongside a set of examples.

Regardless of your the area you choose to analyze, you must submit a document explaining the choice with a general outline, as well as provide a sample bibliography of **at least 10 sources** that you plan to employ in your paper in a proper citation format. You are not tied to these 10 sources, nor do I expect them to be all that you use in your final paper, but you must submit the topic and sample bibliography by Sunday September 19th (on ELC) as proof that you have devoted the necessary time and resources to constructing the paper. If you have specific report questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Once you have received approval to proceed with your self-selected topic, you will need to submit a first draft to the instructor on ELC by Sunday November 14th. Please note that your submission needs to be a completed *draft* that you would feel comfortable submitting for review.

**Critical Response Essays:** During the course of the term, you will be required to complete **one** critical response essay prompt that will be submitted via ELC. A general rubric and essay tips will be made available in the Course Materials section of ELC.

There will be (3) prompts posted to ELC with individual due dates, but you are free to choose which to complete. I would highly recommend that you consider which paper you will be completing early based on your personal schedule. The paper will be submitted to ELC.

The response paper should be approximately 6-8 pages double-spaced (12 pt font, Times New Roman). The structure of the paper will ultimately depend on how the question is structured, but they should generally follow the traditional essay format (Thesis → Body Paragraphs → Conclusion → Works Cited). I have no preference for which citation style you use, so long as it is consistent and present. All I ask is that you only use reputable sources (aka, no *Wikipedia*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, etc.). If you have specific essay questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

**Participation:** Your participation will be gauged primarily by your attendance and participation in the weekly lecture periods. ***This definitely considers whether you have done the reading(s).***

I will not be taking attendance every day, but I will at random periods throughout the semester. That being said, I am fully aware that people have other things going on in their lives. If you happen to be absent on a day that I take attendance, please recognize that I allow (2) free absences without justification - i.e., you do not need to tell me why you are missing class. If you would like to receive an excused absence - e.g., things related to personal or family emergencies, please be sure to email me and we will handle those situations on a case-by-case basis. Excused absences will **not** count towards your (2) free absences.

*My Advice: Make sure I know your name by the end of the semester. Especially when it comes down to*

*those moments where you are teetering between thresholds for different grades, it really helps if I know who you are because you are an active participant in the course.*

## Grading Breakdown

Midterm .....	25 %
Final .....	25 %
End of Semester White Paper Report .....	25 %
Critical Response Essay .....	15 %
Participation .....	10 %

## Grading Scale for Final Semester Grades

100-94 A	79-77 C+	63-60 D-
93-90 A-	76-74 C	59-0 F
89-87 B+	73-70 C-	
86-64 B	69-67 D+	
83-80 B-	66-64 D	

*Please note: There is no standard policy for rounding grades. Rounding decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, and your participation level throughout the course can heavily influence that decision.*

## Course Structure

As per the University’s guidance for the Fall Semester, this course will be taught face-to-face in a normal classroom environment - i.e., for all intents and purposes, we’re getting back to normal! As such, I will not be hosting synchronous ZOOM sessions to correspond with every class date. However, I will be posting the lecture slides to ELC after every class period.

If for some reason we need to move class to ZOOM (for one class period or indefinitely), you will be given sufficient notice.

## Communication with Instructor

If you need to contact me for any reason, I do ask that you aim to primarily use your UGA email address rather than ELC. I am generally very good about responding to emails quickly, but please understand that I likely will not respond until the next day if the message is sent late in the night.

Email: [jake.truscott@uga.edu](mailto:jake.truscott@uga.edu)

## Attendance Policy

As noted, since the course is structured to be normal and face-to-face, it is expected that you arrive for the class periods when they are scheduled. However, I will only be taking attendance at random throughout the semester.

If you need to miss class because of a legitimate reason that would accompany an excused absence (e.g., sickness, family or personal emergency, etc.), that is entirely fine. I just ask that you keep an open line of communication with me as things happen.

Like I noted previously, everyone will be given (2) unexcused absences throughout the term that you are free to use as any point and for any reason without damaging your participation grade. **Just know that this does not excuse you from exam dates.**

## Academic Honesty

You are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures relating to academic honesty. To understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University, please carefully review the policy here: [https://honesty.uga.edu/\\_resources/documents/academic\\_honesty\\_policy\\_2017.pdf](https://honesty.uga.edu/_resources/documents/academic_honesty_policy_2017.pdf)

## Syllabus Policy

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, if necessary. I will give you fair notice (at least a week) if something, such as a reading assignment, is to change.

## Disability Resource Center

If you anticipate needing accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

## Withdrawal Policy

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawalpassing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences (see course attendance policy). Please review the policy here: <https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/policies/withdrawals/>

## Mental Health and Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at (706) 542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

## Course Schedule

### Summary

#### No Class

- Monday (9/5) - Labor day
- Friday (10/28) - Fall Break Day
- Wednesday (11/23) and Friday (11/25) - Thanksgiving Break

#### Key Dates

- Sunday (9/18) - White Paper Topic & Sample Bibliography Due
- Sunday (10/9) - Prospective Response Essay 1 Due
- Friday (10/14) - Midterm Exam
- Sunday (10/23) - Prospective Response Essay 2 Due
- Sunday (11/13) - White Paper First Draft Due
- Sunday (11/20) - Prospective Response Essay 3 Due
- Wednesday (12/7) - White Paper Due
- Monday (12/12) - Final Exam

### Weekly Schedule

*Note: Please have all reading listed for each week completed before arriving for class.*

#### **Week 0 - August 17 and 19**

Topic: Introduction & Syllabus

Readings:

- James Romoser, Justices reject sentencing reductions for some crack-cocaine offenders, SCOTUSblog (Jun. 14, 2021, 11:59 AM)
- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 1 (Take a Look)

#### **Week 1 - August 22, 24, and 26**

Topic: The American Criminal Justice System

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 1

**Week 2 - August 29, 31, and September 2** Topic: Crime and Causation

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 2
- This is the link to access the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program that is mentioned in your text. Take a look at the interactive data and take a look at violent crime trends across the United States. Come prepared on Wednesday to discuss specific trends in Georgia, Florida, California, Illinois, and the United States (broadly)

**Week 3 - September 7 and 9** .....No Class Monday (9/5 - Labor Day)

Topic: Criminal Justice in America &amp; Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law (Part 1)

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 2 (Continued from Week 2)
- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 3

*Note: Because of the reduced schedule this week, we will be covering Chapter 3's material on Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law across 2 weeks.*

**Week 4 - September 12, 14, and 16**

Topic: Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law (Part 2)

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 3
- This is an explanation of the 14th Amendment's due process clause that includes a great discussion on incorporation of federal (procedural) due process protections among the states
- Take a look at the US Constitution. Specifically consider which articles and amendments can reasonably be contrived as ones that relate to criminal proceedings and due process

*Note: I will be in Montreal for a conference on Friday September 16 - There will be a guest lecturer.*

**Week 5 - September 19, 21, and 23**

Topic: Police

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 4
- Let's take a look at the step-by-step procedures and qualifications to become a police officer in Georgia

**Week 6 - September 26 and 28, September 30**

Topic: Policing: Contemporary Issues and Challenges

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 5
- Interesting Lawfare article on the issues over police reform

**Week 7 - October 3, 5, and 7**

Topic: Police and Law

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 6
- What are your rights when you're interacting with police? Let's find out

**Week 8 - October 10, 12, and 14** ..... Midterm Exam Friday (October 14)

Topic: Courts and Adjudication

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 7
- This is an overview of the system of state and federal courts in the United States, which includes a good description of their similarities and differences

*Additional Notes: Chapter 7 material will **not** be on the Midterm exam. I will also devote some time to exam review at the end of class on Wednesday.*

**Week 9 - October 17, 19 and 21**

Topic: Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, and Criminal Trials

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 8
- This short video is a great overview of plea bargaining and its history

**Week 10 - October 24 and 26** ..... No Class Friday (10/28 - Fall Break Day)

Topic: Punishment and Sentencing

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 9
- Great overview of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines
- Overview of *Blakely v. Washington* (2004), which ruled that mandatory federal sentencing guidelines are unconstitutional
- Brief overview of state sentencing guidelines (Skim)

**Week 11 - October 31, November 2, and 4**

Topic: Corrections

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 10

**Week 12 - November 7, 9, and 11**

Topic: Incarceration and Prison Society

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 11
- An interesting article written nearly 20 years ago that discussed the growth of prison in the United States between 1960s and 2000s

**Week 13 - November 14, 16, and 18**

Topic: Probation and Intermediate Sanctions

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 12
- A fantastic article written on the history of probation and it’s preponderance in the modern debate over prison reform

**Week 14 - November 21** .....No Classes Wednesday or Friday - Thanksgiving Break!

Topic: Post-Sentence Reentry

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 13

**Week 15 - November 28, 30, and December 2**

Topic: Technology and Criminal Justice

Readings:

- *Criminal Justice in America*, Chapter 14
- Short case brief on *Kyllo v. United States* (2001), which concerned thermal imaging and the 4th Amendment’s protections against warrantless searches
- Short case brief on *Riley v. California* (2014), which concerned the 4th amendment and digital data retrieved from a post-arrest search of a suspect’s cell phone

**Week 16 - December 5 (Last Class)** .....Reading Day (Wednesday 12/7)

Topic: Final Exam Review

**Week 17 - December 12** ..... Final Examination (12:00-3:00pm)