

POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration

Karson Pennington

University of Georgia, Spring 2024

E-mail: karson.pennington98@uga.edu

Office Hours: T/TR 9:30 – 11:00 am

Office: Baldwin Hall 101W

Class Hours: T/Th 11:10 am – 12:25 pm

Classroom: Baldwin Hall 301

Course Description

Criminal Justice Administration provides an overview of the institution, actors, and agencies involved in the administration of criminal justice in the United States. Topics surveyed include the criminal justice system, police, arrest, bail, prosecution, plea bargaining, trials, conviction, sentencing, corrections, probation, and reentry.

Required Materials

- *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham (available on Amazon or at most local bookstores).
- All other readings will be available on ELC weekly.

Course Objectives

1. Students will examine the relevant institutions and actors involved with the various stages of the criminal justice system, including consideration of law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
2. Students will review the legal, political, and social dynamics of the criminal justice system.
3. Students will attain an ability to critically analyze criminal justice system practices and procedures.
4. Students will attain an ability to discuss criminal justice policy issues in a disciplined and cogent manner.

Course Structure

Class Structure

This course is designed to prepare you for a future in law school, graduate school, or the workforce in the field of criminal justice. The abundance and intensity of readings is meant to challenge you; I do not expect you to have a full and complete understanding of the readings before class. What I do expect is for you to come to class with questions, and to leave with a more complete knowledge of these different aspects of the U.S. criminal justice system.

Grades

- **Exams** will be administered three times during the semester. These exams will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer (2-3 sentences), and essay questions. You will have the entirety of the class to take the first two exams (1 hour and 15 minutes). Exams 1 and 2 will each count for 20% of your final grade. Exam 3 (final exam) will be administered during the final exam period; for our purposes, this means it will take place on May 7th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Exam 3 will count for 10% of your grade. The dates of each exam are listed in the schedule, but are subject to change dependent upon our pace throughout the semester. **Makeup exams are only permitted in extraordinary circumstances such as documented medical emergencies.**
- A **Simulation** will allow you an opportunity to observe the difficulties associated with sentencing. This event will take place at the beginning of April. 15% of your grade will be your participation in the event and 5% will be the completion of research due the week before the event. More details will be shared during class.
- Two **Quizzes** will be administered through ELC during class. Each quiz is worth 7.5% of your final grade.
- **Attendance** will be taken every day (excluding exam days and simulation week) throughout the semester, and participation in class discussion will count as bonus points toward this grade. Some days, attendance will be taken by brief in-class assignments. Attendance will count for 10% of your grade. I will accept **two unexcused absences**. For each unexcused absence following, one point will be deducted from your attendance grade (a 10% reduction). I will accept documented excuses up to 7 days following the missed class period.
- **Analysis** for your assigned reading of *A Time For Mercy* will count for 5% of your final grade. More details on the nature of this assignment will be available towards the end of the semester.

Grading Summary

I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the semester. Your final grade will count these assessments using the following proportions:

- 50% of your grade will be determined by 3 in-class exams. Exams 1 and 2 will each count for 20% and Exam 3 (final exam) will count for 10%.
- 20% of your grade will be the "Simulation." This will be graded on your individual effort for 15% and your research leading up to the event for 5%.
- 15% of your grade will be Quizzes. Each quiz is worth 7.5%.
- 10% of your grade will be determined by attendance.
- 5% of your grade will be based on your *A Time For Mercy* analysis.

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	< 60

Class Policies

During Class

I absolutely understand that using laptops to record notes is important, so computers will be allowed in my classroom as long as the use of these devices does not disturb the learning capability of other students. If laptops are discovered to be used for any other purpose than academics pertaining to this course, then the privilege of electronic devices will be taken away. I aim to respectfully allow each student the same learning capability, which could be hindered by the use of electronic devices. Phones will not be allowed during class time, except in case of emergency. Eating and drinking are permitted, so long as we can respect our classroom and allow for regular class to be conducted.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken every day and this will account for 10% of your grade. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. Following two unexcused absences, further unexcused absences will result in a one point attendance deduction per absence. Excused absences will include those with legitimate documentation, which can be sent to my email up to 7 days after the absence.

Policies on Incomplete Grades and Late Assignments

I will accept incomplete or late assignments when a legitimate excuse is provided. This requires documentation, and notice as soon as possible. I am flexible, and understanding, but I must be aware of your circumstances to be able to accept incomplete or late work. Incomplete work without an excuse will be graded as such, and late work without an excuse is subject to a 10% reduction in overall grade for every business day after the deadline.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Please see UGA's extensive policies on academic honesty (<http://honesty.uga.edu>). Be aware that under no circumstances will cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty be tolerated in this class.

Mental Health and Wellness at UGA

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.

Disability Accommodations

If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). I will accommodate requests from the DRC in this course. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

Prohibition on Class Recordings and Distribution of Course Materials

Please do not take audio or video recordings of course lectures or discussions (live or Zoom) or repost any course materials (recorded, links, written) without my express permission. Doing so violates my and the University of Georgia's intellectual property and the privacy of your fellow classmates as protected under federal and state law.

Schedule and Weekly Learning Goals

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. The learning goals expressed in the syllabus above should be viewed as the key concepts you should grasp after each week.

(Week 1) 1/9: Introduction to Criminal Justice

- NO CLASS ON JANUARY 11TH (Pennington at SPSA Conference)

(Week 2) 1/16 and 1/18: Types of Crime

- "Intro to CJ readings.pdf"
- "Crime, Crime Types, Data Reading.pdf"

(Week 3) 1/23 and 1/25: Criminal Law and Procedure

- "Criminal Law and Procedure Readings.pdf"

(Week 4) 1/30 and 2/1: Introduction to Police, Policing Issues

- "Intro to Policing Readings.pdf"
- "Policing Issues Readings.pdf"
- Optional: "NYT-Thin Blue Line Getting Thinner-6-12-22.pdf"
- Optional: "NYT-Uvalde Families Police Accountability 6-5-22.pdf"
- QUIZ 1 ON 2/1. Quiz 1 will be open on ELC from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

(Week 5) 2/6 and 2/8: Police Diversity, Police and Law

- "Policing Diversity and Representation Readings.pdf"
- "Body camera policy-July 2022 article.pdf"
- "Race, Place, and Effective Policing"
- "police and law readings.pdf"

(Week 6) 2/13 and 2/15: Exam 1

- Exam 1 on 2/15, in-person, during class.

(Week 7) 2/20 and 2/22: Judges, Courts and Adjudication

- "Judges, Courts, and Adjudication Readings.pdf"

(Week 8) 2/27 and 3/1: Pre-Trial, Bail

- "Pre-trial and Bail Readings.pdf"

(Week 9) SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

(Week 10) 3/12 and 3/14: Plea Bargaining, Trial

- "plea bargaining and trials readings.pdf"

(Week 11) 3/19 and 3/21: Punishment, Sentencing

- "Sentencing and Punishment Readings.pdf"
- QUIZ 2 ON 3/21. Quiz 2 will be open on ELC from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

(Week 12) 3/26 and 3/28: Wrongful Convictions, Corrections

- "Wrongful convictions readings.pdf"
- "Corrections and Prisons Readings.pdf"

(Week 13) 4/2 and 4/4: Exam 2 and Simulation Preparation

- Exam 2 on 4/2, in-person, during class.

(Week 14) 4/9 and 4/11: Simulation

- Pre-simulation research due on 4/9 at start of class.

(Week 15) 4/16 and 4/18: Incarceration/Prison Society, Probation/Reentry

- "Probation, Intermediate, and Reentry Readings.pdf"
- *A Time For Mercy* should be read by April 16th.

(Week 16) 4/23 and 4/25: *A Time For Mercy* Analysis and Final Exam Preparation

Reading Day is April 30; Final exam period is May 1-7

FINAL EXAM (Exam 3): MAY 7TH, 12:00-3:00 P.M.