

POLS 3600E - Criminal Justice Administration
May Semester 2025
Dr. Richard L. Vining, Jr.
Office: Baldwin 376
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Office hours: By appointment (Zoom or in person)

Course meetings: Asynchronous lectures via ELC
Optional Zoom meetings for Q&A with Dr. Vining on Fridays 10-11AM (May 16, May 30)

This online course examines the actors and institutions that make up the American criminal justice system. The role of each will be discussed, as will the current and developing policies relevant to their activities and effectiveness. Political and constitutional questions central to criminal justice administration will be considered, as will their practical effects. All lectures for this course are asynchronous. These lectures are available on the course ELC.

Readings. The following textbook is required:

G. Cole, C. Smith, and C. DeJong, Criminal Justice in America, 10th ed. (2021; ISBN 0357456335)

Examinations. There will be a midterm examination and a final examination. No exceptions will be made for the scheduled examination times except in the case of a documented medical emergency. If you have additional needs or have permission from the Disability Resource Center for extra time on exams, please contact me privately and arrangements will be made.

Paper. A 6-8 page (double-space) paper is due June 3 (11:59 PM via ELC). A list of possible paper topics is posted on the course ELC module.

Grading. Midterm examination 30%; paper 30%; final examination 40%

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

100-94 A	75-73 C
93-90 A-	72-70 C-
89-86 B+	69-66 D+
85-83 B	65-60 D
82-80 B-	59-00 F
79-76 C+	

Academic Integrity. Neither plagiarism nor cheating will be tolerated. Appropriate citations are expected and encouraged. All students are expected to behave in accordance with the guidelines of the UGA Honor Code. If you are unsure whether certain actions are acceptable, consult your instructor. Students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) to complete assignments in this course.

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.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Attendance. Given that this is an asynchronous online course, your instructor will not take attendance. You are responsible for completing the assigned reading and viewing all lectures and related materials.

Course Outline

All course modules are available on ELC, where you will be able to find reading assignments, lecture videos, and supplementary materials.

Tues., May 13: Module 1 – The CJ System
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 1

Wed., May 14: Module 2 – Crime and Justice
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 2

Thurs, May 15: Module 3 - CJ and the Rule of Law
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 3

Fri., May 16: Module 4 - Policing (Part 1)
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 4

Mon., May 19: Module 5 - Police (Part 2)
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 5 & Ch. 6

Tues., May 20: MIDTERM EXAM (10AM-1PM)

Wed., May 21: Module 6 – Courts
Cole, Smith, and Dejong, Criminal Justice in America, Ch. 7

Thurs., May 22: Module 7 – Court Administration

Gregory J. Linhares 2012. “Vision, Function, and the Kitchen Sink: The Evolving Role of the State Court Administrator.” In *Future Trends in State Courts 2012*, pp. 20-25.

William Raftery. 2017. “Chief Justices as Leaders: Roles & Challenges.” In *The Book of the States 2017*, pp. 253-256.

Fri., May 23: Module 8 – CJ Policy Analysis Workday

See Module 8 on ELC for paper assignment details

(Paper is due on June 3 – get it going!)

Mon., May 26: NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY

Tues., May 27: Module 9 - Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, and Criminal Trials

Cole, Smith, and Dejong, *Criminal Justice in America*, Ch. 8

Wed., May 28: Module 10 - Punishment and Sentencing

Cole, Smith, and Dejong, *Criminal Justice in America*, Ch. 9

Thurs., May 29: Module 11 – The Death Penalty

John J. Donohue III and Justin Wolfers. 2009. “Estimating the Impact of the Death Penalty on Murder.” *American Law and Economic Review* 11: 249-309.

D. Jacobs, Z. Qian, J. Carmichael, and S. Kent. 2007. “Who Survives on Death Row? An Individual and Contextual Analysis.” *American Sociological Review* 72: 610-32.

Browse website of the Death Penalty Information Center (<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/>)

Fri., May 30: Module 12 - Corrections

Cole, Smith, and Dejong, *Criminal Justice in America*, Ch. 10 & Ch. 11

Mon., June 2: Module 13 - Community Corrections and Reentry

Cole, Smith, and Dejong, *Criminal Justice in America*, Ch. 12 & Ch. 13

ELC: “Life on Parole” (PBS Frontline documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuaRIkHsQGY>

Tues., June 3: Module 14 - Juvenile Justice

Cole, Smith, and Dejong, *Criminal Justice in America*, Ch. 14

Paper due on June 3 (11:59 PM)

Final exam on June 4 (10AM-1PM)