

# INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bellevue College

Professor Maggie Whetsel

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Quarter Credits: 5

Hours: Lecture – 55

## **Course Description:**

This course examines the current events in crime, criminal justice agencies and the response by correctional institutions in dealing with criminal offenders. This course includes detailed descriptions of the duties and functions of specific actors in the system, including victim, offender, police, prosecuting and defense attorneys, courts and corrections.

## **Course Specific Learning Outcomes/Objectives:**

The objectives of the course are:

- 1) Familiarize students with concepts within criminology, criminal justice and criminal law
- 2) Provide students with an understanding of the structure, functions, and decisions processes of the major institutions of society that deal with the management and control of crime and criminal offenders
- 3) Acquaint students with the major issues and trends in the criminal justice field
- 4) Students will learn responsibility for their own learning and actions through group-guided interaction and learning.

## **Campus-Wide Learning Outcomes/Objectives:**

### **Responsibility:**

- 1) Student demonstrates knowledge of and a willingness to accept stated/agreed upon expectations, policies, behavior and procedures,
- 2) Students meet obligations necessary to complete individual and/or group task and assignments,
- 3) Students demonstrate an ability to understand and respond respectfully to perspectives offered by other students and the instructor,
- 4) Demonstrate common courtesies and show respect for the ideas, needs, difficulties and rights of others, and
- 5) Students share knowledge and opinions with others in general class discussions.

**Demonstrated by preparedness for lectures and discussions, handing assignments in on time, and attitude and behavior in class, participation in group/team building work and group accountability.**

### **Critical Thinking:**

- 1) Apply relevant criteria and standards when evaluating information, claims and arguments,
- 2) Use appropriate reasoning to evaluate problems, make decisions, and formulate solutions,
- 3) Give reasons for conclusions, assumptions, beliefs and hypotheses, and
- 4) Exhibit traits evidencing the disposition to reflect, assess, and improve thinking or products of thinking.

**Demonstrated through your explanations in class, on projects, assignments, quizzes and tests.**

### **Method of Instruction:**

The course is taught primarily through the lecture method with emphasis on class discussion. Students are responsible for the content of the reading assignments, the lectures and any outside assignments. Material for any and all quizzes and tests can and will come from the reading assignments, the lectures and the outside assignments.

### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for **all material presented during class** sessions, including course-related announcements and for **all reading assignments**. Two attendance days will be excused for normal reasons during the quarter. However, if you have H1N1 flu (or other serious illness), you are expected to not come to class. You will need to make arrangements with me and other students to obtain the missed material from the class/lectures. **THE ONLY OTHER VIABLE EXCUSE TO MISS CLASS IS MILITARY SERVICE, JURY DUTY. NO OTHER REASON WILL BE ACCEPTED.** In addition, if a student comes to class more than 10 minutes late or leaves early, one attendance day will be counted.

### **Required Text:**

The Constitution of the United States: and Other Founding Documents, National Center for Constitutional Studies, Malta ID

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1		Week 7	Article 6 / TEST
Week 2	Article 1	Week 8	Article 7
Week 3	Article 2	Week 9	Article 8
Week 4	Article 3 / TEST	Week 10	Article 9 / TEST
Week 5	Article 4	Week 11	Article 10
Week 6	Article 5		

### **Evaluation:**

#### **Tests (40%)**

There will be three (3) tests during the course of instruction. If you cannot attend class on a test day, arrangements **MUST** be made **PRIOR to the date of the test** or you will receive a zero (0) for your score.

**Tests can be based on the required readings, the classroom lectures, or any outside assignments that are assigned.** Tests will be returned to the students within three school days of taking the exam.

#### **Participation/Homework (15%)**

Homework assignments will be given throughout the quarter. Homework is due the assigned by the instructor.

Class discussion will play a vital role in the final assignment of grades; each student **MUST** make a conscious effort to ask questions and voice opinions (in an orderly manner by raising your hand and being called upon). This portion will include attendance. More than two missed classes, without a viable excuse, will result in a reduction in the value of this area. Being disruptive (i.e., talking to your fellow

students, being rude to the instructor or your fellow students, being unduly noisy, etc.) in the classroom will be grounds for major deductions in your participation grade. If you are asked to leave the classroom due to disruptive behavior, your participation grade will automatically be 0%.

### **Preparation of WEEKLY news article (30%)**

Each **THURSDAY**, Students will be required to turn in a write-up about a news article regarding any subject related to Criminal Justice (arrests, courts, crimes, prisons, etc.). Articles that are not related to the area of Criminal Justice will receive a grade of zero (0).

The article

- \* MUST be from a news source published during the previous week.
- \* MUST be from a major, mainstream news source (no National Enquirer Articles, please).
- \* May be from newspapers, internet or weekly magazines.

The write up will be:

- \* a one page (up to one and a half pages), 1" margins, double-spaced.
- \* graded on clarity of thought and ability to **grammatically** communicate those thoughts (i.e., write in proper English sentences).
- \* returned to the students by the following Thursday.

The write-up will address the following:

- \* **WHAT** – were the circumstances (i.e., tell the story about what happened) about the case/topic in the article – in your own words, do not copy and paste
- \* **WHO** – was involved in the case/topic (e.g., the Seattle Police and Joe Doe)
- \* **WHEN** – did the event(s) happen
- \* **WHERE** – did the event(s) take place
- \* **WHY** – did the event(s) happen (emphasize **your** opinion)
- \* **WHY** – was this article interesting/important to Criminal Justice
- \* **WHY** – did you pick this article
- \* **WHAT** – is **YOUR** opinion about what took place

Students may be asked to tell the class about their article at the beginning of a class, so be prepared.

### **Final Exam (15%)**

There will be a **comprehensive final exam** that covers aspects of what was learned throughout the class. The exam will be given on the day and at the time designated. Make-ups for the final will be permitted only when uncontrollable circumstances prevent the student from being present on exam day. If feasible (i.e., if conscious) a student will contact the instructor **PRIOR** to the test, if he or she is unable to take the examination as scheduled. Failure to call (when feasible to do so) will result in denial of an opportunity to make up the test.

### **Grades:**

The computation of grades will be based as a percentage based on the weight of each area described above.

%	Letter Grade	Decimal Grade
100-90	A	4.0
89-80	B	3.0
79-70	C	1.0
69-60	D	1.0
59-0	F	0.0

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Any form of academic dishonesty, for example cheating or plagiarism (be sure you understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you do not know, ask prior to turning in any assignments), will result in an “F” for the course and will be reported to the College Judicial Officer or the Dean responsible for handling academic dishonesty. Please read the section in your College materials which describes behaviors which constitute Academic Dishonesty and which discusses the rights and responsibilities of both students and faculty.

### **STUDENTS SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact The Disability Resource Center (DRC) and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition through the DRC, which would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class or as soon as practical. You can reach me by email or telephone at 425-564-2250. Or, you can schedule an office appointment to meet me during my posted office hours or at another mutually determined time. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule any alternative place for the meeting. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

### **Pagers and Cellular Telephones:**

Respect is a key element in the classroom and the learning process. As a respect to other students, the instructor and to create the best possible learning environment, all pagers, cellular telephones and any other noise making electronic device must be turned off in class. **If your pager or cellular telephone sounds, during class, a reduction of the student's grade will be made and he/she will be notified.** First offense is a “freebie” as this could be an honest mistake; the second infraction will result in a reduction of the total grade by 5%; the third infraction will result in an additional 10% reduction; and a fourth offense will result in the student will be permanently removed from the class.

### **Participation:**

Participation does NOT include talking to your fellow students in “side bar” conversations, while class is in session. This is considered a discourteous disruption to both the instructor and your fellow students that are trying to listen and learn. Such conduct is at best selfish and at most inappropriate for college-level students; it is rude and inconsiderate to all; and it will not be tolerated.

1. Discussion is vital; however, all discussion will be shared with the entire class and only after the instructor has called on the individual.
2. If a student persists in having private conversations with their neighbor, the student will be notified and the following deductions will be made to their participation grade: First offense will result in a deduction of 5% toward the total grade. Second offense will result in an additional deduction of 10% . If you are asked to leave the classroom due to disruptive behavior, your participation grade will automatically be 0%.

### **Controversial Subject Matter:**

Criminal Justice areas of study may include very controversial and sometimes sensitive subject matter. **In order to facilitate class discussion and debate, the instructor may use humor or play the “devil’s advocate” in order to get students involved in discussion.** Students may voluntarily leave the classroom if they are offended or become nauseated during the lecture, slides, overhead displays, or videos. Some of the possible subjects may be, but are not limited to, the following: death, nude bodies, autopsy photographs, homicide scenes, sexual assaults, rape, abortion, bestiality, pornography, flag burning, child pornography, sodomy, sex, homosexuality, racism, sexism, animal sacrifice, religion, police brutality, bullet wounds, and child abuse.