

CRMJ 1010 INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSE SYLLABUS



Volunteer State Community College *Criminal Justice Department*

Prerequisite: Acceptable placement scores or completion of all Learning Support Competencies in Reading and Writing
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Rick Reed

Office Hours: By Appointment

Telephone: TBA

Email Address: TBA

Required Textbook:

CJ3, 3rd edition, Gaines/Miller, Wadsworth/Cengage 2015.

Course Description

This course provides a historical overview of the American Criminal Justice System. This course focuses on emphasizing a broader understanding of the basic concepts that comprises the legal, correctional and law enforcement aspects of the United States Criminal al Justice System. This course also examines current criminal justice career options and opportunities and is required for all law enforcement majors.

General Education Goal

The general education goal of this course is to provide information which enable students to understand basic concepts of the legal, correctional, and law enforcement aspects of the justice system.

Learning Objectives

Criminal Justice System

- Define the goals of the criminal justice system.
- Describe the basic components of the criminal justice system to include law enforcement, courts and corrections.
- Contrast present day criminal justice traditions and practices with their historical precedents and beginnings.

Courts

- Describe the Tennessee court systems.
- Describe the Federal courts systems.
- Describe the development of common law.
- Describe the development of statutory law.
- State the typical procedures and steps an offender undergoes in his/her progression through the system, both adult and juvenile.

Law Enforcement

- Describe the typical progression of an adult through the law enforcement system.
- Describe the progression of a juvenile through the law enforcement system.
- Explain how local, state and federal law enforcement systems are organized.
- Explain the function of law enforcement from investigation to adjudication.

Adjudication

- Identify post arrest procedures and pre-trial requirements.
- Identify the steps in the trial process including jury selection, presentation of evidence, legal instructions and verdict.

Corrections

- Describe the history of the American corrections systems.
- Discuss jails, prisons, local, state, and federal facilities.
- Explain how probation and parole are different.
- Define and describe the principles of ethics in the criminal justice system.

Other Goals

- * This course also seeks to provide opportunity to acquire critical thinking skills for assessment of personal values and the impact of these values on mental and physical well-being. It further provides opportunity to explore and apply problem solving styles and skills, to develop effective communication skills in receiving and giving information.
- * Students will also describe and analyze criminal court systems, probation and parole, and the juvenile justice system.
- * Students will analyze processes used to formulate theories regarding criminal behavior within a social and cultural context.

Grading:

Letter Grade/Percentage

| | |
|---|--------------|
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% or BELOW |

Assessments:

| Category | Number | Individual Weight | Overall Weight |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mid-term Exam | 1 | 31.25% | 31.25% |
| Final-Comprehensive Exam | 1 | 31.25% | 31.25% |
| Quizzes | 4 | 6.25% (ea.) | 25% |
| Final Paper | 1 | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| Field Trip/Speaker Reflection Paper | 1 | Extra Credit Opportunity | Ex Credit |
| Attendance/Participation | n/a | Ex Credit | Ex Credit |
| | | | 100% |

NOTE: *The instructor may make modifications to assessments as needed during the course of the semester. Although not probable or likely, if modifications become necessary, students will be given timely notice and written details; to include an addendum to the syllabus.*

- **Exams/Quizzes:** Multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank. The exams will cover class discussions/lectures, and chapter readings.
- **Field Trip/Speaker (Reflection Paper):** Students will receive credit for attending the field trip and writing a reflection paper. *Extra credit opportunity.*
- **Participation**—primarily based on attendance, in addition-classroom activities, individual discussion and group involvement. *Extra credit opportunity*

Missed Exam:

Students should make every effort not to miss an exam. You are only permitted to make up one exam. Examinees need to call (615) 230-3484 to schedule an appointment. The normal Testing Center hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Students must schedule and arrive allowing enough time prior to published closing in order to complete their exam. **NOTE:** STUDENTS MUST REQUEST TO MAKE UP AN EXAM BY EMAILING ME THE INSTRUCTOR.

Late assignments, papers, and presentations:

ALL late assignments, papers and presentations will receive an automatic 15% grade reduction. All late assignments must be received within one week after due date or a grade of zero will be given.

Incomplete Policy:

The grade of "I" will **ONLY** be given under the following circumstances:

- 1) The student has experienced an illness or emergency situation which could not be avoided (**appropriate documentation must be provided**)

- 2) The student has completed 50% of the course work and is receiving a passing grade (C or better)

Cheating, Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Any test, paper, assignment or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be completed solely by you; unless approval by your instructor as a group project or collaborative assignment. Additionally, any test, paper, assignment or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course; unless you obtain prior approval to do so from your instructor. Cheating/academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to unauthorized access to an examination, use of a stand-in/substitute for an examination, unauthorized access, login or usage of college electronic resources (eLearn, email, etc.) by someone other than the assigned user. Supplying or communicating unauthorized information pertaining to examinations and submitting unoriginal work.

In this course we may utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, other students class work, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor can receive a report from turnitin.com.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, citing sources, or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor.

Any form of **Academic dishonesty, cheating** and **plagiarism** will result in a grade of "0" on an assignment, project, assessment, quiz or exam and the instructor reporting the incident to the Dean of Social Science and Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Testing/Exam Conduct:

During an exam students are not permitted to have any materials or electronic devices in their hand, on their desk, or within eyesight (notes, books, cell phones/smart phones, laptops, computers, ipads etc). If you are observed to be using or in control of the materials or electronic devices during an exam, you will be given a zero (0) for the exam/test.

Classroom Environment and Conduct:

Cell/Smart phone- must be either turned off or set on silent. **No usage of cell/smart phones is permitted during class without permission of the instructor.** Please do not answer a call during class or walk out of class to take a call. If a student is observed using his or her cell/smart phone in class, the instructor may openly ask them to put the device away. Continued unauthorized use of cell/smart phone may result in banning the student from bringing one into class.

Computer/Internet-Use of computers/internet during class should be for course objectives only (taking notes, research, etc). If a student is observed using his or her computer inconsistent with course objectives, the instructor may openly ask them to put the device away.

General Respect/Courtesy- Please no sleeping in class or “chatting” with other classmates during lectures and/or discussions. Do not leave class early or during a lecture unless an emergency or with prior approval.

Eating/Food/Drink- are not allowed in the classroom.

Attendance:

Students are strongly encouraged to attend **ALL** of the scheduled meetings for this course. I expect students to actively participate and contribute the classroom discussions. Although I do encourage open discussion and contribution of all varieties of opinions and comments, I also require that students respect one another. You must remember and respect the fact that everyone is entitled to have his or her opinion be heard in an environment of open discourse.

Attendance is crucial to your success; many of the assignments, exams, assessments and other activities come directly from classroom activities. **Remember** extra credit opportunities may improve your final grade.

Students with Special Concerns:

Students with a specific concern needing accommodations to ensure that participation and achievement of opportunities are not impaired are strongly encouraged to see the instructor as early as possible. If you find that you are having problems with the course material, another student or any other concern; you are encouraged to come speak with me as soon as possible.

Methods of Instruction: Class discussions, service learning, lectures, labs, video/audio presentations, service learning, online research, guest speakers, critical thinking/problem solving activities, individual or group exercises, firsthand observation, debates, practicum's-- role play and oral presentations.

*The topics discussed and examined in Introduction to Criminal Justice can be potentially sensitive and controversial for some students. However, every student's opinions, thoughts and feelings should be respected in the classroom. This does not mean that discomfort can be avoided: sometimes

learning about certain topics is difficult and uncomfortable. If you feel extremely uncomfortable about a specific topic, discussion or assignment, please talk with your instructor.

Volunteer State Community College Awareness Statements

College Non-Discrimination Policy:

It is the intent of Volunteer State Community College to fully comply with Executive Order 11246, as amended, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended, and all regulations implementing those laws and orders, for the promotion and ensuring of equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, veteran status, or physical appearance. It is the intent of VSCC to fully comply with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the CRA of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, the Age discrimination in Employment Act of 1976, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, applicable state status and all regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

Financial Aid Statement

Students will not receive their financial aid checks until they have been reported as attending all of the classes they are enrolled in.

Title IX Statement

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. 20 U.S.C., 1681.

Students with Disabilities

It is the student's responsibility to self-identify with the office of Disability Services to receive accommodations and services in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Only those students with appropriate documentation and who are registered with the office of Disability Services will receive accommodations. For further information contact the Office of Disability Services at (615) 230-3472, Online by visiting www.volstate.edu/disability or visit the office which is located in Room 108, Wood Campus Center.

Student Conduct

Student conduct is bound by the conditions set forth in the VSCC Student Handbook available at www.volstate.edu/StudentHandbook/conduct.html.