Warren County Community College

CRJ 105 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Master Syllabus

Course Information

Catalog Description: This course surveys the adult adjudication system from commission of the crime to the re-entry of an incarcerated offender into the community. The course provides an in depth overview of police, courts and corrections, history, current problems, and future challenges.

Prerequisite(s): None

Corequisite(s): None

Credits: 3

Hours: 3

Required Text(s): *Criminal Justice in America*, 10th Ed. Cole, Smith, DeJong

Supplemental Materials:

Instructor Information

Instructor's Name:

Contact Information:

Office Hours:

Program Goals

1. Describe the structure, functions, and processes of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
2. Analyze legal principles, constitutional rights, and ethical considerations in criminal justice practices.
3. Apply knowledge of criminal law, due process, and legal procedures in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.
4. Evaluate criminological theories and their application to crime prevention, policing strategies, and rehabilitation efforts.

5. Examine correctional policies, rehabilitation programs, and alternatives to incarceration, considering their impact on individuals and society.
6. Assess modern policing strategies, investigative techniques, and community-based approaches to maintaining public safety.
7. Utilize research methods and data analysis techniques to examine crime trends, policy effectiveness, and criminal behavior.
8. Analyze contemporary issues in criminal justice and propose evidence-based policy recommendations.

Class Core Competencies

The following core competencies are embedded in this curriculum:

- Communicate effectively in both speech and writing
- Use social sciences theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens
- Understand ethical issues and situations
- Address and information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

Class Learning Assessment

Student Learning Outcomes	Suggested Means of Assessment
Define terminology and structures within the criminal justice system including participant roles and the basic forms of crime control and due process issues	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation
Learn the process of the criminal justice system at all stages including its history and development	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation
Make connections to real-life issues in the criminal justice	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation
Gain awareness of current contemporary criminal justice events throughout our nation	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation

Student Learning Outcomes	Suggested Means of Assessment
Develop an ability to understand and articulate criminal justice concepts	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation
Understand and comprehension the American criminal justice system	Exams, assignments, discussion board, participation

Grading System

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	90 to 100 percent
B Plus (B+)	87 to 89.9 percent
B	80 to 86.9 percent
C Plus (C+)	77 to 79.9 percent
C	70 to 76.9 percent
D	60 to 69.9 percent
F	Below 60 percent

College Information

Disability Services
Disability Services Webpage

Statement and Policy on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Conduct
Academic Conduct Policy (Policy 304) [PDF]

Students are required to perform all the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited unless the instructor explicitly permits it in the syllabus or assignments. If tools such as ChatGPT are permitted by an instructor to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and with proper citation. In all such cases, you may only use the specific tools identified as acceptable and you must adhere to the College's standards for attribution, validation, and transparency.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of Academics. A student found guilty of violating the rule of academic integrity by the Vice President of Academics will be considered to have failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary action to attend class.

Tutoring and Testing at the Instructional Support Center (ISC)

- Instructional Support Center (ISC) Webpage

WCCC Library Services

- WCCC Library Website

Citation Styles and Formatting

Work submitted for any Warren County Community College course must conform to the required formatting and citation style that are specified by the instructor. The Library and Instructional Support Center can assist students with formatting and citations for assignments and papers.

WCCC Attendance Expectations

The College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. This involves sharing discussions and lectures in class, as well as interacting with other students. Grades are based on the quality of work students complete in meeting the requirements for a particular course, as stated in the course syllabus and catalog description. Attendance, among other factors, may be an additional criterion for assigning grades. Students should realize that they are responsible for all class meetings and that work missed because of absences may affect their grades. Attendance in online classes is determined by the completion of assignments/ tests. Students who have not completed any assignments or tests will be considered non-attending and receive an NF grade in online classes.

Class Attendance Expectations

Topical Outline

I. The nature of crime, law, and criminal justice
   a. Crime and criminal justice

b. The nature and extent of crime
c. Understanding crime and victimization
d. Criminal law: Substance and procedure

II. The police and law enforcement
a. Public policy and private policing
b. The police: Organization, role, and function
c. Issues in policing-police and the rule of law

III. Courts and adjudication
a. Court structure and personnel
b. Pretrial and trial procedures
c. Punishment and sentencing

IV. Corrections
a. Community sentences: Probation, intermediate sanctions, and restorative justice
b. Corrections: History, institutions, and populations
c. Prison life: Living and leaving prison

V. Contemporary challenges in criminal justice
a. Juvenile justice
b. Crime and justice in the new millennium

Grading Methods

Assignment	Points/Percentage

Class Itinerary

Week / Unit	Topic	Readings/Assignments

Week / Unit	Topic	Readings/Assignments