

SOC 2600

Introduction to Criminal Justice

40395

Western Michigan University

Department of Sociology

FALL 2009

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am-10:45am Room: 2502 Sangren

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COURSE DESCRIPTION (as found in the university catalog)

An overview of the criminal justice system as it currently operates in its three major components: police, courts, and corrections. A broad-based interdisciplinary perspective is employed to introduce the beginning student to the process of criminal justice in modern America. Particular attention is placed in the discretionary authority of officials who are engaged in the decision-making roles required to process suspects from arrest to release.

REQUIRED READING

Robert M. Bohm and Jeffery T. Walker (Editors) *Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice* (2006)
ISBN # 1-933220-16-3

REQUIREMENTS

Exam 1 (Mid-Term): 50 points

Exam 2 (Final): 50 points

Reaction Papers: 100 points (5 @ 20 points each)

In Class Quizzes: 100 points (10 @ 10 points each)

TOTAL = 300 points

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated! This includes presenting someone else's ideas, or written work as your own/Using information from another source, whatever that source may be without properly citing that source will not be tolerated! If I discover that you have plagiarized or have been dishonest in any part of your assignments or tests in any way, you will fail this course. If you are unaware or unclear as to just what is considered plagiarism or cheating, please see me. The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities. I take this topic extremely seriously and will not for any reason waiver on my stance regarding plagiarism or cheating.

EXAMS

No one will be admitted to take the test after the first person has left.

All tests may include T/F, Multiple Choice, and/or Short Answer. You will be given an in-class review before each test.

No make-up tests will be given in this class. Students who have an appropriate excuse for missing an exam such as written documentation of a medical issue or a death in the family will be the **only acceptable** reasons for a make-up exam.

REACTION PAPERS

Five times during the semester you will be required to write reaction papers to the readings you have been assigned. The reaction papers should be no more than 4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, standard margins, title page is optional). The format for these papers should be organized into three sections as follows: 1) What is the main thesis of the article? Along with the main thesis be sure to briefly summarize the article. 2) How does the article relate/how is the article related to the study of crime and/or criminal justice? In this section you should use information from class lecture to incorporate terms and perspectives learned in class with the article. Keep in mind however, that you must use the terms and lecture notes in the paper AND explain how they are related to the article. Merely indicating that “This article is related to criminal justice through policing”, will not be enough to earn full credit, you must indicate HOW it relates. “This article is related to policing because...” 3) Your reaction to the article; does it make sense? What questions would you ask the author? Do you think it was an effective article? Does it “work” in the world of criminal justice or in the world as a whole? If not, how would you adjust it? Clearly, not all of these questions need to be answered, however they should be used instead as guidance.

The bulk of your paper should be focused around #2

The paper will be graded on its content, however, excessive grammatical errors will impact your grade.

QUIZZES

The quizzes will be on class lecture. The quizzes are announced and scheduled (see schedule of class readings and assignments). The quizzes will consist of one to three short answer questions. **No make-up quizzes will be given.**

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Test questions will cover material presented in class that was not covered in the text and you are responsible for all the information presented. **I do not post class lectures, or notes.** Therefore, if you are not in class, taking notes, it is unlikely you will pass this course. Additionally, being present in mind and body, also allows the opportunity to ask questions and further explore areas of interest to you. Consistent and constructive participation in class can help improve your final grade.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Having phones ring in class is distracting and irritating. Turn the ringer off for the brief time we’re in class and let voicemail pick up the call. If you are expecting something important (child care, etc), set the phone to vibrate and sit by the door so you can leave easily without disturbing the class. In other words: **I do not want to see or hear them!**

LAPTOP POLICY

Laptops are **NOT** allowed in class.

EMAILING ASSIGNMENTS

I do not accept emailed assignments. In order for you to receive credit on any of your assignments in this class, you must turn them into me, in person, on the date that they are due.

DICTIONARY

You should own one.

RESPECT

Respect yourself, your colleagues, and your instructor. Those are the basic guidelines for our classroom. Please refrain from speaking when one of your colleagues or your instructor is speaking and be mindful of the comments you make (which translates to: think before you speak).

Special Needs

Students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, which might affect their ability to perform in this class should provide the instructor with proper documentation as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS

Clearly there are not assignments due every week, however, *always come to class prepared to discuss the readings that have been assigned for each class session.*

Circumstances sometimes require flexibility and students are responsible for any departures that are announced in class.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
9/8	Introduction and Greeting What is Criminal Justice?	Syllabus	N/A
9/10	Crime and Criminal Justice	Bohm and Walker, <i>Introduction</i>	N/A
9/15	Definitions of Crime, Types of Crime, Crime Data, Trends, Measurements, and Patterns	Pepinsky, <i>The Myth That Crime and Criminality Can Be Measured</i> Friedrichs, <i>The Myth That White-Collar Crime Is Only About Financial Loss</i> Russell-Brown, <i>They Myth of Race and Crime</i>	Quiz 1/10
9/17	Definitions of Crime, Types of Crime, Crime Data, Trends, Measurements, and Patterns continued	Brownstein, <i>The Myth of Drug Users as Violent Offenders</i> Sims and Kenney, <i>The Myth of Drug Criminalization</i>	N/A
9/22	Theories of Crime and Victimization	N/A	QUIZ 2/10
9/24	Theories of Crime and Victimization continued	N/A	Reaction Paper 1 Please select one article from Pepinsky, Friedrichs, Russell-Brown, Brownstein, and Sims and Kenney
9/29	Criminal Law	N/A	Quiz 3/10
10/1	Criminal Law continued	N/A	N/A
10/6	Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Cyber Crime	Leighton, <i>Demystifying Terrorism: "Crazy Islamic Terrorists Who Hate Us Because We're Free?"</i>	QUIZ 4/10
10/8	Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Cyber Crime continued	See above	Reaction Paper 2 Leighton
10/13	Policing in Society	Barlow and Barlow, <i>The Myth That the Role of the Police Is to Fight Crime</i>	Quiz 5/10
10/15	Policing in Society continued	Willis, Mastrofski, and Weisburd, <i>The Myth That COMPSTAT Reduces Crime</i>	N/A
10/20	Exam 1 Review	All assigned readings and lectures from 9/8 until 10/15	N/A
10/22	Exam 1 (Midterm)	Please remember to be on time. You will not be permitted to take the exam after the first exam has been turned in.	N/A

10/27	Policing: Organization, Role, and Function	Cordner and Scarborough, <i>The Myth That Science Solves Crimes</i>	Reaction Paper 3 Please select one article from Barlow and Barlow, Mastofski and Weisburd, and Cordner and Scarborough
10/29	Policing: Organization, Role, and Function continued	Paoline III, <i>The Myth of a Monolithic Police Culture</i>	Quiz 6/10
11/3	NO CLASS	We will not be having class this week as I will be	N/A
11/5	NO CLASS	traveling to Philadelphia for the American Society of Criminology Conference.	N/A
11/10	Issues in Policing	Lersch, <i>The Myth of Policewomen on Patrol</i>	QUIZ 7/10
11/12	Issues in Policing continued	Buerger, <i>The Myth of Racial Profiling</i> Harris, <i>Driving While Black</i> (Handout, will be provided for you)	N/A
11/17	Courts, Prosecution and Defense, Pretrial Procedures and Criminal Trail	Janikowski, <i>The Myth that the Exclusionary Rule Allows Many Criminals to Escape Justice</i> Longmire, Buggington-Vollum, and Vollum, <i>The Myth of Positive Differentiation in the Classification of Dangerous Offenders</i>	Quiz 8/10
11/19	Courts, Prosecution and Defense, Pretrial Procedures and Criminal Trail continued	Immarigeon, <i>The Myth That Public Attitudes Are Punitive</i>	Reaction Paper 4 Please select one article from Paoline III, Lersch, Buerger, Harris, Janikowski, Longmire, Buggington-Vollum, and Vollum and
11/24	Punishment and Sentencing	Applegate, <i>The Myth That the Death Penalty is Administered Fairly</i> Acker, <i>The Myth of Closure and Capital Punishment</i> Michalowski, <i>The Myth That Punishment Reduces Crime</i>	QUIZ 9/10
11/26	NO CLASS	Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!	N/A
12/1	Corrections: Community Sentences, Probation, Intermediate Sanctions, and Restorative Justice	Blakely and Smykla, <i>Correctional Privatization and the Myth of Inherent Efficiency</i> Jones, <i>The Myth That the Focus of Community Corrections Is Rehabilitation</i> Cullen and Smith, <i>The Myth That the Focus of Community Corrections Is Rehabilitation</i>	QUIZ 10/10
12/3	Prisons: History, Prison Life. Juvenile Justice System	Wood, <i>The Myth That Imprisonment is the Most Severe Form of Punishment</i> McShane, Williams III, and Pelz, <i>The Myth of Prisons as Country Clubs</i> Parker, <i>The Myth That Prisons Can Be Self-Supporting</i>	N/A

12/8	Prisons: History, Prison Life. Juvenile Justice System continued	Bishop, <i>The Myth That Harsh Punishments Reduce Juvenile Crime</i>	Reaction Paper 5 Please select one article from Immarigeon, Applegate, Acker, Micalowski, Blakely and Smykla, Jones, Cullen and Smith, Wood, McShane, Williams III, and Pelz, and Parker
12/10	Exam 2 Review	All assigned readings and lectures covered in the class thus far, with special focus on readings and lectures from 10/27 to 12/8. I will be available during office hours for any further review/questions that you may have leading up until the morning of the final exam.	N/A
12/14	Exam 2 (Final) Monday 10:15-12:15	Please take note that the date of the final exam differs from our normal class meeting day and time!	N/A

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

–Martin Luther King, Jr.

I will post final grades to the system as soon as I have final grades for the entire class. Please check your account rather than emailing me.

Grading Scale(%)

93-100: A

88-92: BA

83-87: B

78-82: CB

73-77: C

68-72: DC

60-67: D

0-59: F