

Course Requirements

Course Description: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 3 cr. An examination of the history, organization, and function of the various local and federal agencies that make up the criminal justice system. The survey is organized around the three major components of the criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections.

Course Objectives: To familiarize the student with the American criminal justice system including its history and each of the primary components—police, courts, and corrections.

Textbook: *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century* by Frank Schmalleger. 9th edition. Published by Prentice-Hall, 2007. The critical number which identifies this book exclusively is the ISBN number: 0131719505.

Course Grades: There will be three major examinations valued at 100 points each, twelve 10-question quizzes valued at 10 points each, and 12 eHomework assignments valued at 10 points each during this course. The total number of points available for the class is 540. Course grades are as follows: 486-540=A; 432-485=B; 378-431=C; 324-377=D; and less than 324=F. Criminal Justice majors are reminded that they must have at least a grade of C in this class.

Course Format and Assignments: This class is 100% online; there are no class meetings. The 4-week term requires that instructors choose material selectively. I have chosen to cover only 12 chapters in the textbook, thus eliminating 6. However, I strongly encourage you to read those chapters which I exclude; they are important. Please note that I have set this class up so that you can work ahead, but not to allow you to get behind. The dates listed for each of the assignments below is the last date at which you can finish an assignment. You may feel free to work ahead. Likewise, class is “officially” out from Dec 22 to Jan 1. However, since this is a Blackboard course exclusively, you may feel free to go ahead and work that week if you wish (I do not require that you do so).

- Dec 11-17: Read Chapters 1, 2, and 4 and complete ehomework and quiz for each chapter no later than midnight on Sunday, December 17.
- Dec 18-24: Read Chapters 5, 6, and 7 and complete ehomework and quiz for each chapter no later than midnight on Sunday, December 24.
- Dec 24: Complete the 50-question exam covering Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5 no later than midnight on Sunday, December 24.
- Dec 22-Jan 1: Class is not officially required to be in-session. However, since this is a totally online course, I have set it up so that you can work this week if you wish. If you do “take off” there is no penalty associated with that.
- Jan 1-Jan 7: Read Chapters 9, 10, and 12 and complete ehomework and quiz for each chapter no later than midnight on Sunday, Jan 7.
- Jan 7: Complete the 50-point Exam 2 covering chapters 6, 7, 9, and 10 no later than midnight on January 7.
- Jan 8-Jan 12: Read Chapters 13, 14, and 16 and complete the ehomework and quiz for each chapter no later than midnight on FRIDAY, January 12. NOTE THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT PERIOD IS ONLY FIVE DAYS LONG (OTHERS ARE 7).

- FRIDAY, January 12: Complete the 50-point Exam 3 covering chapters 12, 13, 14, and 16 no later than midnight on Friday, January 12.

Important Points: Please be constantly aware of the following points:

- Quizzes (10 question) are timed at 15 minutes. You will be penalized for exceeding the allowable time by more than 30 seconds. You may enter a quiz only one time, so be ready to complete it when you enter the quiz site.
- The eHomework is not timed. You may enter, work on it, save it, and re-enter it. When you finish with it, hit the “submit” button and the system will tell me its ready to grade.
- Major exams (1, 2, and 3) are 50-question tests and they are timed at 60 minutes. You will be penalized for exceeding the allowable time by more than 30 seconds. You may enter them only once without special action by me to allow a second entry.
- Quizzes and major exams are presented to you one question at a time, both question order and answer order randomized, you are “forced” to answer the question to move forward, and backtracking is not allowed.
- I have set the system so that you cannot print the quizzes or the exams. Even “print screen” won’t work. I am allowing the system to tell you if you missed a question, but I am not allowing the system to give you the correct answer. I apologize in advance for that, but test integrity concerns make it necessary. If you miss a question, you’ll need to jot down the information and then look it up later (you can’t change your answer). I cannot re-set the system later to show you the correct answers.
- The final is not comprehensive; it is simply a unit test like the other two.
- If you encounter technical difficulties, don’t panic—just let me know and I can “fix it.” However, there is a caveat here—if you are on question 45 of a 50 question test and I re-set the system for you, you would have to re-take the entire test. So, if you are very far along on the test, I may make a new exam for you to take in place of the one where you had the technical problem. Or, I may move the exam off-Blackboard for you and let you complete the questions that you weren’t able to complete in another environment.
- Since this is a 100% internet course, I am not keeping office hours in Stubbs 212 during the break. I am handling the course from home. I have two email addresses that you may use, hwilliamson@ulm.edu and haroldwilliamson@bellsouth.net. My home telephone number is 318/397-2609 (please call only in case of emergency; otherwise use email).
- Quizzes, eHomework, and Major Exams all appear in a single location, “Exams and Quizzes,” and in order that you need to complete them. Please pay attention to the last date on which you can complete each.
- Obviously, quizzes, exams, and ehomework are open book. However, in the case of quizzes and exams, the timing is a crucial element of the test itself. You will not likely have time to literally look up the answer to every question presented. So, you should study for the test as if it were not open book and then use the available time to actually look up those very few questions to which you don’t already know the answer.