

Northeastern University
College of Criminal Justice
CJU101
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Spring 2008

I. INSTRUCTOR

Steven G. Catalano
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II. OFFICE HOURS

By appointment but I am available to meet with students prior to and after each class.

III. REQUIRED TEXT

Introduction to Criminal Justice, 5th Edition (2008); McGraw/Hill

Supplemental book material available online: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007337993x/information_center_view0/

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the contemporary criminal justice system in the United States. Students examine the phases of the criminal justice system beginning with the detection of crimes by the police, the handling of the case through the courts, and, finally, the disposition and sentencing of offenders. Issues and characteristics of each of the phases (police, courts, and corrections) are examined as well as identifying the key actors (police, judges, prosecutors, correctional officers, and so forth) of each phase of the criminal justice system. Also introduces students to the U.S. juvenile-justice system.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete the course will have a working knowledge; both academic and practitioner-based, of the criminal justice system based on readings, class discussions and in-class presenters.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to attend all classes. **Attendance is mandatory.** Exams and quizzes will be based upon readings from the text, additional readings as assigned, and class discussions. In fairness to all, grades for late papers and missed exams will be lowered by one grade (i.e. a grade of A will be lowered to B, a B will be lowered to C, etc.) for each class that it is late. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** Permission to take a missed exam must be obtained from the instructor prior to the exam.

Additional information regarding the topic for the writing assignment will be provided in class, however the paper will be 6-8 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions. As we proceed through the course material, students will be encouraged to share their professional observations and experiences relevant to the appropriate lecture. During the course, the instructor may use excerpts from various books, periodicals, and articles. The syllabus may be amended during the semester.

VII. GRADING

Attendance	10%
Quizzes	10%
Writing assignment	20%
Exams	60%

VIII. PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING POLICY

Plagiarism and cheating are prohibited. While taking exams and quizzes, students are not to look at other student quizzes or exams, consult their books, notebooks or any other material except the quiz or exam in front of them. The paper that the student writes should be his/her original work. Students are required to submit an original work done for this course, not a work prepared for another course. Any words included from another source should be properly quoted and cited. Students can speak to each other about the papers but students are not to write collaboratively with other students. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic **F** on that paper, exam or quiz and will be referred to the University for formal proceedings. Please refer any questions on this policy to the professor.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

Week of	Topics and Assignments
1/7/08	Chapter 1: Crime and Justice in the United States
1/14/08	Chapter 2: Crime and Its Consequences
1/21/08	Chapter 3: Explaining Crime
1/28/08	Chapter 4: The Rule of Law
2/4/08	Chapter 5: History and Structures of American Law Enforcement
2/11/08	Chapter 6: Policing: Roles, Styles, and Functions
2/18/08	Chapter 7: Policing America: Issues and Ethics
2/25/08	Chapter 8: The Administration of Justice
3/3/08	SPRING BREAK
3/10/08	Chapter 9: Sentencing, Appeals, and the Death Penalty
3/17/08	Chapter 10: Institutional Corrections
3/24/08	Chapter 11: Prison Life, Inmate Rights, Release, and Recidivism
3/31/08	Chapter 12: Community Corrections
4/7/08	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice
4/14/08	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice