

CMJS 2013: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Catalog Description

An examination of the history and philosophy of the administration of justice in America. Includes the theories of crime and punishment, rehabilitation, as well as ethics, education and training of professionals in the field.

2. Prerequisites: None

3. Credit, Contact, Local Hours: 3/3/3

4. Target Audience & Transfer

Designed for students majoring in criminal justice and for students with an interest in any criminal justice or social science fields. Successful completion of this course should prepare students for further study in the criminal justice curriculum. This course will transfer to the University of Arkansas in their Bachelor's Degree program in Criminal Justice.

5. General Course Outcomes

Students completing this course should be able to:

- a. Knowledge. Obtain a foundation of facts, vocabulary and principles associated with federal and state criminal justice systems in the United States.
- b. Critical Thinking. Use the basic information obtained in this course to recognize and be able to analyze issues relating to society's relationship with federal and state criminal justice institutions.
- c. Academic Skills. Use the information obtained in this course to prepare them for more detailed instruction in Criminal Investigation, Police Administration and Criminal Procedure.
- d. Cultural Awareness. Expand their knowledge to issues peculiar to culturally diverse populations as they relate to our criminal justice system.

6. Required Texts:

Albanese, Jay, Criminal Justice 2000 Update, Allyn & Bacon, Boston, Mass.

7. Topics:

- I. General Foundations
 - A. An overview of the Criminal Justice System
 - B. System Costs, Criminal Law, Crime and Offense Characteristics
 - C. Crime in America
- II. Law Enforcement
 - A. Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
 - B. The Police Role and Operations
 - C. Law Enforcement: Issues and Trends
- III. The Court
 - A. The Development, Role and Structure of America's Courts
 - B. Major Actors in the Courtroom
 - C. Going to Trial
 - D. Court: Issues and Trends
- IV. Corrections
 - A. Corrections: Historical Perspective
 - B. America's Jail System
 - C. Prison Systems and Programs
 - D. Probation, Intermediate Sanctions and Parole
 - E. Corrections: Issues and Trends
- V. Juvenile Justice
 - A. The Juvenile Justice Systems

8. Required Methods of Instruction

Three hours classroom lecture per week with additional outside assignments focusing on state and local criminal justice issues.

9. Required Forms of Assessment

a. Students will be given a pre and post test written by individual faculty but which will include some questions from a Test Bank under development by the program Coordinator. The information from these pre and post tests will be analyzed each semester so that the faculty can target areas of insufficient learning and accomplishment.

b. Students will be given periodic examinations covering selected topics of the course so that when the course has been completed, students will have been tested on all topics set out above. Each such test will contain a critical thinking element to measure the student's understanding of analytical matters and their competency in rational thinking.

10. Resources: None