

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES

## CRJ 111: Introduction to Criminal Justice

### Course Syllabus

Instructor: Rachel Cousert  
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Term: Winter Session 2019/2020

Communicating with the Instructor: The best way to communicate with me is by email as I do not have regular office hours for an online class. I will attempt to respond to all emails/questions within 24 hours. On Blackboard there is also a Question/Answer Discussion Forum that anyone may post and reply in.

Course Objective and Description: CRJ 111 Introduction to Criminal Justice, 3 credits

Introduction to the system of Criminal Justice including police, courts, and corrections.

Required Text: Peak, K. & Madensen, T. "Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process." 3rd Ed. Sage Publications, Inc. 2019.

Course textbooks: You may pick up your textbook before you leave campus in the fall or have it mailed to you. For online classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks. Visit the Textbook Rental page at: <http://www.siue.edu/textbook/>. Download the "Off-Campus Textbook Form." Fill out the form and email it back to Textbook Rental.

#### Course Requirements:

Quizzes: Each chapter will have a quiz that must be taken. Chapter quizzes will be worth 200 points of your final grade. There will be no cumulative exam. All chapter quizzes for the week must be completed by **Sunday at 11:30 p.m.** Quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

Discussion Board: Each student is expected to post a new thread on the discussion board at least once per chapter. Each student is also expected to respond twice to someone else's thread for each chapter. Because we will be covering multiple chapters per week, all original threads need to be posted by **Friday at 11:30 p.m.** and all responses posted by **Sunday at 11:30 p.m.** of each week. The thread and responses must contribute to the discussion board and prompt thought by other students. I will be reviewing and grading all posts. Discussion posts are worth 70 points of your final grade.

#### Recommended Sequence:

1. Read the Chapter
2. Review the PowerPoint
3. Post thread on Discussion Board for each chapter (Due Friday by 11:30pm)
4. Take the Chapter Quiz (Due Sunday by 11:30pm)
5. Respond on Discussion Board at least twice per chapter (Due Sunday by 11:30pm)

Course Schedule:

**WEEK ONE: December 16-December 22**

Chapter 1  
Chapter 2  
Chapter 3 p. 74-82  
Chapter 5  
Chapter 6

**WEEK TWO: December 23-December 29**

Chapter 7  
Chapter 8  
Chapter 9  
Chapter 10

**WEEK THREE: December 30-January 5**

Chapter 11  
Chapter 12  
Chapter 13  
Chapter 14

Grades: Quizzes are worth 200 points and discussion posts are worth 70 points of your total grade.

There is a standard grading scale of:

243-270 points (90-100%) = A

216-242 points (80-89%) =B

189-215 points (70-79%) =C

162-188 points (60-69%) =D

<162 points (<59%) =F

Extra Credit: A research paper worth up to 25 points is due no later than 1-5-20. It must be 6-10 pages, double spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins. It must be an academic, research based paper with at least three sources. Your textbook can be one source. Academic journals such as *Criminology* or *Crime and Justice* are great. Government websites are good. If it's not a credible website, don't use it. Wikipedia is not okay. Check out the online resources at SIUE Library. The sources must be cited within the paper. Meaning, don't plagiarize. If you get information from a source, either put it in quotations or following the sentence/paragraph of info, put in parentheses where you got the info. For example..."Police can collect DNA from people arrested but not yet convicted," (Peak p. 189) or for example.... Police can take DNA as part of the booking process in jail even before someone has been convicted of a crime (Peak p. 189). Up to you on format, either MLA or APA is fine. You must also have a works cited page at the end, also known as a bibliography or references. A good research paper is 80-90% cited!! Some possible topics for your paper are 1. The Death Penalty 2. Fourth Amendment and Law Enforcement 3. Principles of Effective Intervention in Probation. 4. Violence in Prisons. I'm open to other topics, but you must discuss it with me first, it must be relevant to this class. Any submissions can be emailed to me at [rcouser@siue.edu](mailto:rcouser@siue.edu)

Technology Requirements: At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in an online or hybrid course:

- \* Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
- \* Updated Internet browsers (Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox). See Blackboard's Browser Checker page to see if your browser and operating system are compatible with Blackboard.
- \* DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.
- \* Updated video/media player such as, QuickTime, VLC, or Windows Media Player.

Technology Capabilities: Students in an online or hybrid course should be able to:

- \* Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in class. SIUE Students have access to Microsoft 365 for free. Go to <https://www.siu.edu/its/office365/index.shtml> for more information.
- \* Attach files to emails or course areas
- \* Navigate websites and course materials
- \* Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

Technical Support: Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines. Contact ITS at 618-650-5500 or at [help@siue.edu](mailto:help@siue.edu) with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the ITS System Status page, or search the ITS Knowledge Base for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

Tips for taking online assessments:

- \* Set up a wired (Ethernet) Internet connection on your computer
- \* Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
- \* Read the instructions and directions carefully
- \* Be prepared to complete the assessment in the allotted time

#### **How to communicate on the Discussion Board:**

- Reflect before you post an emotional response and re-read what you have written to be sure it is professional. Communicate as if your comments are printed in a newspaper.
- Communicate effectively.
  - Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.), or else you might come across angrier than you intended.
  - Be sure to define or explain acronyms, jargon or uncommon terms so everyone can understand and participate in the discussion.
- Sign your name. Take responsibility for your comments to build a strong classroom community.
- Foster community. Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course. Focus on providing clarity and moving the discussion toward understanding, even when you don't agree.
- Be constructive. Challenge ideas and the course content, but do so in positive ways. It's fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate and encourage helpful discussion, and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.
- Keep the conversation on topic. Online dialogue is like conversation. If there is a particular dialogue going on, please add to it, but if you have something new to say, start a new thread.

- In your replies to other students, you will need to do more than say “great comment” or “I agree”. Ask questions, provide a different viewpoint, prompt discussion.

**What Is Expected of You on the Discussion Board:**

- Post your original contribution to the discussion board for each chapter by **Friday at 11:30 p.m.** I encourage you to cite the book or other sources in your threads. You may post after the deadline, but you will not receive credit for it. Each original thread is worth 3 points with a max of three points earned per chapter.
- Reply to at least two other students for each chapter by **Sunday at 11:30 p.m.** I encourage you to cite the book or other sources in your responses. You may post after the deadline, but you will not receive credit for it. Each reply thread is worth 1 point with a max of two points earned per chapter.
- Check in on the Discussion Board frequently, at least three or four times a week.
- If someone has replied to any of your posts, you should answer them, just as you would in a face-to-face conversation. Be sure to pay attention to what is happening on the Discussion Board.
- At the same time, you should not feel obligated to re-read everyone’s posts multiple times a week just to be sure you’re not missing something. Once you’ve read your peers’ responses, make note of which threads you are actively participating in – focus on monitoring *those* conversations.
- When the deadline for posting has passed for one week, we will move on to the next topic.
- In general, you should spend about three to four hours a week participating in class discussions – that includes, writing your original contribution, reading others’ posts, and responding.
- Remember, the point of using the Discussion Board is to have a real conversation! You should be going back and forth with each other, asking questions for clarity, agreeing/disagreeing (using course resources to support your points), and all of the things we do in a discussion on campus.

Academic Dishonesty: Students enrolling in the University assume responsibility for conduct compatible with the learning environment of the University. Students are expected to be familiar with Student Conduct and Student Grievances: Rights and Responsibility. This policy describes the University’s expectations for student conduct, sanctions imposed for violations of the standards, and procedures which students may follow in filing grievances. The University gives high priority to matters of academic ethics and abhors all types of cheating including plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one’s own and may consist of copying, paraphrasing, or otherwise using written or oral work of another without proper acknowledgement of the source or presenting oral or written material prepared by another as one’s own. Instructor may impose sanctions for academic cheating in accordance with Student Conduct and Student Grievances: Rights and Responsibilities. In the case of plagiarism, the minimum sanction of the first instance of plagiarism is failure for the course and disciplinary probation; for the second offense of plagiarism, the minimum sanction is separation from the University for one term; and for a third instance of plagiarism, the minimum sanction is permanent separation from the University.