

## **Sociology 200--01**

### **Introduction to Criminal Justice**

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Office:  
Office Hours:

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#### **Statement of Purpose:**

Hello and welcome to SOC200--Introduction to Criminal Justice. The goal of this course is to introduce you to an important means of social control in American society, the criminal justice system. Because the approach of this course is sociological, the focus will be on criminal justice as a complex social-legal system that has enormous ramifications for those associated with it whether they are crime victims, those accused of crime, those convicted of crime, or those employed in criminal justice agencies. We will examine the main goals, organizational structures, and occupational roles associated with the police, the criminal courts, and corrections. We will also learn about how accused and convicted persons move through the criminal process from arrest to conviction to punishment. As we look at the workings of the criminal process, we will address whether criminal justice agencies are effective in achieving their goals and whether they do so in a fair and unbiased manner.

In designing this course, I sought to meet the needs of two different types of student. The first is the student who is considering a major or a minor in Criminal Justice. These students may be considering a career in criminal justice. For them, the course will provide a foundation for taking additional courses in this area. The second is the individual who is curious about the problem of crime control and wants to become a more knowledgeable citizen.

Finally, as you are well aware, there is great public debate about the topic of crime and crime control. Throughout the semester, we will address controversies related to public policy on crime control. In contrast to the sensationalism that is often found in popular treatments of these topics, we will rely upon more scholarly reflections by criminologists and legal experts. My hope is that the course will be helpful to you personally as you try to come to grips with your own positions on these difficult issues.

The course is designed to help you achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To become familiar with the different parts of the criminal justice system, their history, their current functions, and their interrelationships with each other.
2. To develop analytical skills in assessing information about the criminal justice system.
3. To learn about the impact of class, race and gender in criminal justice.
4. To see how criminal justice professionals view their work and to help you clarify your career goals.
5. To become informed about major policy debates regarding crime control and criminal justice.

## Required Reading:

Siegel, Larry and Joseph Senna, *Essentials of Criminal Justice* (Fifth Edition) Thomson/Wadsworth, 2007.

Walker, Samuel, *Sense and Nonsense About Crime and Drugs* (Sixth Edition) Thomson/Wadsworth, 2006.

Bogira, Steve. *Courtroom 302* Alfred Knopf, 2005.

Assigned readings on reserve

## Class Time:

During the semester, class time will be used in a variety of ways: lecture, small and large group discussion, films, etc. My preference is to keep lectures brief and engage in a discussion about the topic under consideration. Since these discussions will presume and build upon an understanding of the readings, it is essential that you should read and be prepared to discuss assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned.

## Attendance Policy:

Discussions in class will often focus on material not in the readings. Therefore, you will need to attend class regularly. In addition to increasing your own learning, your attendance and participation also benefit the class as a whole. As an incentive to encourage your attendance, you will receive three points extra credit if you have two or fewer absences during the semester. In addition, students who regularly attend class and frequently contribute to class discussions may receive an additional point or two if they are on the border of receiving a higher grade at the end of the term.

## Course Project:

All students are required to complete a course project. It is described in a separate handout.

## Exams and Grading:

There will be three examinations in this course. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade. There will also be a number of brief quizzes to test your understanding of the reading assigned for the day. The composite score of these quizzes will be 20% of the grade. **Students who miss a quiz may not make it up.** However, the lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

Grading:	Three examinations @ 20%	60%
	Quizzes	20%
	Course Project	<u>20%</u>
	Total	100%

You also have the option to earn extra credit points by doing additional assignments. A handout will be provided describing how to do this.

Grading scale:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
233 -250	A	183-191	C
225-232	A-	175-182	C-
217-224	B+	167-174	D+
208-216	B	158-166	D
200-207	B-	150-157	D-
192-199	C+	0-149	F

Those taking the course S-D-R must obtain at least 70% of the possible points to receive an S.

### **Office Hours:**

Let me encourage you to take advantage of the time set aside for office hours. If you have questions about the course project, examinations, or just want to chat about the class, please stop by. My office hours are listed above. If these times are inconvenient, feel free to make an appointment with me for another time. If for some reason, I cannot be at office hours, I will try to let you know ahead of time and schedule alternate hours. Finally, you can also contact me through e-mail at [pfparilla@stthomas.edu](mailto:pfparilla@stthomas.edu).

### **Accommodations for Students with Learning Disabilities**

In compliance with the University's policy and disability laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Enhancement Program for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

**Course schedule** (Guide to readings--S = Siegel and Senna's *Essentials of Criminal Justice* W = Walker's *Sense and Nonsense*; B = Bogira's *Courtroom 302*.)

Date	Topic	Pages
Jan. 29	Introduction to the course	None
Jan. 31	Is the Justice System Just?	S ch. 1
Feb. 2	Crime Policy	W ch.1
Feb. 5	Models of Criminal Justice	W ch.2
Feb. 7	Competing Perspectives on Criminal Justice	Packer reading B Prologue

Feb. 9	How do we know how much crime there is?	S pp. 34-46
Feb. 12	Patterns of crime: chronic offenders	S. pp.46-52; W. ch. 4
Feb. 14	Victims and Victims Rights	S pp. 52-54; W ch. 9
Feb. 16	The Legal Definition of Crime	S pp. 32-34; 66-91
Feb. 19	Criminal Law continued	W. pp. 161-167; 249-258 B ch. 12 and 15
Feb. 21	Types of crime: drugs	W. ch.13; B. ch 6
Feb. 23	Types of crime: Gun violence	W. ch.10
Feb. 26	Types of crime: Terrorism/Cybercrime <b>Deadline for class presentation and create your own option</b>	S. ch. 4
Feb. 28	<b>First Exam</b>	
Mar. 2	Police in Society	S ch. 5
Mar. 5	Police Patrol <b>Walker policy paper topic due</b>	S pp.148-158; W. pp 85-91
Mar. 7	Investigation	S pp 158-163; W. pp. 91-99; B ch 9
Mar. 9	Community Policing	S pp. 163-175
Mar. 12	Issues in Policing I	S ch. 7
Mar. 14	Issues in Policing II	W pp. 99-105; 244-249; B ch. 10, 14 and 17
Mar. 16	Courts	S ch. 8
Mar. 19-23	<b>Midterm Break</b>	
Mar. 26	Courtroom Workgroup	W ch.3; B ch 3 and 7
Mar. 28	Pretrial Procedures	S pp. 250-265; W pp. 132-139;
Mar. 30	Plea Negotiations	S pp. 265-273; W 167-173; B ch. 1 and 4

Apr. 2	The Trial I	S. ch. 10
Apr. 4	Juries	S. ch. 10
Apr. 6 & 9	<b>Easter Break</b>	
Apr. 11	Trials <b>First two entries for media assignment due</b>	B. ch 5, 8, 11 and 16
Apr. 13	<b>Second exam</b>	
Apr. 16	Purposes of Sentencing	S pp. 292-301; W pp. 139-146
Apr. 18	Purposes of Sentencing	W6 (except 114-118)
Apr. 20	Sentencing Practices	S pp.301-305; W 146-154; B ch. 18
Apr. 23	The Death Penalty	S pp. 309-323; W pp. 114-118
Apr. 25	Is Sentencing Biased?	S pp. 305-309
Apr. 27	Community corrections	S pp.326-350; W pp. 226-228; 231-237
Apr. 30	Restorative justice	S pp.350-357; W pp. 312-313
May 2	Prisons and Jails <b>Walker policy paper due</b> <b>Experience based paper due</b>	S ch. 13; B. ch. 2
May 4	Prison Life	S pp. 386-394
May 7	Rehabilitation	S pp.395-408; W 217-225; 237-241
May 9	Does Incarceration reduce crime? <b>Media project due</b>	S. 408-416; W. 228-231
May 11	Final thoughts	W ch. 14; B ch. 19 and Epilogue
May 15	<b>Final Exam 8:00 – 10:00</b>	