

Criminal Justice Administration

Soc 158

Prof. Morrell

Criminal Justice Administration

Required Books: Criminal Justice Today: Text for the 21st Century. Frank Schmalleger 9th edition, 2007. ISBN 0-13-171965-3. Prentice Hall Publisher. Saddle River, New Jersey.
Nightly newspaper

Method of Instruction: Lectures Notes and Power Point
Presentations
Required Readings
Web Homework Assignments
Interactive Scenarios
Discussion Sessions
Films
Mandatory Field Visit to Criminal Court
3 Multiple choice and short essay Quizzes
1 Short Paper on the Supreme Court

Description of Course:

Criminal Justice Administration is an overview of the history, structure, and function of police, prosecutor, judicial, and correctional organizations, and their interrelatedness, as they comprise our criminal justice system. The purpose of the course is to understand the components of the criminal justice system and their operations.

Major U.S. Supreme Court decisions on legal issues affecting police, court, and correctional practices will be examined in order to understand how the criminal justice system maintains "order under law."

Through case readings and discussions, insights will be gained about the use of discretion which exists within the decision-making process of law enforcement officers, court personnel, and correctional officers as they function in their particular roles.

We will examine the role of the media, lawmaking, and law enforcement in the construction of crime and criminals.

As sociologists, we will examine research data about patterns of criminal justice practices, victimization, police behavior, court processing and sentencing, and prison and other correctional programs.

The course will use a Conflict Theory approach to take a critical look at the role of race and class in the administration of justice, and examine the question of whether discrimination exists.

The major themes of discretion, due process, evidentiary standards, and the right to counsel will also be highlighted as they shape the daily administration of justice in America.

Specific Objectives of the Course:

1. To introduce the major people and decision points in the criminal justice system, as well as the mix of legal boundaries and individual discretionary choices that lead to their decisions
2. To examine the empirical effectiveness and systematic consequences of some basic criminal justice policies when implemented into practice
3. To encourage students to understand the complexities of crime and criminal justice administration and to suspect simple solutions
4. To recognize justice as an ideal and be aware of challenges of injustice and discrimination as they are administered in the real world
5. To enhance students' ability to think critically and discern myth v. facts which are promulgated about this fascinating and challenging subject
6. To encourage students to intelligently evaluate proposed policies and to argue substantively about criminal justice problems and solutions in the real world

Student Competencies of a 100 Level Survey Course

1. The ability to use the vocabulary of the social sciences in disciplined discourse
2. The ability to distinguish empirical from narrative (ie. prescriptive) reasoning
3. The ability to recognize social variables and to connect them in the form of a hypothesis

Course Requirements:

Lecture Notes: My lecture notes and power point presentations form a main part of the course.

Reading Assignments: will be covered according to the schedule on the following pages. Students are expected to have completed the designated readings and be prepared for discussion ON the given dates of the assignment. Use class time for your general learning and focus on the sociological subject matter. It is the place where you can ask questions on parts of the material which you want to have clarified. I suggest that you establish a regular study routine for your reading assignments.

Class Discussions: To encourage the discussion process, at several times throughout the semester we will have discussions about course readings. Your involvement in what is going on in the class is part of the learning process and will help you to master the knowledge required for this course. Students are expected to be sufficiently prepared and to contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Contributions to these discussions are expected and will affect your grade.

Attendance: I am convinced that students cannot do well in my courses without coming to the lectures and discussion sessions. Questions on the exams and assignments are frequently

taken from class lectures and class discussions. In class, I will make clear the expectations for the assignments and exams.

Homework Assignments: There will be computer homework assignments for each chapter. Schmalleger has put his entire textbook, complete with outlines and objectives for each chapter, as well as electronic homework assignments, library extras, and web extras on line. There will also be some Interactive Scenario assignments from the enclosed CD Rom. The textbook website is <http://www.cjtoday.com>. Also check out www.cjnowonline.com I will pass out homework assignments for each chapter. Some will be short written responses to theoretical concepts or controversial issues.

Legal Brief – Each student will brief a major Supreme Court case defining the legal parameters of police practice and present it to the class.

Daily Newspaper Coverage: The study of Criminal Justice is an activity which has much relevance to daily life. Often the most interesting cases for study are those appearing in the daily media. All students are expected to keep up with newspaper articles on crime or criminal justice which appear in local or national newspapers throughout the semester. Each student will be assigned one week to scan the media and present newsworthy articles to the class. Of course, the challenge is siphoning fact from myth. I will be interested in eliciting your reaction to these articles in relation to concepts and issues studied in this class.

Quizzes: There will be 3 multiple choice and short essay quizzes throughout the semester. Questions will cover course content and all class readings. Each quiz will cover 1/3 of the course content.

Papers: There will be 1 short (approximately 5 page) paper. It will ask you to assess issues related to the Supreme Court and its impact on criminal justice practices and liberties in the U.S. I will provide more details about this in the forthcoming weeks.

Grading: The final grade will be determined as follows:

Quiz 1 (Law and Criminal Justice)	25%
Quiz 2 (Policing)	20%
Quiz 3 (Pretrial/Trial)	20%
Web Homework Assignments	15%
1 Supreme Court Paper	20%
	100%