



CRIJ 1301 - Introduction to Criminal Justice Course Syllabus

Description

This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 3

Lab Hours 0

Extended Hours 0

Contact Hours 48

State Approval Code 43.0104.51 24

Instructor Name Mark Dickerson

Semester/Year Fall 2024

Meeting Time and Location

Online—students are expected to spend at least 3-4 hours per week (based on the number of contact hours for the particular course, change the number to reflect that) reading, reviewing, and participating in assigned activities for successful completion of this course.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Panola College to move to altered operations. During this time, Panola College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online learning management system (CANVAS), online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Panola College's website (www.panola.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, CANVAS for each class for course-specific communication, and Panola College email for important general information.

Student Basic Needs

Unexpected circumstances may arise, but Panola College offers various resources to support students. If you need mental health services or are facing challenges with transportation, affording class materials and supplies, or accessing food regularly—issues that may impact your class performance—please visit panola.edu/resources.

Class Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance of classes and laboratories is required of all students. When a student has been ill or absent from class for approved extracurricular activities, he or she should be allowed, as far as possible, to make up for the missed work. If a student has not actively participated by the census date, they will be dropped by the instructor for non-attendance. This policy applies to courses that are in-person, online, hybrid, and hybrid.

Attendance in online courses is determined by submission of an assignment or participation in an activity. According to federal guidelines, simply logging into a distance learning course without participating in an academic assignment does not constitute attendance. Distance learning is defined as when a majority (more than 50%) of instruction occurs when the instructor and students are in separate physical locations. Students must engage in an academic activity prior to the course census date.

When an instructor feels that a student has been absent to such a degree as to invalidate the learning experience, the instructor may recommend to the Vice President of Instruction that the student be withdrawn from the course. Instructors may seek to withdraw students for non-attendance after they have accumulated the following number of absences:

Fall or spring semesters:

3 or more class meeting times per week - 5 absences

2 class meeting times per week - 3 absences

1 class meeting per week - 2 absences

The student is responsible for seeing that he or she has been officially withdrawn from a class. A student who stops attendance in a class without officially withdrawing from that class will be given a failing grade; consequently, the student must follow official withdrawal procedures in the Admissions/Records Office.

Please note: Health Science and Cosmetology courses may require more stringent attendance policies based on their accreditation agencies. Please see the addendum and/or program handbook for further information concerning attendance.

Pregnant/Parenting Policy

Panola College welcomes pregnant and parenting students as a part of the student body. This institution is committed to providing support and adaptations for a successful educational experience for pregnant and parenting students. Students experiencing a need for accommodations related to pregnancy or parenting will find a Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Request form in the Student Handbook or may request the form from the course instructor.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Course Policy

Broader use of Generative AI permitted within the course.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use it. Students must cite AI-generated material that informs their work. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty.

Instructional Goals and Purposes

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of the history, philosophy, and ethical considerations of criminal justice, coupled with the nature and impact of crime. The course provides an overview of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts and court procedure, probation, parole, corrections, and public policy issues affecting all.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.
2. Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.
3. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.
4. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
5. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.

Course Content

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Criminal Justice Today
2. Causes of Crime
3. The Crime Picture: Offenders and Victims
4. Inside Criminal Law
5. Law Enforcement Today
6. Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing

7. Police and the Constitution: The Rules of Law Enforcement
8. Courts and the Quest for justice
9. The Criminal Trial
10. Punishment and Sentencing
11. Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery

This course is offered in online, face-to-face, and/or Hybrid formats. For the traditional classroom course, teaching approaches are expected to vary with individual instructors who should employ those techniques that work best for them and their students. Although lecture and reading assignments are the primary forms of delivery, other instructional methods may involve classroom discussion, student presentations and lectures, audio-visual instruction, invited speakers, critical thinking activities, in class writing exercises designed to stimulate critical thinking, and group activities. Distance learning is also available for students who cannot attend lectures and who are capable of the amount of self-direction and discipline required to complete such a course. Reading the materials, communication via email, and on-line discussion are some of the methods used for distance learning. Additionally, a Field Trip may be incorporated into the class for those eligible.

Major Assignments/Assessments

The following items are assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

Faculty may assign both in and out of class assignments, essay projects, and exams to assess the student's knowledge and abilities. Faculty may also choose from the following assessment criteria:

1. Exams
2. Tests
3. Quizzes
4. Internet Assignments
5. Journal Assignments
6. Library Assignments
7. Written Assignments
8. Attendance
9. Class Participation/Discussion
10. Class Preparedness
11. Prison Field Trip for those eligible, unless excused by Professor

Assessments

1. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Critical Thinking Skills (CT1) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 1.
2. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Empirical and Quantitative Skills (ESQ 2) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 2.
3. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Social Responsibility Skills (SR 3) by correctly answering any three of five embedded questions on Test 3.
4. Students must demonstrate their mastery of Communication Skills (CS 1) by scoring a 70% or better on a written assignment.

Course Grade

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Test 1 – 20% (proctored)

- Test 2 – 20% (proctored)
- Test 3 – 20% (proctored)
- Chapter Quizzes – at the end of the semester, the chapter quiz average may substitute for your Test 1, 2, or 3 grade, provided the quiz average is higher than the lowest Test 1, 2, or 3 grade. The quiz average constitutes all assigned quizzes, not just completed quizzes.
- Discussion Participation – Discussion Topics are a requirement of this course. Students may receive up to 5 points for Discussion, based on the subjective scoring of the Professor. The Discussion points will then be added back to the Quiz grade from the related chapter.
- Written Assignment – 15% (submitted via Canvas or current LMS)
- Final Exam – 25% (proctored)

For shortened semesters, i.e. Winter Term, Summer 1, and/or Summer 2 when time and testing facility hours are modified, the grading scale is modified as follows:

Mid Term – 30% (proctored)

Final Exam – 30% (proctored)

Quiz Average – 25%

Written Assignment – 15% (for shortened semesters, there is no Prison Field Trip – all students receive the Alternate Assignment).

- Discussion Participation – Discussion Topics are a requirement of this course. Students may receive up to 5 points for Discussion, based on the subjective scoring of the Professor. The Discussion points will then be added back to the Quiz grade from the related chapter.

Subjective grading – in circumstances where student grades are borderline and the issue of rounding the grade up comes into question, the professor may consider your classroom attendance record, your class participation level, and/or your perceived preparedness level for class in determining to round up or not.

Texts Materials, and Supplies

A Brief Introduction to Criminal Justice Practice And Process, Peak/Madensen-Herold, Sage Publishing

Required Readings

- A Brief Introduction to Criminal Justice Practice And Process, Peak/Madensen-Herold, Sage
- Publishing Links and/or Materials provided within the Canvas course

Recommended Readings

Local and National newspaper and/or magazine/journal articles relevant to the subject matter issues discussed

Other

- Courses conducted via video conferencing may be recorded and shared for instructional purposes by the instructor.
- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: <https://www.panolacollegestore.com>.
- For testing services, use the following link: <https://www.panola.edu/student-services/student-support/academic-testing-center>.
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Charles C. Matthews Student Center or go to <https://www.panola.edu/studentservices/student-support/disability-support-services> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook: <https://www.panola.edu/> (located on at the bottom under student)