

Missouri State University
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
CRM 210: Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday (8:30-11:00a.m.)

Students may also contact the instructor to arrange a meeting time.

Course Description

This course is designed to educate and enlighten students with an introduction to the primary principles and agencies within the criminal justice system. Primary emphasis will be placed on the branches of law enforcement (police), the adjudicatory system (courts), and correctional supervision (including, but not limited to, prisons, jails, probation, and parole). A central focus will be placed on identifying myths and realities within the criminal justice system. In addition, students will develop an appreciation of issues and dilemmas faced by those working in criminal justice, critically analyze the justice process in American society and its impact on communities and broader society, and explore solutions to pressing problems in contemporary criminal justice practice.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to:

- a. Understand the basic components and philosophical and historical roots of the criminal justice system and appreciate how the roles, purposes, and processes fulfilled by each criminal justice component are integrated into a broader system of justice;
- b. Explore the crime control function of law enforcement, the dynamics of police-community relations, and constitutional implications of police practice, along with various modern issues and challenges which affect the administration of justice in the policing profession;
- c. Examine criminal court and trial processes (including bail, plea-bargaining, trial, and sentencing), the roles of the judge, prosecutor, and defense counsel, and contemporary alternatives to traditional court practices, such as diversion and problem court strategies; and
- d. Recognize the roles and functions of the four primary forms of correctional supervision (prisons, jails, probation, and parole), legal and administrative considerations associated with imprisonment, and the varying impacts of offender rehabilitation approaches, such as halfway houses, work-release programs, education services, and vocational training.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING GOALS AND RELATED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

CRM 210 is a general education course listed as a *Public Affairs* course, with a focus on *Public Issues*.

The CRM 210 course will meet the required General Learning Goals (GLGs) for the Public Issues area by addressing a number of related Specific Learning Outcomes (SLOs) as described below. The GLGs covered through this course are Goals 1, 2, and 12. The SLOs are notated below in accordance with the numerical indicators provided on the Council on General Education and Intercollegiate Programs (CGEIP) website.

General Goal (1): Students will be able to develop the disposition and skills to gather, organize, refine, analyze, and evaluate critically information and ideas.

SLO 1.1: Identify and follow through on personally and socially relevant problems and reasonable solutions to those problems. Alignment to Course Goals: Students often harbor preconceived notions about criminal offenders and the justice system, which are often based on false or misleading information disseminated through popular culture. During the course students will receive extensive exposure to information on offenders, victims, and criminal justice policies and practices. Particular emphasis will be placed on pressing problems within the field, such as the implications of mass incarceration and reentry, police use of force, plea bargaining, crime rate trajectories, offender recidivism, and victim roles in the justice process. Students will be exposed to and reflect upon the crime problem and its impact on society and current and past strategies for addressing critical issues in criminology and criminal justice.

SLO 1.2: Identify relevant information sources, make reasoned choices among those sources, and open-mindedly follow where those sources lead.

Alignment to Course Goals: Students will explore a wide variety of methods involved with collecting and disseminating information on criminal activity, victimization, and criminal justice processes. The strengths and limitations associated with official records, victimization studies, and self-report data will be examined.

SLO 1.4: Analyze evidence, statements, alternative viewpoints, graphics, and other forms of information. Alignment to Course Goals:

Students will be challenged to consider and analyze their beliefs and perspectives on the factors that influence criminal activity and how the criminal justice system operates. As part of the course, students will analyze competing explanations behind the purposes of criminal law, philosophical justifications underlying offender punishment and reform, and interpretations of criminal justice organizational goals, roles, and functions. Students will examine the strengths and weaknesses of differing viewpoints on criminal justice issues.

General Goal (2): Students will be able to develop new ideas, products, or solutions and explore novel perspectives and approaches.

SLO 2.1: Develop creative and novel solutions to personally and socially relevant problems. Alignment to Course Goals: Students will be challenged to develop their own recommendations aimed at addressing crime-related problems and improving criminal justice policy and practice. Students will be required to critically examine the roots of

current crime and criminal justice problems, evaluate the benefits and limitations of existing strategies to correct the problems, and demonstrate how their suggestions will specifically reduce crime and/or enhance criminal justice operations.

SLO 2.2: Take account of novel, alternative, contradictory, and even radical viewpoints in creating new ideas, products, or solutions appropriate to the domain or subject matter. Alignment to Course Goals: When creating the proposals mentioned above for SLO 2.1, students will explore the merits and shortcomings of contemporary solutions to pressing issues facing the criminal justice field, such as modern crime prevention strategies, alternative sentencing practices, offender rehabilitation programming, and problem-oriented policing.

General Goal (12): Students will be able to recognize the importance of contributing their knowledge and experiences to their own communities and the broader society.

SLO 12.1: Identify the rights and responsibilities they have in their own communities and the broader society. Alignment to Course Goals: The course will inform students about citizen rights in relation to criminal justice processes. Students will also learn about discrimination issues in policing, the courts, and correctional systems. Exploring these issues will help students identify their personal and social responsibilities for ensuring equality and fairness in the distribution of justice.

SLO 12.4: Recognize the needs of the communities to which they belong and understand how to address those needs. Alignment to Course Goals: Crime is primarily a local phenomenon and heavily influenced by a range of community-level factors. Students will learn how social factors can impair communities and foster criminal activity, which, in turn, will enable students to understand how the inability to address community needs can affect crime. In addition, students will examine how communities can be strengthened to aid crime prevention.

Text:

There is **one required** text for the course:

Rennison and Dodge. 2018. *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity, and Change*. Sage Publishers.

Blackboard: There is a Blackboard site for the class. Blackboard will be used to send class announcements, additional class material, and for students to view grades. Some assignments may be submitted using Blackboard.

Classroom Etiquette and Attendance

It is likely that some of the students in this course are going to have different ideas and opinions about offenders, the criminal justice system, laws, victims, etc. Disagreements should be handled through constructive dialogue. No name calling or offensive speech directed at students or the instructor is allowed!! To ensure that student's feel secure in participating in class, it is the responsibility of each student to be respectful of others. It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that each student is safe and free from discrimination and/or harassment. At any time a student who is disruptive may be asked to leave.

Students must also not use cell phones during class or use computers for anything other than note taking.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted in this course must be completed and submitted only by the student. Students are not permitted to complete assignments together. All work in this course must also be original to this course- you may not submit work that has been or will be submitted in another course. Any violation of this will result in 0 points for the assignment and MSU's academic policy will be implemented.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken each class period at the beginning of class. It is the responsibility of each student to sign the roll sheet. Under no circumstances should students sign in for one another.

There are no excused absences outside of MSU verified absences.

The instructor does not give out/email notes for those who miss class.

Students may earn 10 points extra credit for missing no more than 2 classes and for being in class at the start of class.

Grade Requirements

Exams: A total of four exams will be given during the semester. Each exam is worth 80 points. Students will only be allowed to make-up an exam if they have notified the instructor **prior** to the exam. **Make-up exams will only be allowed for extreme circumstances with documentation.** Students who take a make-up exam may not have the same test as other students and/or may have points deducted. Exams will be given out promptly at the beginning of class. Tentative exam dates are listed in the course schedule.

Assignments and Papers: Students may complete a variety of small assignments including film reviews, group work, etc. Students will complete two papers that will require academic research. The papers will be between 2-3 pages each. More information will be given later in the semester on the paper requirements.

Points given for in-class assignments may not be made up without appropriate documentation for a university excused absence. For out of class assignments, students may turn late assignments up to one class period late for a grade letter reduction in points.

Attendance and Participation: It is expected that all students will maintain regular attendance and be prepared for the course material. Ten points extra credit will be allocated to students who miss no more than 2 courses and arrive on time to class.

Pre and Post Test: Students are required to take a pre-test (during the first week of classes) and a post-test (end of semester) as part of department assessment. Students are **REQUIRED** to take both tests. Any student who is passing the class who does not complete one or both tests will receive an I grade. There are no points allocated for the pre-test. The post-test is worth 30 points and is given during the final examination period.

Exams (4x80 points each)	320 points
Post-test	30 points
Assignments	35-50 points
Total Points	385-400 points

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=59% and lower
 There are no plus/minus grades

Course Schedule (this is a tentative schedule)

Week One: 1/16 and 1/18	Introduction to class, review syllabus, take CRM 210 pre-test, chapter 1
Week Two: 1/23 and 1/25	Chapter 1 and 2
Week Three: 1/30 and 2/1	Chapter 2 and 3
Week Four: 2/6 and 2/8	Chapter 3 and Exam 1
Week Five: 2/13 and 2/15	Chapter 4
Week Six: 2/20 and 2/22	Chapter 5
Week Seven: 2/27 and 3/1	Chapter 6
Week Eight: 3/6 and 3/8	Exam 2 and Chapter 7
SPRING BREAK	
Week Nine: 3/20 and 3/22	Chapter 7 and 8
Week Ten: 3/27 and 3/29 (NO CLASS)	Chapter 8
Week Eleven: 4/3 and 4/5	Chapter 9
Week Twelve: 4/10 and 4/12	Exam 3 and Chapter 10
Week Thirteen: 4/17 and 4/19	Chapter 10 and 11
Week Fourteen: 4/24 and 4/26	Chapter 11 and 12
Week Fifteen: 5/1 and 5/3	Chapter 12 and 13
Week Sixteen: 5/8 and 5/10	Chapter 13 and Exam 4
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 15, 11:00am	CRM 210 Post-test

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Facebook

The Department has a Facebook site where we frequently highlight student and faculty accomplishments, as well as provide updates on criminal justice job opportunities and other exciting events happening in the field. You can find our Facebook site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

Accelerated Master's Program

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers an accelerated Master's program for qualified undergraduate criminology majors. Through this option, you may take up to 12 hours of graduate coursework which simultaneously count as both Bachelor's and Master's credit. By pursuing the accelerated Master's, it is possible for a student to graduate with both his or her Bachelor's Degree and a Master's level certificate in Homeland Security or Community Corrections in a 4-year period. Learn more about our accelerated program at <http://criminology.missouristate.edu/master/accelerated.htm> or contact Dr. Patti Salinas, the Graduate Program Director, at PattiSalinas@MissouriState.edu.

MSU Policies

Academic Dishonesty

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

Non-discrimination

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity/.

Disability Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

Cell Phone

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If

that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Emergency Response

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

Dropping a class

is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520.

Audio and video recording course activity

Students who wish to record lectures or class activities for study purposes should inform the faculty member first. Distribution or sale of recordings or other course materials is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and other students who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 4.6, 4.8, 4.9).

Religious accommodation

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily

activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

Title IX Policy

Missouri State University has a Title IX policy that guides our response to instances of sexual violence. Sexual Violence includes: Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Discrimination, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Sexual Harassment and Pregnancy issues. The Title IX policy can be located on the MSU Title IX website at

www.missouristate.edu/titleix/. This website is also a good resource for any questions or issues involving Title IX and contains contact information for the MSU Title IX Office and staff.

If an MSU student discloses a Title IX related issue to a MSU faculty or staff member who is deemed to be a “Responsible Employee” under the policy, that faculty or staff member is required to report such disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. A responsible employee includes any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee; or whom a student could reasonably believe has the authority or duty to take action. Taylor Health employees and MSU Counseling Center Clinicians are not considered to be Responsible Employees under the policy, and therefore, are not required to report Title IX issues to the Title IX Coordinator.

Chosen Name Policy

A student may choose a name other than their legal name to identify themselves at Missouri State University. A chosen name is different than the student’s legal name. Refer to the [Chosen Name policy](#) for more information. Students can provide their chosen first and middle names in the *Profile* tab of [My Missouri State](#).