

# Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System

CRM 210 – Section 002 – Spring 2018

Tue/Thu 12:30 - 1:45 Strong Hall 202

Dr. Patrick R. Gartin

## **Course Description**

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of the American criminal justice system, its functions, problems, and potential solutions. We will cover topics related to the crime problem in America, policing, adjudication, corrections, and several special issues such as juvenile justice, drugs and terrorism. Please note that CRM 210 is a general education course listed as a Public Affairs course, with a focus on Public Issues. Please see the Appendix of this syllabus for more information regarding how this course is designed to meet the required General Learning Goals (GLGs) for the Public Issues area and the assessment measures that will be used to evaluate the extent to which these GLGs and corresponding SLOs are being met.

## **Required Text**

***Criminal Justice: An Introductory Text for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – 14<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Schmallegger, 2017).***

We will be using REVEL, an online course packet that includes an electronic version of the textbook as well as supporting course materials, including required weekly quizzes and writing assignments. Students may also opt to purchase a printed version of the text, but online access is required to participate in the course. Directions for purchasing and accessing online course materials will be provided, as will contact information for technical assistance in using REVEL.

## **Course Requirements**

Students will be responsible for studying the assigned materials each week and participating in class discussions related to those materials. There will be required online quizzes and essay assignments due each week throughout the semester. Attendance and class participation are required and will comprise a substantial portion of the points available in the course. The comprehensive final exam for the course will be seated in the classroom during the scheduled final examination period. In addition, students will be required to take both a Pre-test and a Post-test that will be used to evaluate the extent to which the GLGs and corresponding SLOs are being met. Scores on these tests are for General Education assessment only, and will not affect grades for this course. Finally, five General Education Assessment Criteria essays will be required, for which students will receive extra credit points.

## **Attendance, Class Participation and Make-up Policies**

The University's attendance policy can be found in the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog located online at <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/attendan.html>. Students enrolled in this course are expected to attend all classes, complete all readings and assignments as scheduled, and actively participate in class discussions. Excused absences and make up coursework will not be allowed unless documentation is provided that shows the absence from class or the missed coursework was the result of either 1) participation in University-sanctioned activities and programs, 2) personal illness, or 3) family and/or other emergencies. Students who fail to contact the instructor within twelve hours of missing a class or an assigned course activity will forfeit the opportunity to make up those points.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades for this course will be based upon points earned for attendance and class participation (3 pts. per class for a total of 96 pts.), scores earned on quizzes and short essay assignments (904 pts.) and a comprehensive final exam (100 pts.). Plus/Minus grading will NOT be used in recognition and support of the SGA resolution to abolish this system at MSU. Total points earned in the course will be converted to final letter grades based on the following scale:

990 – 1100 = A  
880 – 989 = B  
770 – 879 = C  
660 – 769 = D

### **Email Policy and Office Hours**

Please be advised that I will not respond to email inquiries regarding this course unless they are of an emergency nature or represent the only way for students to contact me. Prior experience has shown that the vast majority of the hundreds of student emails I receive each semester consist of questions that can be readily answered by consulting the course syllabus. Further, the remaining student inquiries generally involve more serious issues that are best dealt with in a face-to-face setting. Thus, to encourage student responsibility in utilizing available course resources such as the syllabus, and to facilitate more effective communication between students and myself, I will require that when possible such communication be made in person. While I encourage students to speak to me either before or after class as a matter of convenience, all other inquiries should be made during my office hours or by appointment. I will be available during my regularly scheduled **office hours from 8:30 to 11:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays in Strong 223** to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. You may also call me at 836-5135 or email me at [PatrickGartin@MissouriState.edu](mailto:PatrickGartin@MissouriState.edu) to schedule an alternate appointment if you are unable to meet during these times. Please see me with any issues or concerns you may have so that we can work to address them before they become problems.

### **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. Students are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus any additional, more specific policies for each class. The University's policy, formally known as the *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, can be accessed and reviewed online at [www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm) and is also available 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.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop participating in this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will likely 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. You may go to [http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html) to view the Academic Calendars online for relevant drop deadlines.

### **Criminology on Facebook**

Students are encouraged to stay current with activities of the Missouri State University Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice by visiting the Departmental Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

### **Policy on Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices**

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.

### **Policy on the Use of Laptops and other Internet-Enabled Devices During Class**

Students who wish to utilize laptops, tablets or other internet-enabled electronic devices for taking notes during class must first request permission from the instructor. To avoid disruption and distraction, accessing the internet during class on any device will not be allowed. Students who violate this policy will forfeit their attendance points for any class periods involved and may be subject to further sanctions.

### **Policy on Audio and Video Recording of Class Activity**

Students who wish to record lectures or other class activities for study purposes must first request permission from the instructor. Distribution or sale of any such recordings is prohibited without the written consent of the instructor and all other students who are recorded. Any distribution of recordings or other course materials without express permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 4.6, 4.8, 4.9).

### **Statement on Emergency Response Assistance**

In case of severe weather during our scheduled class, we will seek shelter as described below:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Shelter Information</b>
Strong Hall	Evacuate the fourth floor using north and south stairs. Faculty office wing occupants may shelter in interior halls of their area. All other occupants move to basement level using north and south stairwells.

In case the building needs to be evacuated during our scheduled class for events such as fire, gas leak, etc., we will follow the Emergency Assembly Point Instructions below:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Evacuation Information</b>
Strong Hall	Northeast to Glass Hall Room 101; Overflow to rooms 102 and 108

Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their professors and the [Disability Resource Center](#). If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For additional information students should contact the [Disability Resource Center](#), 836-4192 (PSU 405). To review Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan online, please go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

### **Statement on 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.

### **Statement on 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.

### **Statement of 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 OIEC website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/).

### **Statement on Mental Health, Stress Management, and Suicide Prevention Policy**

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, having 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/>. Also, in accordance with Missouri law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §173.1200), Missouri State University has established a new policy regarding Suicide Prevention, Available Suicide Programs and Related Procedures. This policy can be viewed at:

[https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1\\_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm](https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm)

### **Statement on 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 Office website at [www.missouristate.edu/titleix/](http://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. Please be aware that 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 current 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.

### **Discussion Topics and Readings**

The following schedule lists the assigned readings from the required text. Additional readings or other materials that may be assigned throughout the semester will be posted on Blackboard.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Topics and Readings</u></b>
TU 01/16	What is Criminal Justice? – Ch. 1
TH 01/18	Ch. 1 continued
TU 01/23	The Crime Picture – Ch. 2
TH 01/25	Ch. 2 continued
TU 01/30	The Search for Causes – Ch. 3
TH 02/01	Ch. 3 continued
TU 02/06	Criminal Law – Ch. 4
TH 02/08	Ch. 4 continued
TU 02/13	Policing: History and Structure – Ch. 5
TH 02/15	Ch. 5 continued
TU 02/20	Policing: Purpose and Organization – Ch. 6
TH 02/22	Ch. 6 continued
TU 02/27	Policing: Legal Aspects – Ch. 7
TH 03/01	Ch. 7 continued
TU 03/06	Policing: Issues and Challenges - Ch. 8
TH 03/08	Ch. 8 continued
03/10-18	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
TU 03/20	The Courts: Structure and Participants – Ch. 9
TH 03/22	Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial – Ch. 10

TU 03/27	Ch. 10 continued
TH 03/29	<b>Spring Holiday – No Class</b>
TU 04/03	Sentencing – Ch. 11
TH 04/05	Ch. 11 continued
TU 04/10	Probation, Parole and Intermediate Sanctions – Ch. 12
TH 04/12	Ch. 12 continued
TU 04/17	Prisons and Jails – Ch. 13
TH 04/19	Prison Life – Ch. 14
TU 04/24	Juvenile Justice – Ch. 15
TH 04/26	Ch. 15 continued
TU 05/01	Drugs and Crime – Ch. 16
TH 05/03	Ch. 16 continued
TU 05/08	Terrorism, Multinational Criminal Justice, and Global Issues – Ch. 17
TH 05/10	High-Technology Crimes – Ch. 18
TH 05/17	<b>Final Exam: 11:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>

## APPENDIX

### 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.

#### COURSE GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT MEASURES

The CRM 210 course includes assessment measures to evaluate the extent to which the GLGs and corresponding SLOs are being met. The General Education measures include a Pretest and Posttest, and the essay assignments discussed in the Course Requirements section.

The Pretest and Posttest measures will examine whether students have gained important empirically-based knowledge from the course. These measures will examine such things as the student's ability to distinguish between realities and myths pertaining to criminal justice processes, recognize the nature and extent of contemporary problems related to crime and justice, understand the benefits and detriments of criminal justice policies, programs, and services, and know the implications of constitutional considerations on criminal justice practices and the effects of crime on communities and society at large. Student performance on the Pretest and Posttest will not be factored into one's overall course grade. The essay assignments discussed above will provide opportunities to earn extra credit points in the course.