

Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1501 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3 Units) CSU: UC

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: None

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 or 1501 with a grade of 'C' or better strongly recommended

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course introduces the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States. Focus is placed on examining crime measurement, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to crime, components of the system, and current challenges to the system. The course examines the evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system and the evolving forces which have shaped those principals and approaches. The criminal justice system, structure, and process is examined in a cross-cultural context with emphasis placed on the structure and function of US police, courts, and corrections. Students are introduced to the origins and development of criminal law, legal process, policing, sentencing, and incarceration policies and practices. This course contains subject matter that can be distressing or otherwise challenging to students. The course material is required to prepare students for the demands of criminal justice careers. Examinations of crimes, crime scenes, court legal opinions, case history and other relevant subject matter including the use of debate or other argumentation is necessary to advance the academic and legal education of this course. C-ID: AJ 110

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text such as: [McKee, Adam J. \*Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System\*. DocMcKee.com, 2016.](#)

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories used to explain crime and criminality.
2. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the sociological costs of crime.
3. Understand the history, development, structure, and function of American police, courts, corrections, and the U.S. criminal and civil legal system.
4. Demonstrate and evaluate the operational history, structure, function, and effectiveness of U.S. law enforcement agencies.
5. Convey an understanding of the process of adjudication, and other extra-legal remedies.
6. Show an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections, as well as the functions of prisons and jails.

7. Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and crime prevention.
8. Critically analyze and discuss issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives including socioeconomic, equitable treatment, ethical standards, and historical failings of the criminal justice system.
9. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice.
10. Demonstrate the ability to raise critically relevant questions based on independent reading of criminal justice literature.
11. Effectively follow APA writing style practiced in the social sciences.
12. Explain the definitions and elements of major California crimes.
13. Evaluate and explain the extent of the crime problem in America.
14. Summarize, critically analyze, and evaluate U.S. Supreme Court case laws that established major law enforcement case law.

#### Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I            Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- A. History, development, structure, and function of American criminal justice
    - a. Early development of law, common law, criminal/civil law
    - b. Purpose of criminal justice system
    - c. Personal rights vs. public safety ideologies
- Unit II            Crime and Victimization
- A. Crime definitions
  - B. Uniform Crime Report and other sources of crime data
  - C. Patterns of criminal activity
  - D. Costs of crime
  - E. Criminological theories in the justice system
  - F. Victimization from various perspectives
- Unit III           Law Enforcement
- A. History, structure, function and inter-relationships between:
    - a. Local law enforcement
    - b. State law enforcement
    - c. Federal law enforcement
- Unit IV           Courts and Sentencing
- A. Function and adjudication process:
    - a. Local Courts
    - b. State Courts
    - c. Federal Criminal Courts
    - d. Appellate Courts
  - B. Court work group
  - C. Victim/witness programs
  - D. Sentencing theories and options
- Unit V            Punishments and Corrections
- A. Functions of incarceration:
    - a. Local Correctional Facilities
    - b. State Correctional Facilities
    - c. Federal Correctional Facilities
  - B. Alternatives to incarceration:

- a. parole
- b. probation
- c. community corrections
- d. fines, restitution, and other alternatives

- Unit VI      The Future of the Criminal Justice System
- A. Special issues of the criminal justice system:
    - a. Juvenile issues
    - b. Drugs
    - c. Immigration
    - d. Homeland security
    - e. Jail and prison overcrowding
    - f. Court backlogs/plea bargaining
    - g. Internet crimes and identity theft
  - B. Technological developments
  - C. Crime predictions for the future

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying textbook (s)
2. Completing required reading including case studies
3. Completing required written exercises
4. Library research
5. Internet research

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Audio/Visual presentations
4. Scenarios
5. Discussion
6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments including:
  - a. essay exams
  - b. research paper using APA format
2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
3. Case analysis
4. Projects
5. Homework assignments
6. In class exercises/presentations\*

\*Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet research.

Supplemental Data:

<u>T.O.P. Code:</u>	<u>210500- Administration of Justice</u>
<u>Sam Priority Code:</u>	<u>C: Clearly Occupational</u>
<u>Distance Education:</u>	<u>Online; Offline</u>
<u>Funding Agency:</u>	<u>Y: Not Applicable</u>
<u>Program Status:</u>	<u>1: Program Applicable</u>
<u>Noncredit Category:</u>	<u>Y: Not Applicable</u>
<u>Special Class Status:</u>	<u>N: Course is not a special class</u>
<u>Basic Skills Status:</u>	<u>N: Not Applicable</u>
<u>Prior to College Level:</u>	<u>Y: Not Applicable</u>
<u>Cooperative Work Experience:</u>	<u>N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program</u>
<u>Eligible for Credit by Exam:</u>	<u>Y: Yes</u>
<u>Eligible for Pass/No Pass:</u>	<u>N: No</u>
<u>Discipline:</u>	<u>Administration of Justice</u>