

Mary Baldwin University
Criminal Justice Program
College of Business and Professional Studies
CJ 100: Introduction to the CJ System
Fall 2020
3 Credit Hours

Instructor- Paige Merkord-Reed
Email- preed@marybaldwin.edu

Required Texts

Introduction to Criminal Justice by Siegel and Worrall; 15th Edition; Cengage

*NOTE: 16th edition is now available, but you are encouraged/welcome to use previous editions—especially the 15th! Just be sure the chapter title matches with the chapter number

Other readings will be posted on Canvas

Course Description:

This course provides a general overview of the social creation of crime and of social responses to crime. The course will examine each of the different parts of the American criminal justice system (policing, courts, and corrections), the procedural laws governing the system, and the ways the various parts of the system are interrelated and interdependent.

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

Late work: Late assignments lose 10 points per day late, unless you have made prior arrangements (which include written permission from Professor Reed because of an extenuating circumstance).

Participation: Sociology courses, by nature, involve a significant amount of discussion and class participation. As this is an online course, we will work to experience that interaction in a virtual setting. It is expected that you read all assigned material prior to due dates for discussion activities in order to apply the material you have read. Discussion, questions, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to class material are imperative for success in this course.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Respect every individual in the class. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. Please be advised that I utilize Canvas in order to post notes and other handouts. You are responsible for reading/printing handouts on Canvas (and text) before class. I will also send emails. If you do not regularly check your MBU email, you will want to do so, or make arrangements with a classmate. I am NOT able to accommodate the use of outside email addresses. I generally reply to emails sent to me within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply from me

within 3 days, assume that I did not receive the email and please send again or make arrangements to meet with me in person.

3. Please be respectful in email communication, just as you are respectful in person. For example, an email to a professor could begin with “Dear Professor Reed” but never “Wuz up Paige?” I will not respond to unprofessional emails.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The final grade for the course will be determined by the following**:

2 Exams @ 100 points each ---	200 points
2 Current Event Projects @ 50 points each--	100 points
10 Discussion board posts @ 10 points each--	100 points
Term paper	100 points
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TOTAL	500 points

Percentage	Course Grade	Minimum Points Needed
93-100	A	462
90-92	A-	447
87-89	B+	432
83-86	B	412
80-82	B-	397
77-79	C+	382
73-76	C	362
70-72	C-	347
67-69	D+	332
63-66	D	312
60-62	D-	297
0-59	F	---

****Points and assignments subject to change with written notice by professor**

Assignments

Exams: Each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions based on readings and class lectures/discussions.

Current event projects Over the course of the semester, you will collect 2 newspaper or magazine articles (they may be online articles, but you must include a copy of any article you choose) that discuss criminal justice –make sure that you find articles that are about crime control/the criminal justice system (not articles about the causes of crime). For each article you will write a brief summary of the article and then discuss the topic of the article in relation to topics discussed in this course. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate that you are mastering the course material by applying course concepts to these “real life” examples. Your response should be 2-3 pages for each

article. On the due date, you will turn in your articles and your responses. *Responses must be in APA format.*

Discussion Board Posts (100 total points):

Students should have weekly entries onto the Discussion Board—summarizing what they learned and their thoughts on the topics covered. Students must answer the questions posed but may expand on any of these topics. Students must have a total of TEN weekly entries that are at least two paragraphs (and a paragraph must be at least 4 sentences). Students will also respond to at least two additional postings made by another student, and responses must be at least one paragraph each. Responses must be thoughtful, reflective, and relevant to the topic.

Term Paper: Students will choose a topic relating to course materials to write a research paper on. Students will right a brief literature review (with a minimum of 5 sources and 3 must be academic article resources). Students may include a personal connection to the topic, suggestions or critiques of policy surrounding the topic, suggestions for program implementation, etc. Instructor approval needed for topic and plan. Paper must be a minimum of 5 pages long and in APA format.

*****Note: This is a TENTATIVE syllabus/timeline.
The instructor reserves the right to change/modify this syllabus (including assignments and due dates) with ample notice to all students.*****

TENTITIVE TIMELINE

	Reading Assignment	Assignments Due
<p><u>Week 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Course • Subjectivity and discretion in criminal justice? • Is crime beneficial to society? 	Chapter 1	<p>Post in the “Introduction” forum on Canvas to check in to class.</p> <p>Discussion Board 1 Due</p>
<p><u>Week 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Criminal Justice System 	Chapter 2 AND Apple adding kill switch to iPhones on Canvas	Discussion Board 2 Due
<p><u>Week 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding crime, victimization, and criminal law 	Chapter 3 and Chapter 4	Discussion Board 3 Due

<u>Week 4:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Law Enforcement 	Chapter 5 and 6 AND Police-Free World on Canvas	Discussion Board 4 Due
<u>Week 5:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Law Enforcement 	Chapter 7	Current Event Article on Police Due Discussion Board 5 Due
<u>Week 6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Law Enforcement 	Chapter 8	Exam 1 Due
<u>Week 7:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts Structure 	Chapter 9	Discussion Board 6 due
<u>Week 8:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretrial & Trial Procedures 	Chapter 10	Discussion Board 7 due
<u>Week 9:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishment & Sentencing 	Chapter 11	Discussion Board 8 Due
<u>Week 10:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Sentences, Probation, & RJ 	Chapter 12	Current Event Article on Courts Due
<u>Week 11:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections 	Chapter 13	Discussion Board 9 Due
<u>Week 12:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison life 	Chapter 14 and “California to challenge court order to release 10,000 inmates” and “Ex-offenders and jobs” on Canvas	Current Event Article on Corrections Due
<u>Week 13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections • The Death Penalty 	*Special Topics	Term paper due
<u>Week 14:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime & Justice in new millennium 	Chapter 16	Discussion Board 10 due by FRIDAY
<u>Week 15:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finals week 		Exam 2 Due by <u>THURSDAY</u> (no late exams accepted)

General Guidelines- writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced using 12-point font and must have 1-inch margins. LATE WORK LOSES 10 points per day late.

Exam Days- Make-up exams WILL NOT be given unless you have made prior arrangements with me personally. In the unlikely event that I must change an exam date, I will announce the change in class and post this announcement on Canvas. Cheating **WILL NOT** be tolerated. Any activity that is deemed suspicious by the instructor will be dealt with immediately.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for keeping your work/actions from having even the appearance of plagiarism or cheating. Examples of plagiarism include copying the work of someone else (an author, someone who is taking/has taken the class, or anyone else) and turning it in as your own work or looking at someone else's exam to get answers. Any evidence of academic dishonesty on a paper/exam will result in a zero for that assignment and possible failure of the course.

Accessibility Services: Any student with documented accessibility needs who feels they may need academic accommodations while taking this course, should first contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost (cusher@marybaldwin.edu, 540-887-7064) or Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu.

The Academic Resource Center: The ARC is your one-stop-shop for writing, math, and all other subject and studentship tutoring. Residential students can meet with tutors virtually or face-to-face in the Center for Student Success, on the first floor of Grafton Library. Online and remote students can work virtually with tutors on papers, assignments, and test-taking strategies. Appointments are scheduled through TutorTrac (tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu). For more information, contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost (cusher@marybaldwin.edu, 540-887-7064) or ARC@marybaldwin.edu.