

## CJS 190 Online Syllabus

### CJS190 Introduction to Criminal Justice (Online) Syllabus

#### **Course Description**

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice process in the United States. Students analyze the effectiveness of law enforcement, criminal courts, the correctional system and the juvenile justice system. The course investigates the current problems and issues in sentencing, incarceration, rehabilitation, drug control and bail reform.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to understand the basic principles of the criminal justice system. In addition, students will be able to explain and debate various topics and issues within the criminal justice system both orally and in writing.

#### **Student Expectations of Instructor**

Students can expect my full cooperation in guiding you through the course. I will answer all e-mail within 24 hours of receipt (if not sooner). No question is too small or insignificant. I am here to help, and welcome your questions, comments and/or suggestions

#### **Instructor Expectations of Students**

I expect all work to be handed in on time. All assignments and discussion board posts should be checked for grammar and spelling. If you have a question about the material or the mechanics of the course, I expect you to ask me immediately. I don't want you to wait until week 4 before you ask me where or how to begin!! Finally, I expect all students to participate in the discussion forums. This is your class "discussion" and a good way to communicate with your classmates.

**Required Text:** Boyes-Watson, *Crime and Justice: A Casebook Approach*, Allyn & Bacon, 2003. ISBN: 0-205-29213-5.

#### **Weekly Protocol:**

The course is set up with a 7-week lesson plan. The class "week" will run from Monday through Sunday. All work will be due on Sunday of the following week by 11:59 p.m. Each weekly lesson is outlined on the course homepage with the corresponding dates. If the link is not "active" it means that the lesson is not available to you yet. Within each lesson you will find course notes/lectures, assignments and discussion questions.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Office Hours and Contact Information:** Please feel free to send me any questions, comments or concerns through the course e-mail tool. I will conduct office hours by appointment. We can meet in a course chat room for real time discussion.

**Grading Policies:**

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Midterm Research Paper (15%)  
6 written assignments at 5% each (30%)  
Discussion/Participation (30%)  
Final Exam (25%)

All written work, discussion forums, and exams will be posted within the learning modules on the week's organizer page.

You will be required to write a 5-7 page research paper on any topic covered in class. You must clear the topic with me, no later than the second week of class. There will be a list of suggested topics in the first lesson accompanied by some links that you may find useful in your research. All papers must use either MLA or APA format. The paper will be due in the last unit.

**Plagiarism Policy:**

All work done for this class must be original work written by the student whose name is on the paper.

If outside sources are used, credit must be given to the original source by using the MLA Style of Documentation or APA format. Plagiarism consists of passing off the ideas and words of someone else. Every written assignment must credit the sources from which information is obtained and all direct quotations must clearly credit their author or source.

Examples of plagiarism include:

1. Copying information word for word from a source such as the Internet, a book, a friend's paper, etc.
2. Changing a few words from the original source and handing the work in as your own. (Changing the words, but copying the original idea without citation also constitutes plagiarism).

I have access to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), a website capable of detecting plagiarism. If a student attempts to plagiarize in his/her paper, it will result in a failing grade.

If you have any questions regarding the proper citation of a source, please let me know.

### **Course Communication:**

Students may communicate with me and with each other through e-mail contact.

**DISCUSSION FORUMS:** You will be directed to different discussion forums within the Lessons. It is essential that you participate in these group discussions, as they constitute 30% of your grade. This is an important aspect of online courses. You will be able to express your own views on each topic as well as respond to comments made by your classmates. I believe you will find this is a good way to connect with each other and get to know how others may view the subject areas.

Discussions will be graded based on content and timeliness. For each weekly discussion, **you must respond to the question and post at least one response to one of your classmates' comment(s).** In order for the discussion boards to be effective, you should post early and often. Responses, which simply agree with another student's comments, will not be graded. If you agree or disagree with another classmate you should indicate the basis for your opinion in your response.

On the course home page you will see two discussion boards. There is a discussion board for introductions, where you should post a brief introduction to the class during the first week. The second discussion will be an ongoing, general discussion board. You may use this area to post questions and comments throughout the course. Think of it as a "student lounge" where you can speak to each other regarding any aspect of the course.

I expect students to respect each other at all times. I will not tolerate obscenities or profanity in the discussion boards. Inappropriate postings will be deleted from the board and will be given a "0". I will not grade late posts.

**Course Outline:** This course is strictly an online course and will not meet at any particular day or time. The following topics will be covered. A more detailed outline of due dates will be provided on the course web page.

Crime and Justice

The Criminal Justice System

Measuring Crime

Criminal Law and its Victims

Legal Issues Surrounding Police

Police Conduct and Subculture

Gender Roles

The Court System

Plea Bargaining

The Trial Process

Punishing Offenders

Prisons

Probation, Parole and Community Offenders

Future of Criminal Justice/Review

Final Exam (TBA)