

Instructor: Don C. Reid

Intro to Criminal Justice - CJ 1010

Tues / Thurs. - 10:30 - 11:45

McDonald Center - Rm. 102

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Motivational Statement: *Success is less a matter of personal charisma, high I.Q., and ‘natural talent’;... as it is a matter of commitment, hard work, and personal motivation. Give me a hard working ‘average Joe’ with loyalty, commitment, and dedication over a lazy genius any day”.*

Personal Creed: “Will it matter that I was”?

BASIC COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is for any student interested in a career in law enforcement, adult probation and parole, corrections, juvenile justice, law, the judiciary, politics, education, etc.; or for those who are just interested in the human endeavor and the role that society, law, and government plays in our lives. The academic discipline of criminal justice is a culmination of the study of psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, criminology, law, political science and human behavior in general. It takes from each of these studies and uses as its most recent resource of information the daily lives of each of us.

While this particular course emphasizes the importance of free society and the need and purpose for law in our lives, it will also introduce the student to such specific topics as crime and it’s causes; the history, purposes, challenges, and evolution of policing; structure, operation, and limitations of the adjudication process; the purpose, utility, and challenges of corrections; and such special and unique issues as juvenile justice, drugs and crime, terrorism, and will address such counterproductive social issues as gangs, domestic violence, child abuse, pornography, racism, alcoholism, the homeless, etc. . We will take a critical view of the role of government and will refer often to the U.S. Constitution in comparison to other countries. At the end of this course every student should understand what makes the American governmental experiment so unique.

TEXT: This course will use as it’s main source of information: “**Introduction To Criminal Justice - 11th Edition**”, by Larry J. Siegel and Joseph J. Senna, (Thomson/Wadsworth).

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: This course will incorporate the use of lectures, videos, guest speakers, texts, and practical demonstration to make pertinent points. *Intro to Criminal Justice 1010* provides a basic foundation for students intending to continue their education in criminal justice or pursue a career in law, policing, or corrections.

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to intelligently discuss the following topics:

- 1- Human nature and “**man**” as a **social animal**; and the benefits of a **free and progressive society**.
- 2- The need for **governmental leadership, law and order**, enforcement, and **corrections**.
- 3- **Law**: substantive vs. procedural / Criminal vs. civil / **Crime control vs. due process**.
- 4- Accusatory vs. Inquisitory adjudication and the **American “scales of justice”**.

EXPECTATIONS:

- 1- Attendance. This class is built upon a chronological sequence of lectures that make regular classroom attendance important. For example; how does one understand the Founding Father’s obsession with a Bill of Rights if one misses the lecture on the historical importance of the Magna Carta of 1215 England.
- 2- Class assignments (chapters) should be read ahead of the corresponding lecture. The lecture is meant to clarify and expound upon the basics of the text. If the student has not at least read the text he/she may not understand the clarification or the purpose for expounding beyond what is written in the basic material.
- 3- Short outside research or participation projects may be assigned as extra credit on an “as need basis”.
- 4- Quizzes on the reading material may be given periodically and that grade will be included in the participation portion of your overall grade.
- 5- Note-taking is highly recommended due to the fact that a great deal of “cases-in-point” and material from several other texts will be used by the instructor to highlight and augment points discussed in the main text.
- 6- **Respect**. Respect to discussion leader and/or students asking questions. To be strictly enforced.
- 7- Guest speakers and other outside resources may be used during the semester as time and circumstances allow. Consequently, class discussions will not necessarily cover all of the text material. However, the student may still be held responsible for all assigned reading for testing purposes, regardless of whether such material was discussed in class.

Expectations (continued): On a personal note; this instructor fully understands that each person’s life is uniquely complicated and “life comes at you fast”, and I will do all I can to accommodate personal schedules, emergencies, etc. I will do all I can to work with you in that regard but there must be limitations and I will expect you to regulate your own circumstances as much as possible. The human endeavor and criminal justice is all about accountability, negotiation, cooperation, and responsibility. If you do all you can and consider my responsibilities as well, I will do all that I can legally to accommodate you in this class, (based upon your responsibility to do all you can to handle your own emergencies and give me the consideration of planning ahead - failure to give me advanced notice on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part).

IN TURN: You may expect of me that I will never waste your time. I will commit to you that I will continue to study, research, and plan meaningful information for you every day of the semester. I will do all in my power to make this class as interesting as possible and I will work with you to the extent that I am able in achieving the grade and information you need. I will especially be attentive to your needs in cases of family emergency within the limitations set by college policy (and if you should come down with a particularly contagious cold or flu I will reward you for sparing the rest of us the same misery by working with you through email).

CLASS RULES: (#1): Respect for those responsible by law for the conduct and substance of this course, (the instructor). Though class participation is appreciated and encouraged, the instructor is ultimately responsible for covering a certain amount of academic material and will control all class activity. Unnecessary disruption of class (schedule or substance) is legal grounds for dismissal. Respect for the course curriculum; meaning that if you still have questions about a particular topic that may have only been briefly addressed in the classroom or have disagreement with the discussion, take it up with the instructor in out-of-class time. Interruptions during class may result in your being asked to leave the class and your participation grade being lowered. Cellular telephone calls and text messaging during class is strictly PROHIBITED. . Respect for fellow classmates; meaning there will be no tolerance for open disrespect of one's opinions, beliefs, nationality, race, religion, gender, politics, etc. This will be closely monitored and controlled by the instructor.

DISCLAIMER: (1): Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with only minimal advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor. **The reading and lecture schedule will remain flexible in order to facilitate guest speakers, demonstrations, outside resource opportunity, and a learning pace at which the majority of the class is comfortable.** (2): This is a criminal justice course. Criminal justice studies the nature of mankind and human interaction, specifically man's tendency to violate social norms from time to time and our attempt at controlling that behavior. We therefore will also be addressing the more serious crimes against persons and society, including the many ways in which the worst of us prey upon the weak among us. The kinds of things man is able to do to his fellow man should be offensive to the average individual. We will be exploring some of these cases. It should be known to the student that I find the accurate definition of pornography to be humiliation of another and mutilation of the human body. I therefore encourage input from the class. In other words, in the normal course of information we may evaluate cases in which offensive language, behavior, and actions are discussed. I have no intention of offending any student, especially in an intro class, for the sole purpose of academic freedom. If certain language and types of video or audio reproduction offends you please let me know in advance so I can avoid to that degree what we review in this class.

GRADING: * Attendance / Participation - 20% * Tests – 20% each *All testing will take place in the classroom.

Final grades: A = 93%, A- = 90%, B+=87%, B=83%, B-=80%, C+=77%, C= 73%, C-=70, D=68, F=67% and below.