

Criminal Justice (SOC 2600)

Instructor Information

Dr. Nicole Kaufman
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(740) 593-1372
Office Hours:
Thursday 10:15 AM to 12:30 PM
Thursday 3:15 PM to 5:00 PM

Class Information

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 to 2:50 PM
Bentley Hall, Room 124
3 credit hours
Pre-requisite: SOC 1000

Required readings

- Cole, George F., Christopher Smith, and Christina DeJong. *Criminal Justice in America* (8th Edition). The book is on reserve at Alden Library. Earlier editions may be used.
- Articles and a radio program that will be posted or linked on BlackBoard.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the contemporary criminal justice system in the United States. We will cover the historical background, reasons for its design, the role of actors, and the purpose of proceedings at each step. We will also cover public controversy and debate about select topics as they relate to understanding how the criminal justice system works. We will seek out multiple viewpoints as we cover contemporary criminal justice issues, including through documentaries and guest speakers.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the structure, goals, and characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States.
- 2) Distinguish between the stages of criminal justice case processing, including: arrest, plea bargaining, trial, sentencing, punishment, and release.
- 3) Provide reasons why filtering into and out of the justice system occurs.
- 4) Understand the roles of major actors, including: the accused, police officers, victims and witnesses, prosecuting and defense attorneys, judges, jury members, correctional officers, probation/parole officers, and community members who do outreach work with people in the criminal justice system.
- 5) Make an argument on a current issue using evidence.

Course Requirements

Students' grades are based on the following assignments:

- Exams (40% of the grade): The exams require students to demonstrate comprehension of and critical thinking about the key ideas presented both in readings and in class. Exams test whether students understand crucial concepts, especially those on the term sheets that I will distribute about a week before each exam. The exam questions will be multiple-choice. Students may bring one page (two-sided) of written notes to the exams.

- Exam #1 is on Thursday, March 1.
- Exam #2 (covering all material after Exam #1) is on Tuesday, May 1.
- Exercises (30% of the grade): Four worksheets will assess students' comprehension of key class topics. These will be available on Blackboard. The due dates will be February 8, February 27, April 12, and April 26.
- In-Class Quizzes (20% of the grade): These assessments of your understanding of ideas from reading and lecture will occur during each class period.
- Paper (10% of the grade): The paper assignment asks students to respond to a question about a controversial issue. The paper will be due May 1 at 1:30 PM.

Communicating with the Instructor: I will send out announcements routinely over email, and hold you responsible for the information in those announcements. I encourage you to visit me and introduce yourself by coming to my office hours. If you wish to speak to me but cannot make the office hours, let me know so we can set up an appointment at an alternate time. In emails, please reference the class name or number.

Responsibilities and Policies

Sensitivity: Many of the topics we will discuss will be sensitive. Our discussions require an environment of mutual respect. Differences in experiences make the classroom rich. There may be times when you hear opinions that you do not agree with, in the service of discussing complicated social issues. Please notify me if you feel uncomfortable with the way we are going about discussions or addressing the course content.

Accessibility: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity an expectation in all OU classes and applies in this class. The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, including: cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and collusion. Students who fail to observe these standards are subject to disciplinary action: I will reduce the grade of the assignment and report the incident to the student's advisor and the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility. Students may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.

Students who miss class should seek notes and materials from peers. In the event of an emergency, documented medical condition or illness, authorized university activity, or military service/training, please notify me about your absence so we may accommodate it together.

Learner Responsibilities: As a student in this class, I expect you to:

- Treat others with tolerance and respect
- Take responsibility for your own learning
- Arrive in class prepared by having done the reading and being ready to take notes and reflect aloud
- Attend class regularly

- Avoid disrupting the learning of your peers
- Set high standards for your work
- Check your OU student e-mail account every day
- Keep electronic copies of all your assignments
- Be familiar with Ohio University policies and procedures. (See the Code of Conduct at <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/>).

Instructor Responsibilities: As your instructor, I commit to:

- Maintain a professional, safe learning environment
- Communicate openly and frequently with you about this class
- Reply to communication within 24-48 business hours
- Be available to meet with students during office hours. Note: It is my policy not to distribute power point slides or notes from lecture. Copies of any handouts will be available during office hours.

Use of Electronic Devices: In order to minimize distractions to students and the instructor, there is a **no computer** and **no device rule** in this class. (There is a possible exception for students who have accommodations and receive special permission.)

Computing: A Blackboard course site has been created for this class. Computer difficulties are not a long-term excuse for non-participation in the class. If you experience problems with your computer, call the computer help desk through Ohio IT at (740) 593-1222.

Grading Policy

I use the following conversion between percentage of possible points earned and the final letter grades:

95-100 %	A	74-76	C
90-94	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	59 or below	F

Appealing a grade: Please take 24 hours before speaking to me about a graded assignment or exam score.

Late Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class. Work is considered late when it does not meet these specifications. For every day late, I will deduct 10% of the possible points for that assignment. Exceptions can be granted in the case of a documented emergency.

Final grades: The final grade for the semester is not negotiable, except in the case of a calculation error.

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: Page numbers given below are from the 8th edition of the textbook. I have also given major headings from the assigned reading selections (subheadings are specifically noted) for those using an older edition.

Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment Due
Tuesday, January 16	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read syllabus
Thursday, January 18	CJ System Goals and Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 5-20 in Chapter 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The Goals of Criminal Justice,” ○ “Criminal Justice as a Federal System,” ○ “Criminal Justice as a Social System,” ○ “Characteristics of the Criminal Justice System,” and ○ “Operations of Criminal Justice Agencies”
Tues., January 23	The Flow of Decision-Making in the CJ System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 21-35 in Chapter 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The Flow of Decision-Making in the Criminal Justice System” (subhead) and ○ “Crime and Justice in a Multicultural Society”
Thurs., January 25	Substantive Criminal Law (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 78-85 in Chapter 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Foundations of Criminal Law,” and ○ “Substantive Criminal Law”
Tues., January 30	Substantive Criminal Law (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 85-92 in Chapter 3: “Defenses against Criminal Charges” (subhead)
Thurs., February 1	Procedural Criminal Law (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 93-97 in Chapter 3: “Procedural Criminal Law”
Tues., Feb. 6	Procedural Criminal Law (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 98-104 in Chapter 3: “The Fourth Amendment: Protection against Unreasonable Searches and Seizures” (subhead)
Thurs., Feb. 8	Police (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 110-136 in Chapter 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The Development of Police in the United States,” ○ “Law Enforcement Agencies,” ○ “Who Are the Police,” and ○ “The Police Subculture” • Criminal Law Exercise Due
Tues., Feb. 13	Visit by Ohio State Highway Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 155-156 in Chapter 5: “Police Response” (subhead) • Pp. 167-170 in Chapter 5: “Police and Community”
Thurs., Feb. 15	Police (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripley, Amanda. 2017. “A Big Test of Police Body Cameras Defies Expectations.” <i>New York Times</i>, October 20. • Adams, Eric L. 2014. “We Must Stop Police Abuse of Black Men” (opinion). <i>New York Times</i>, December 4.

Tues., Feb. 20	Police and Constitutional Law (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pp. 188-192 in Chapter 6: “Legal Limitations on Police Investigations” Pp. 193-203 in Chapter 6: “Warrantless Searches”
Thurs., Feb. 22	Police and Constitutional Law (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pp. 204-213 in Chapter 6: “Questioning Suspects,” “The Exclusionary Rule”
Tues., Feb. 27	Review game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police and Constitutional Law Exercise Due
Thurs., March 1	Exam #1	
Tues., March 6	Judges and Prosecutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pp. 218-237 in Chapter 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Functions and Structures of American Courts,” “To Be a Judge,” and “The Prosecutorial System” Van Cleve, Nicole Gonzalez. 2015. “Commentary: Anita’s Army: Rank and File Racism in the Power to Prosecute.” <i>NBC News</i>, November 30.
Thurs., March 8	Defense Attorneys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pp. 238-248 in Chapter 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Defense Attorney: Image and Reality,” “The Courtroom: How it Functions” Watch “No Jail Time: The Movie” (Lance Oppenheim, 2017, 9 minutes) Hager, Eli. 2017. “Where the Poor Face the Death Penalty Without a Lawyer.” <i>The Marshall Project</i>, November 28.
Spring Break		

Tues., March 20	Roles of Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review reading assigned for 3/6 and 3/8 Sheets based on the film “Race to Execution” are due
Thurs., March 22	Jennifer Seifert, Survivor Advocacy and Outreach Program of Southeast Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hartocollis, Anemona and Capecchi, Christina. 2017. “‘Willing to Do Everything,’ Mothers Defend Sons Accused of Sexual Assault.” <i>New York Times</i>, October 22. Maxwell, Zerlina. 2014. “Rape Culture Is Real.” <i>Time</i>, March 27.
Tues., March 27	Pretrial and Plea Bargaining	<p>Bail and Pretrial Detention; Plea Bargaining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pp. 253-269 in Chapter 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “From Arrest to Trial or Plea,” “Bail: Pretrial Release,” and “Pretrial Detention” “Plea Bargaining” Hong, Nicole and Mahtani, Shibani. 2017. “Cash Bail, a Cornerstone of the Criminal-Justice System, Is Under Threat.” <i>Wall Street Journal</i>, May 22.

Thurs., March 29	Trial and Appeal (1) (including Wrongful Conviction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 269 (middle)-282 in Chapter 8: “Trial: The Exceptional Case”
Tues., April 3	Trial and Appeal (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the first 23 minutes of “Jury Duty: A Primer,” the 12/17/2015 episode of NPR’s program “Think.”
Thurs., April 5	Goals and Forms of Punishments; Sentencing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 288-298 in Chapter 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The Goals of Punishment” and ○ Forms of the Criminal Sanction” • Pp. 312 (bottom)-315 (bottom) in Chapter 9 starting with “Presentence Report” (subhead)
Tues., April 10	Corrections System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 330-348 in Chapter 10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Organization of Corrections in the United States” and ○ “Law of Corrections”
Thurs., April 12	Shawn Stover and Madison Yee, Prisoner Reentry Program at Ohio Means Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretrial, Trial, and Appeal Exercise Due
Tues., April 17	“Prison Town USA” (Katie Galloway and Po Kutchins, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betts, Reginald Dwayne. 2017. “Going Back to Prison Never Gets Easy.” <i>The Marshall Project</i>, August 3. • Head, Timothy and Norquist, Grover. 2015. “The High Costs of Over-Incarceration.” <i>National Review</i>, August 13.
Thurs., April 19	Corrections and Capital Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 299-307 in Chapter 9: “Death” (subhead) • Douthat, Ross. 2017. “Crime and Different Punishments” (opinion). <i>New York Times</i>, April 22.
Tues., April 24	Community Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 401-406 in Chapter 11: Probation: Correction without Incarceration” • Pp. 426-445 in Chapter 13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Prisoner Reentry,” ○ “Release and Supervision,” ○ “The Development of Parole in the United States,” ○ “Release Mechanisms,” • “Parole Supervision in the Community”
Thurs., April 26	Conclusion and Review Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing and Corrections Exercise Due
Tues., May 1 at 12:20 PM		Exam #2 and Response Paper Due

The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Dr. Nicole Kaufman on Jan. 9, 2018.