

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIM 100, Section 001

Fall 2016

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1-3pm (email to confirm appointment)

LECTURE

Tues and Thurs, 10:30am-11:45am

Innovation Hall 105

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the institutions and processes of the criminal justice system in the United States. Students will learn about the organization of the criminal justice system, as well as its goals and procedures. Students will also learn to think critically about its functioning. At the conclusion of the course, students will possess a working knowledge of: 1) the types and prevalence of crime in America; 2) police history, organization, functioning and constitutional responsibilities; 3) the functioning and processes of criminal courts and of court actors; and 4) punishment and corrections. Students will also develop critical thinking skills and engage in active learning through interactive, multimedia-oriented class lectures and exercises. This course is appropriate for students who aspire to a career in criminal justice, who wish to be better citizens, and/or who wish to develop any of the skills discussed above.

MASON CORE/GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

CRIM 100 is a General Education course in the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences category, and addresses several learning outcomes required by the university. Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain how individuals, groups or institutions within the criminal justice system are influenced by contextual factors, such as politics, public opinion, fiscal considerations, etc.
- 2) Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs related to criminal justice
- 3) Use appropriate methods and resources to apply concepts, terminology, principles, or theories from the field of criminal justice in the analysis of significant human issues, past and present

DISCOVERY OF SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

CRIM 100 is a Discovery of Scholarship course that is designed to introduce you to: a) the role of research and scholarship in criminal justice generally; b) faculty and student research in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society; and c) research opportunities at Mason for undergraduates. At the end of this course, students will understand how knowledge in the field of criminology and criminal justice is generated and disseminated through scholarship, and the importance of criminological scholarship to society.

COURSE FORMAT

Class meetings will include lecture, interactive questions and discussion, and videos. Class lectures will not merely re-cap the reading material, but expand upon it. This course will use iClickers to record student responses and allow students to answer discussion questions, thereby providing a greater opportunity for students to participate in class and interact with the instructor and their peers. Regular class attendance is highly recommended.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You will need to purchase two items for this course: 1) an iClicker; and 2) a textbook. Several different purchasing options are available, to suit your needs and budgets.

1) Required Clicker

You will need an iClicker+ or an iClicker 2 for this class (<http://iclicker.com>). These can be new or used remotes. You can purchase or rent an iClicker from the GMU Bookstore or from many online vendors. (You will not be able to use iClickerGo or REEF polling for this class.)

2) Required Textbook

The textbook for this class is: Cole, George F., Smith, Christopher E. and Christina DeJong (2015). *Criminal Justice in America*, **8th Edition**. Belmont, CA: Cengage. You may use a hard copy of the textbook, or the digital e-book version, whatever works best for you.

You also have the option to purchase MindTap, which is an online portal via Blackboard that includes a digital version of the textbook and study guides (flash cards, etc). The digital version of the textbook allows you to highlight, take notes, print, etc. ***Please note that everyone will have free access to Mindtap and the digital version of the textbook for the first three weeks of the semester (via Blackboard).***

If you want a hard copy of the textbook:

Option A – Purchase or rent a hard copy of textbook from the Mason Bookstore or other book seller (new or used).

Option B - Purchase a bundle at the GMU Bookstore which includes a looseleaf copy of the textbook and an Access Code for MindTap. This is a good option if you want a hard copy of the textbook in addition to the digital version.

If you want a digital version of the textbook:

Option A – Purchase or rent a digital version of textbook from the GMU Bookstore or other book seller.

Option B - Purchase an Access Code for MindTap at the GMU Bookstore. You will enter this access code on Blackboard beginning Aug 30.

Option C: Purchase MindTap access instantly via Blackboard starting Aug 30.

BLACKBOARD

The course syllabus, lecture notes, homework assignments, special reading assignments, and important announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Homework assignments will be submitted via Blackboard.

To access Blackboard, log in at: <http://mymason.gmu.edu>, click on the Courses tab, and locate the link to CRIM 100 in your course list. Once you are on the main CRIM 100 page, you can access MindTap by clicking the link on the left side of the page. *You must disable your pop-up blocker to use MindTap.*

For technical assistance with Blackboard, go to: <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/Students/>. For more information about using MindTap and for technical assistance, go to: http://go.cengage.com/flex/student_mindtap.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION

- 1) Class Participation (10% of final grade): Class participation will be earned by answering clicker questions during class lectures beginning **September 8**. You will earn 1/2 point for each of the lectures you attend and use your iClicker - up to 10 points total. You can miss two lectures without affecting your participation grade; no excuse is required. If your final course grade is border line, frequent participation in class will help bump you up to the higher grade. Point assignments are listed on the following page.
- 2) Homework Assignments (15% of final grade): Five homework exercises will be assigned, worth 3 points each. Homework will include internet exercises as well as multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay questions. Grading criteria is listed on the following page.
- 3) Examinations (75% of final grade): A total of four exams will be given over the course of the semester. Each will cover the assigned readings, lectures, exercises, and videos since the prior exam. Thus, while the fourth exam will be given during finals week, it is not cumulative. Each of the three exams will be worth 25% of your final grade in the course. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped and your final course grade will be calculated from the three highest exam scores received. Students should plan to take all four exams, but arrangements can be made to skip the 4th exam for those who have an A as of the last day of class.

Final grades in the course will be based on the following breakdown:

Points	Percentage	Grade
93-100	93-100%	A
90-92	90-92%	A-
87-89	87-89%	B+
83-86	83-86%	B
80-82	80-82%	B-
77-79	77-79%	C+
73-76	73-76%	C
70-72	70-72%	C-
65-69	65-69%	D
0-64 points	0-64%	F

CLASS PARTICIPATION/CLICKERS

You must register your iClicker remote. To do so, go to: <https://www1.iclicker.com/register-clicker/>. When you are asked for your Student ID, enter the *first part* of your GMU email address. For example, if your GMU email is smartstudent@masonlive.gmu.edu, you would enter smartstudent for Student ID. Beginning Thursday, September 8, when you come to class and use your clicker to answer questions, you will earn participation points as indicated below:

Lectures Attended	Points Earned	Lectures Attended	Points Earned
20 lectures	10 points	10 lectures	5 points
19 lectures	9.5 points	9 lectures	4.5 points
18 lectures	9 points	8 lectures	4 points
17 lectures	8.5 points	7 lectures	3.5 points
16 lectures	8 points	6 lectures	3 points
15 lectures	7.5 points	5 lectures	2.5 points
14 lectures	7 points	4 lectures	2 points
13 lectures	6.5 points	3 lectures	1.5 points
12 lectures	6 points	2 lectures	1 points
11 lectures	5.5 point	1 lecture	.5 points

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Homework assignments will be posted to and submitted via Blackboard. Late or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted, except under extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor. You must contact the instructor ahead of time if you cannot complete an assignment by the due date (in the case of an emergency, contact the instructor as soon as you are able) and you must provide appropriate documentation. Homework assignments will be graded as follows:

Grading Criteria	Points Earned
Good: Adequately answers the questions and demonstrates a sound understanding of the assignment and/or course material. Where appropriate, answers must be written in full, coherent sentences that express your thoughts clearly.	3 points
Satisfactory: Attempts to answer the questions, but only provides a brief, superficial response or many incorrect answers.	2 points
Poor: Shows little effort, most answers are incorrect.	1 point

EXAMS

Exams will include multiple-choice and true/false questions. **You will need to bring Scantron form #882-E, a pencil, and your GMU ID card to each exam.** Scantron forms are available for purchase at the GMU Bookstore. Because your lowest exam grade will be dropped, makeup examinations will only be allowed in extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Changes to the course schedule, reading assignments, and other important information will be announced during class and sent to your GMU email address. Be sure to check your email account regularly for updated information (if you choose to forward your GMU email to another email account, make sure that the forwarding is set up correctly). If you have questions or concerns about the course, you are encouraged to stop by my office hours or contact me via email to set up an appointment. I will reply to emails within two business days (but usually sooner).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE GMU HONOR CODE

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by the GMU Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/> for detailed information). **All graded work for this class (including homework assignments and exams) must be completed *independently*. The use of another student's clicker during class is prohibited.** Instructors are required to report all violations of the Honor Code to the GMU Honor Committee. Suspected cases of plagiarism may be evaluated using anti-plagiarism software. Please be sure that the work you submit in this class is your own, and that you provide proper citations when referencing another person's words or ideas. Violations of the Honor Code may result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam, a failing grade for the course, or any additional penalties determined by the committee, including dismissal from the university.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT & TECHNOLOGY

Do your best to attend all classes. Arriving late or leaving early is very disruptive; chronic tardiness or absences will affect your participation grade. **To avoid disrupting your peers and/or the instructor, please turn off the ringers to all cell phones/blackberries and do not access the Internet during class on your laptop or smartphone.** Laptops should only be used to take notes or access course materials.

We will cover controversial issues in this course. Your fellow students may have different opinions than you (or the instructor) on some of these topics, and these opinions may be strongly held. I expect everyone in the course to respect the views of others. Class will be a place where we can respectfully discuss opposing viewpoints and offer differing perspectives.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please inform the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. See <http://ods.gmu.edu> for more information.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Readings and assignments should be completed before class on the date they are listed.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Due</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
Week 1			
Tue, Aug 30	Course Introduction		
Thu, Sep 1	Intro to the Criminal Justice System, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 1	
Week 2			
Tue, Sep 6	Intro to the Criminal Justice System, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 1	
Thu, Sep 8	Crime and Justice, Day 1 <i>Participation Credit via Clicker Begins</i>	Reading: Chapter 2	
Week 3			
Tue, Sep 13	Crime and Justice, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 2	
Thu, Sep 15	Rule of Law, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 3	Homework #1 Due
Week 4			
Tue, Sep 20	Rule of Law, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 3	
Thu, Sep 22	EXAM #1		
Week 5			
Tue, Sep 27	Police	Reading: Chapter 4	
Thu, Sep 29	Challenges in Policing, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 5	
Week 6			
Tue, Oct 4	Challenges in Policing, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 5	
Thu, Oct 6	Police and the Law, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 6	Homework #2 Due
Week 7			
Tue, Oct 11	<i>No Class – Go to your Monday classes instead</i>		
Thu, Oct 13	<i>No Class</i>		
Week 8			
Tue, Oct 18	Police and the Law, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 6	
Thu, Oct 20	Police and the Law, Day 3	Reading: Chapter 6	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Due</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
Week 9			
Tue, Oct 25	EXAM #2		
Thu, Oct 27	Courts and Adjudication	Reading: Chapter 7	
Week 10			
Tue, Nov 1	Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 8	Homework #3 Due
Thu, Nov 3	Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 8	
Week 11			
Tue, Nov 8	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 9	
Thu, Nov 10	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 9	
Week 12			
Tue, Nov 15	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 3	Reading: Chapter 9	Homework #4 Due
Thu, Nov 17	<i>No Class</i>		
Week 13			
Tue, Nov 22	EXAM #3		
Thu, Nov 24	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving</i>		
Week 14			
Tue, Nov 29	Corrections and Incarceration	Reading: Chapter 10	
Thu, Dec 1	Probation and Intermediate Sanctions	Reading: Chapter 12	Homework #5 Due
Week 15			
Tue, Dec 6	Parole and Re-Entry Challenges, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 13	
Thu, Dec 8	Parole and Re-Entry Challenges, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 13	
Finals Week			
Tue, Dec 13	EXAM #4 (10:30am-11:45am)		