

# **INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

CRIM 100, Section 001

Spring 2017

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Devon Johnson, Ph.D.

Office: 340 Enterprise Hall

Email: [djohns22@gmu.edu](mailto:djohns22@gmu.edu)

Phone: 703-993-8424

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3-4pm and by appt (email to confirm)

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## **LECTURE**

Tues and Thurs, 12pm-1:15pm

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 students 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

- 1) **Clicker Remote:** You will need an iClicker+ or an iClicker 2 for this class (<http://iclicker.com>). This can be a new or used remote. You can purchase or rent an iClicker from the Mason Bookstore or from many online vendors. (Students will not be able to use iClickerGo or REEF polling for this class.)
- 2) **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. ISBN-10: 1305261062. You may use a hard copy or a digital e-book, a new or used text – whatever works best for you. Students can obtain the textbook at the Mason Bookstore or many online vendors.

## 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 login to Blackboard go to: <http://mymason.gmu.edu>, click on the Courses tab, and locate the link to CRIM 100 in the course list. For technical assistance with Blackboard, go to: <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/Students/>.

## 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 **February 2nd**. 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 may 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): 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. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped and your final course grade will be calculated from the three highest exam scores received (25% each). Students should plan to take all four exams, but arrangements can be made to skip the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. The easiest way is to login to Blackboard, select Tools from the left menu, select iClicker Registration, and follow the instructions. You can also register your remote at: <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 MasonLive email is smartstudent@masonlive.gmu.edu, you would enter smartstudent for Student ID.

Beginning **February 2nd**, 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 only be accepted in extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, with appropriate documentation. 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). Late assignments may receive a grading penalty. Homework assignments will be graded as follows:

Grading Criteria	Points Earned
<b>Good:</b> 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
<b>Satisfactory:</b> Attempts to answer the questions, but only provides a brief, superficial response or many incorrect answers.	2 points
<b>Poor:</b> 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 Mason Student ID card to each exam.** Scantron forms are available for purchase at the Mason Bookstore. Because your lowest exam grade will be dropped, makeup examinations will only be allowed in extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, with appropriate documentation.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

Changes to the course schedule, reading assignments, and other important information will be announced during class and sent to your MasonLive email address. Be sure to check your email account regularly for updated information (if you choose to forward your Mason 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 try to reply to emails within two business days (but usually sooner).

## 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.

## 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 Mason 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 Mason 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 keep your cell phone on vibrate or silent 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.

## 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>
<b>Week 1</b>			
Tue, Jan 24	Course Introduction		
Thu, Jan 26	Intro to the Criminal Justice System, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 1	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Tue, Jan 31	Intro to the Criminal Justice System, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 1	
Thu, Feb 2	Crime and Justice, Day 1 <i>Participation Credit via Clicker Begins</i>	Reading: Chapter 2	
<b>Week 3</b>			
Tue, Feb 7	Crime and Justice, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 2	
Thu, Feb 9	Rule of Law, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 3	<b>Homework #1 Due</b>
<b>Week 4</b>			
Tue, Feb 14	Rule of Law, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 3	
Thu, Feb 16	<b>EXAM #1</b>		
<b>Week 5</b>			
Tue, Feb 21	Police	Reading: Chapter 4	
Thu, Feb 23	Challenges in Policing, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 5	
<b>Week 6</b>			
Tue, Feb 28	<i>No Class (Makeup for snow day, if needed)</i>		
Thu, Mar 2	Challenges in Policing, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 5	
<b>Week 7</b>			
Tue, Mar 7	Police and the Law, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 6	<b>Homework #2 Due</b>
Thu, Mar 9	Police and the Law, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 6	
<b>Week 8</b>			
Tue, Mar 14	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>		
Thu, Mar 16	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>		

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Due</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>			
Tue, Mar 21	Police and the Law, Day 3	Reading: Chapter 6	
Thu, Mar 23	<b>EXAM #2</b>		
<b>Week 10</b>			
Tue, Mar 28	Courts and Adjudication	Reading: Chapter 7	
Thu, Mar 30	Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 8	<b>Homework #3 Due</b>
<b>Week 11</b>			
Tue, Apr 4	Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 8	
Thu, Apr 6	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 9	
<b>Week 12</b>			
Tue, Apr 11	<b>No Class</b>		
Thu, Apr 13	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 9	
<b>Week 13</b>			
Tue, Apr 18	Punishment and Sentencing, Day 3	Reading: Chapter 9	<b>Homework #4 Due</b>
Thu, Apr 20	<b>EXAM #3</b>		
<b>Week 14</b>			
Tue, Apr 25	Corrections and Incarceration	Reading: Chapter 10	
Thu, Apr 27	Probation and Intermediate Sanctions	Reading: Chapter 12	
<b>Week 15</b>			
Tue, May 2	Parole and Re-Entry Challenges, Day 1	Reading: Chapter 13	<b>Homework #5 Due</b>
Thu, May 4	Parole and Re-Entry Challenges, Day 2	Reading: Chapter 13	
<b>Finals Week</b>			
Thu, May 11	<b>EXAM #4 (10:30am-11:45am)</b>		