

CRIM 100, Section-002: Introduction to the Criminal Justice System, CRN 12822

Spring 2017: Wednesday, 4:30 PM –7:10 PM, Enterprise Hall #178

George Mason University, Fairfax Campus

Instructor: Stephen F. Bamford, Adjunct Professor
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Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm, or by appointment

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University Policies:

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to the University Catalog and the University Policies website for all other university academic and non-academic policies may also be included in the links below.

General University Information / Weather: www.gmu.edu

Office of Disability Services: ods.gmu.edu

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services: caps.gmu.edu

English Language Institute: eli.gmu.edu

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code Policy:

All students are expected to be familiar with the University's Honor Code, which may be found in the University Catalog. Ignorance of the policy is not a valid excuse and all violations will be reported. The complete Honor code is as follows:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

Extent of the Honor Code:

The Honor Code at George Mason University shall be specifically concerned with cheating or attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in an academic setting.

Cheating includes using unauthorized material and/or unauthorized assistance in academic work. Plagiarism includes self-plagiarism, inadequate citation, false citation, and failure to adhere to citation forms set by the professor.

Stealing includes but is not limited to the following:

- Removing an exam from the classroom
- Taking pictures of or copying the exam and/or academic work
- Taking someone's work without their knowledge

Lying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Making up sources, data, information, etc.
- Giving a false excuse for missing a test or a class
- Telling a professor or a teaching assistant false information
- Falsifying official correspondence

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity, to include lying, cheating or stealing. (See "Honor System and Code" in the George Mason University Catalog)

Add/Drop Period:

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund	January 30, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 33% penalty	February 13, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 67% penalty	February 24, 2017

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides an introduction to the criminal justice system. The primary goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of the criminal justice system's response to crime and disorder in our society. It is important to note that the general theme of this course involves identifying the delicate balance between community interests and individual rights that criminal justice "decision-making" requires.

We will explore these themes by examining the criminal justice process in some detail, focusing on how the system is structured and responds to crime. This requires an understanding of the core elements of the criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections. This course will exam major milestones in the development and evolution of the criminal justice system in America. Each of the lectures will focus on specific components of the criminal justice system, its make-up, roles, responsibility and relationship with other social components and institutions. The goal is to provide students with a greater understanding of the criminal justice system, its agencies, actors, applications and limitations. Students should also approach these topics with a healthy and objective view towards criminal justice reform.

This course will be using **MyCJLab** by Pearson Education Products Inc., **MyCJLab** will provide student with full series of educational resources. Student will be required to register with the full access card purchased with your "e-text" textbook. You will find all the necessary registration information in a form called **Pearson's MyCJLab & Mastering Student Registration Instructions**. This information can be found on the course GMU Blackboard site under the "Syllabus" section, handed out on the first day of class and sent via your GMU e-mail to ensure you receive the information in a timely manner. **All Student will be required to register on MyCJLab by Friday, February 3, at 11:59 pm.**

Lastly, time permitting it is my intention to invite various practitioners in the criminal justice system to provide their views on the various ethical issues from the real world perspective.

Examinations and Grade Expectations:

Exam #1	50 questions = 100 points or 25%
Exam #2 (Mid-Term)	60 questions = 100 points or 25%
Exam #3	50 questions = 100 points or 25%
Exam #4 (Final Exam)	60 questions = 100 points or 25%

Total % Points **4 x 25% = 100%**

Exams will administered on line in the MyCJLab application on between 6:00 am and 11:59 pm on the dates specified in the course schedule contained in this syllabus. Students can take the Exams anytime during this period and you will have 90 -120 minutes to complete the exams. The exams will consist of 50 to 60 True/False and Multiple Choice questions. All exams must be completed during the specified time period. Make-up exams will only be granted under the most extreme cases. Makeup exams will be allowed only when the student provides written verification of personal illness or death/serious illness of a family member or a compelling school obligations. Makeup exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Class Participation and Attendance:

One of the critical if not indispensable ingredients of any thought provoking course is preparation and discussions. On the former, it is important that the materials highlighted in the Schedule of Topics be read as a pre-requisite to attending class. With regard to the latter point, it is my intention to involve students in class discussion and debate as a matter of course. This will necessitate student preparation.

Throughout the course, we will engage in various “debates” so as to fully explore the merits of all sides of a policy or issue confronting the criminal justice system. Issues that come to mind include, but are not limited to; the death penalty, racial profiling, and use of force, arrest, prosecution and sentencing of offenders as well as more contemporary matters such as the Patriot Act, immigration reform, gun control, National Security v. individual privacy and the ethical considerations and consequences associated with each. *Some of the issues discussed often evoke strong emotions, this is a reminder to all students to be respectful to others, their opinions and be open to other perspectives during these discussions.*

Overall Grading:

The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for ADJ- 306:

A	100 – 93 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	92.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 84 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	83.9 – 80 %		

Textbooks and Related Material: Primary: *(required)*

Fagin, James A., CJ2015, Student Value Edition with MyCJLab access card and e-text; Pearson Education Inc. 2016
ISBN # 928-0134206653

Spring 2017 Class Schedule: (Revised: 01/2017)

The subject matter listed below will be covered during the course of the semester. In preparing for class, it is recommended that the material be read and organized in this manner. It should also be noted that it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of material, assignments, quizzes, exams and changes to the schedule, etc., all of which will be announced with adequate notice during class.

Jan. 25,	Introduction to Course Syllabus; Class discussion and Chapter One (1): Introduction to Criminal Justice
Feb. 1,	Chapter Two (2): The Search for Understanding
Feb. 8,	Chapter Three (3): Measuring Crime
Feb. 10,	Exam No. 1 – Chapters 1 through 3; (On-line exam via MyCJLab, <u>Friday</u>, beginning at 6:00 am until 11:59 pm)
Feb. 15,	Chapter Four (4): Criminal Law: Crime and the Limits of Law
Feb. 22,	Chapter Five (5): An Overview of Law Enforcement: History, Agencies, Personnel and Strategies
March 1,	Chapter Six (6): Oversight and Professionalism of Law Enforcement
March 3,	Exam No. 2 – Chapters 4 through 6 (On-line exam via MyCJLab, <u>Friday</u>, beginning at 6:00 am until 11:59 pm)...Midterm Exam!
March 8,	Chapter Seven (7): The Court System...Federal & State
March 15,	SPRING BREAK...NO CLASS
March 22,	Chapter Eight (8): Courtroom Participants and the Trial Guest Speaker: Judge William Jarvis, Prince William County General District Court
March 29,	Chapter Nine (9): Sentencing
March 31,	Exam No. 3 – Chapters 7 through 9; (On-line exam via MyCJLab, <u>Friday</u>, beginning at 6:00 am until 11:59 pm)
April 5,	Chapter Ten (10): Jails and Prisons
April 12,	Chapter Eleven (11): Probation & Parole
April 19,	Chapter Twelve (12): Corrections in the Community
April 26,	Chapter Thirteen (13): The Juvenile Justice System
May 3,	Chapter Fourteen (14): Homeland Security...Guest Speaker
MAY 10,	FINAL EXAM: Chapters 10 through 13, (On-line via MyCJLab at 4:30 PM to 7:15 PM) (See GMU Exam schedule; Spring 2017)