

CRIM 100-003: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Fall 2021: Wednesday 1:30-4:10 Planetary Hall 131
George Mason University, Fairfax Campus

Instructor: Nicholas A. Lion, Adjunct Faculty

Office hours: By appointment and before classroom sessions

Email: nlion@gmu.edu

Contact Numbers: (703) 843-6477 cell

University Policies:

Honor Code Policy:

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

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.

The Honor Code is as follows:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, trust, and fairness among all members of the Mason community, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth 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.

Mason's Commitment: To create an environment that is innovative, diverse, entrepreneurial, and accessible - helping you avoid accidental or intentional violations of the Honor Code.

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.

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*). Students who present false information will be treated in accordance with the University's Policies. This is a law enforcement class, and a violation of the Honor Code may also adversely affect future employment opportunities for jobs requiring background investigations and security clearances

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Support and Advocacy Center, and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to these sites, along with the University Catalog and the University Policies websites are below:

General University Information / Weather: www.gmu.edu

Office of Disability Services: ods.gmu.edu

Writing Center: writingcenter.gmu.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services: caps.gmu.edu

Student Support & Advocacy Center: ssac.gmu.edu/

English Language Institute: eli.gmu.edu

University Policies: 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 [Disability Services](#) at (703) 993-2474 or ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations should be identified at the beginning of the semester and must be arranged through Disability Services.

Add/Drop Period:

The last day to drop classes with 100% tuition refund: 09/07/2021

The drop period with a 50% tuition refund percentage: 09/08/2021 – 09/14/2021

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 09/15/2021 – 09/27/2021

Selective Withdrawal Period 09/28/2021 – 10/27/2021

Course Description:

This course provides students with an overview of the American Criminal Justice System, to include the theories of justice, criminal law, policing, judicial system, punishment and corrections, and the juvenile justice system, to name a few. This class is part of the Mason Core (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and is required for all criminology majors and minors.

This course is designated as a Mason Impact course (<https://provost.gmu.edu/initiatives/mason-impact>). Mason Impact is a Provost initiative that prepares students to tackle significant global questions and challenges by investigating meaningful questions, engaging multiple perspectives, and creating new knowledge within the context of Undergraduate Research, Civic Engagement, Entrepreneurship, and Global Activities.

Course Goals & Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of crime, law, and the criminal justice system.
- Understand criminal law and related procedures.
- Learn about the history of policing and its role in modern times.
- Identify issues in policing that have prompted change and adaptation.
- Discuss the American judicial system, to include federal, state, and local courts.
- Explore pre- and post- trial procedures and services.
- Identify the goals of the various types of criminal punishment and sentencing.
- Discuss the corrections system.
- Identify the purpose of alternative accountability and other restorative justice programs.
- Describe post-prison life, and the challenges related to parole, probation, and rehabilitation.
- Discuss the Juvenile Justice System, its goals and challenges.

Revised 08/01/2021

Examinations / Assessments:

There will be two examinations and one research paper / essay due for this course. Criminal justice is dynamic and constantly evolving. While it is beneficial for you to understand and retain pertinent aspects of the system, I am equally interested in your thoughts and actions on current challenges within the system.

You will earn weekly credit through your Revel application quizzes but will be responsible for demonstrating your understanding of the system. The two tests will consist of multiple choice and true and false questions and the topic of the paper will be discussed as we progress through the course.

Class Preparation/ Participation / Attendance:

This is a criminal justice class geared to future law enforcement professionals, so students are expected to attend class as they would a law enforcement training academy, have read the materials assigned for that class period, and be prepared to discuss the material in class. Students are expected to attend class for the periods for which they are registered. Attendance counts toward your participation grade, and excessive absences, tardiness, or early departures will negatively impact your final grade. Most of the material discussed in class comes from the text, so students should obtain Revel access as soon as possible. During the semester, we will engage in various discussions and will explore investigative options and consequences of decisions so that students will understand all sides of a policy or issue confronting criminal justice professionals. We will also discuss current events that impact criminal justice and criminal investigations. I encourage spirited debate, but please keep the discussions constructive and remain respectful of your peers.

Overall Grading:

This course is graded on the Undergraduate Regular Scale. Points for this course will be earned in the following manner: Weekly Revel quiz (60 points / week), examinations (100 points / exam), research paper / essay (100 points), attendance and participation (10 points per week). The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for CRIM 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice.

A+	100 – 99%	A	98 – 91%	A-	90%		
B+	89 – 88%	B	87 – 81%	B-	80%		
C+	79 – 78%	C	77 – 71%	C-	70%		
D		69 – 60%		F		59 – 0%	

Online Text / Workbook: (required)

Revel Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction, 13e by Frank Schmalleger

ISBN: 9780135209196 – Access Card to the course \$79.99.

Revel is an interactive learning environment that engages students and helps you prepare for the class. Reimagining their content, authors integrate media and assessment throughout the narrative so students can read, explore, and practice all at the same time.

Revel seamlessly combines the full content of the text with multimedia learning tools. Through this engaging learning experience, Revel helps students better understand course material while preparing you to meaningfully participate in class.

Through our course blackboard portal, you can access **Revel** and link your account to our content.

Assistance with gaining access can be found at the link below:

<https://media.pearsoncmg.com/long/CEPM.selfpaced/Curriculum/CSResourceLib/RevelGLP/Pearson%20integration%20with%20Blackboard%20student%20registration.pdf>

Class Schedule:

As set forth below the subject matter that will be covered during the semester has been grouped by chapters. In preparing for class, students should read the material prior to class. It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of assignments, changes to the schedule, etc., all of which will be announced with adequate notice.

August 25	Introductions and Syllabus Review
September 1	Chapter 1: What is Criminal Justice Chapter 2: The Crime Picture
September 8	Chapter 3: Criminal Law
September 15	Chapter 4: Policing – Purpose and Organization
September 22	Chapter 5: Policing – Legal Aspects
September 29	Chapter 6: Policing – Issues and Challenges
October 6	First Examination
October 13	Chapter 7: The Courts *Guest Speaker from Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney
October 20	Chapter 8: The Courtroom Work Group and Criminal Trial
October 27	Chapter 9: Sentencing
November 3	Chapter 10: Probation, Parole, and Reentry *Guest Speaker from VA DOC Adult Probation
November 10	Chapter 11: Prisons and Jails
November 17	Chapter 12: Prison Life
November 24	Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS
December 1	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice *Guest Speaker from Fairfax County Juvenile Justice System
December 8	Second Examination and Research Paper / Essay Due