**George Mason University**

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**

**Spring 2020**

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**Course/Number:** **Introduction to Criminal Justice / CRIM 100**

**Section /Number:** 17732 / 003

**Credits:** 3 Semester Credits

**Day:** Monday & Wednesday

**Time:** 3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

**Location:** Planetary Hall - 131

**Prerequisites:** None

**Instructor:** Dr. Wofsey

**Teaching Assistant:** Michelle Protas

**Office:** TBA

**Office Telephone:** (703) 425-5197

**Emails:** [swofsey@gmu.edu](mailto:swofsey@gmu.edu) & mprotas@masonlive.gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** Contact the professor or the teaching assistant for office appointments via e-mail or in person. Appointments will usually be available just prior to class. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions or concerns. E-mail is the preferred choice of communication and will be answered within 48 hours.

**Textbook:** Schmalleger, F. (2019). *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st*

*Century* (15th Edition). New York, NY: Pearson Publishing.

**Suggested** A clicker remote is not mandated, but strongly encouraged for the class. Students

**Textbook:** can purchased an iClicker or an iClicker 2 remote (<http://iclicker.com>). The remote can be new or used and purchased from the Mason bookstore or additional online vendors.

**Overview:** The course introduces an overview of the American criminal justice system. The course will cover theories of justice, criminal law, policing, courts and associated pre and post-trial legal processes, punishment and corrections, and juvenile justice. The course will focus on the organization of the justice system, goals and procedures of the criminal justice system, and critically evaluate the extent to which the American criminal justice system succeeds in accomplishing its objectives.

**Objectives:** At the completion of the CRIM 100, Introduction to Criminal Justice course, students should have the ability to describe the challenges facing law enforcement, judiciary elements, and corrections in today’s dynamic environment. In addition, students should understand the basic organization of each major element of the American criminal justice system.

**Mason Core:** CRIM 100, Introduction to Criminal Justice 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: Explain how individuals, groups or institutions within the criminal justice system are influenced by contextual factors, such as politics, public opinion, fiscal considerations, etc. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs related to criminal justice. 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** CRIM 100 is a Discovery of Scholarship course that is designed to introduce

**Scholarship** students to: a) the role of research and scholarship in criminal justice generally;

**Courses:** 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 and value of criminological scholarship to society.

**Schedule, Assignments, and Examinations (Schedule is Subject to Change):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January 22nd | Syllabus Review, Class Expectations, and College Policies |
| January 27th | Chapter 1: What is Criminal Justice |
| January 29th | Chapter 1: What is Criminal Justice |
| February 3rd | Chapter 2: The Crime Picture |
| February 5th | Chapter 3: The Search for Causes |
| February 10th | Chapter 3: The Search for Causes |
| February 12th | Chapter 4: Criminal Law |
| February 17th | Chapter 4: Criminal Law |
| **February 19th** | **Examination #1** |
| February 24th | Chapter 5: Policing: History and Structure |
| February 26th | Chapter 6: Policing: Purpose and Organization |
| March 2nd | Chapter 6: Policing: Purpose and Organization |
| March 4th | Chapter 7: Policing: Legal Aspects |
| **March 9th** | **No Class: Spring Break** |
| **March 11th** | **No Class: Spring Break** |
| March 16th | Chapter 7: Policing: Legal Aspects |
| March 18th | Chapter 8: Policing: Issues and Challenges |
| **March 23rd** | **Examination #2** |
| March 25th | Chapter 9: The Courts: Structure and Participants |
| March 30th | Chapter 9: The Courts: Structure and Participants |
| April 1st | Chapter 10: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial |
| April 6th | Chapter 10: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial |
| April 8th | Chapter 11: Sentencing |
| April 13th | Chapter 11: Sentencing |
| **April 15th** | **Examination #3** |
| April 20th | Chapter 12: Probation, Parole, and Reentry |
| April 22nd | Chapter 12: Probation, Parole, and Reentry |
| April 27th | Chapter 13: Prisons and Jails |
| April 29th | Chapter 13: Prisons and Jails |
| May 4th | Chapter 14: Prison Life |
| **May 11th** | **Examination #4 (Take Note of the Time: 1:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.)** |

**Important Dates:** **15 Week Class Session**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Classes begin | 01/22/2020 |
| Last day to add/drop classes | 01/28/2020 |
| Last day to drop with full tuition refund | 02/05/2020 |
| Last day of selective withdraw period | 03/30/2020 |

**Inclement** Please check George Mason University’s home page ([www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)) to check if

**Weather:** a class is cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergency circumstances. Students can also register for Mason’s emergency alert system, which will make every attempt to email the student ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information. If only a lecture is planned on the cancelled session, the professor may record a lecture and post it on Blackboard or advise alternative assignments. However, if a class session is cancelled and an exam is scheduled for that class, the exam will be given during the next scheduled class in addition to the material scheduled for that class session.

**Grade Scale:** Final grades for CRIM 100, Introduction to Criminal Justice are based on the below percentages.

97% - 100% A+

93% - 96% A

90% - 92% A-

87% - 89% B+

83% - 86% B-

80% - 82% B-

77% - 79% C+

73% - 76% C

70% - 72% C-

60% - 69% D

0% - 59% F

**Weighted** Examination #1 = 25%

**Percentages:** Examination #2 = 25%

Examination #3 = 25%

Examination #4 = 25%

Total = 100% of the Final Course Grade

**Examinations:** Each examination is 25% of the student’s final course grade. Each examination consists of 75 multiple-choice questions (A through E). Examination #1 will cover chapters 1-4 in the textbook and all material presented in class lectures. Examination #2 will cover chapters 5-8 in the textbook and all material presented in class lectures. Examination #3 will cover chapters 9-11 in the textbook and all material presented in class lectures. Examination #4 will cover chapters 12-14 in the textbook and all material presented in class lectures. Each examination will be given on the date as indicated on the schedule unless otherwise noted by the professor. If an examination date is changed the professor will post and announcement on Blackboard. Student’s will need to bring a **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 or online vendors. Make-up examinations will take place during the time assigned by the professor. However, students must present proof and a valid reason prior to the date of the scheduled examination in order to ensure a make-up examination is given. For example, an e-mail or phone call one day in advance advising of an illness along with a doctor’s note would be acceptable. Other forms of proof include police reports, accident reports, and obituaries. If the student fails to contact the professor prior any examination, he or she will automatically receive a zero. There will not be an opportunity for students to make up Examination #4, which is scheduled for finals week on **May 11, 2020 at 1:30 P.M.** If a student cannot take the Examination #4 on the given date they must notify the professor in advance. Finally, all make-up examinations will be 75 fill-in the blank questions not multiple-choice questions.

**Study Guides:** Detailed study guides are posted in Blackboard for all four examinations. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the study guides in order to achieve a passing grade on the examination. Time permitting, the professor will attempt to have a study review in class, however because of the amount of information given in the class this is not a guarantee.

**Readings:** Students are encouraged to read the chapter in the textbook prior to arriving to class. As a result, students will have a better understanding of the lecture given in class if the readings are conducted prior to the lecture. Questions within the chapter can be answered during the lecture by the professor if readings are completed. For example, if chapter 10’s lecture is scheduled on a Wednesday, students are expected to read the specific chapter on Monday or Tuesday prior to arriving to class.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected in the course. If a student is not able to attend a scheduled class session, prior notification is not required, but is encouraged. Please attend every class lecture in order to understand all the material presented within the course. Class lectures will include all materials presented on the examinations. The student is responsible for making up all course work missed during an absence. **The professor will not accept any late work without proper documentation.** The professor does not post lecture notes on Blackboard in order to mandate attendance. Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes site of the website (deadlines each semester are published in the schedule of classes available from the Registrar's website at registrar.gmu.edu.).

**Participation:** Students will be prepared to discuss the materials presented during the class lectures and participate in individual and/or group exercises, as well as viewing and discussing audiovisual presentations. Certain audiovisual presentations may have assignments to complete, which could be counted as extra credit. If a student is absence, he or she will be unable to view the audio-visual material. An iClicker will also be utilized within the class to encourage class participation. The professor will present numerous discussion questions in class and students are expected to reply respectfully with opinions while being polite to other classmates. Opposing views are welcome to be debated in class, but politeness is required in the academic environment. The professor strongly encourages class participation, despite the large size of the class.

**Academic** The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and

**Dishonesty:** attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Cheating and attempted cheating include “willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students.” Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student’s work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above. Plagiarism includes “presenting as one’s own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers’ own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge.” Examples include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism. Lying includes “the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn’t really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context. Stealing includes “taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the “General Policies” chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials.”

**Class Rules:** The professor included several classroom rules and expectations for all students.

* + - * Please attend class and arrive on time. Arriving late disrupts class lectures, hence please arrive on time for each class session.
      * When the professor is talking; students are encouraged to remain quiet. Side conversations are extremely disrespectful and distracting.
      * Please turn all cellular phones off or on silent mode, which does not include vibrate mode during class lectures.
      * Please do not text in class. If you must answer an emergency phone call or text message, please exit the classroom.
      * Please place cellular phones in a discreet location such as, a backpack, pocket, or purse during class not on the desk.
      * Sleeping is prohibited during class sessions. If you cannot stay awake you will be asked to exit the class.
      * Late assignments will not be accepted. Please complete all assignments on time.
      * If students do not pay attention during the video presentations, writing assignment will be distributed.
      * Please do not take pictures of lecture slides rather write all important notes in order to better understand the material.
      * Please do not bring your children to class due to the sensitivity of the information discussed.
      * No tobacco products are permitted in class such as, chewing tobacco are permitted.
      * No e-cigarettes are permitted in the classroom as e-cigarettes are extremely distracting.
      * Please remove all ear buds prior to entering the classroom.
      * All electronic equipment is to be turned off and removed from the desk during audio visual presentations.

**Disability Policy:** Colleges and universities are required to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that programs and activities are fully accessible to students with disabilities. Accommodations are modifications that ensure equal access and opportunities. No academically qualified student with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in the services, programs, and activities. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see the professor and contract the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the office. The professor must be made aware of the accommodations in order to fulfill all requirements.

**Emergency** Be prepared: Information on how to prepare for and respond to emergencies

**Preparedness:** thatmight occur on campus is available at [ready.gmu.edu](http://ready.gmu.edu/). This site also has resources to help faculty and staff prepare for emergencies that interrupt classes or impact research activities. If you have any questions or concerns about Mason’s readiness for potential emergencies on campus, please contact EHS at safety@gmu.edu or 703-993-8448.

**Mental Health** During a student’s time at Mason they may experience challenges including

**Services:** struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. George Mason University has support resources available. Students can call 703-993-2831 to talk with a healthcare provider.

**Title IX:** Title IX is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs, activities, admission and employment. George Mason University is committed to providing a safe learning, living and working environment free from discrimination. The University’s environment is meant to be experienced as vibrant and dynamic, and one that includes ample opportunities for exploration of self, identity and independence. Sexual misconduct and incidents of interpersonal violence deeply interrupt that experience, and George Mason University is committed to a campus that is free of these types of incidents in order to promote community well-being and student success. George Mason University encourages individuals who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. Confidential resources are available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu), Student Health Services (shs.gmu.edu), the University Ombudsperson (ombudsman.gmu.edu), and Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services (waves.gmu.edu). All other members of the University community (except those noted above) are not considered confidential resources and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator. For a full list of resources, support opportunities, and reporting options, contact the University Title IX Coordinator at integrity.gmu.edu and/or at 703-993-8730. Our goal is to create awareness of the range of options available to you and provide access to resources.

**Student Athletes:** If you are a student athlete, please inform the professor in advance in order to accommodate any missed assignments or examinations.

**Extra Credit:** The professor may post any additional extra credit assignments on Blackboard. Usually extra credit assignments involve essays based on audiovisual material, which students must upload the assignment on Blackboard in a Microsoft Word attachment prior to the due date in order to receive credit. As previously mentioned no late work is accepted including extra credit.