

George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
Fall 2021
CRIM-405: Law and Justice Around the World

Lecture: Mondays 4:30 - 7:10 pm in Planetary Hall 212

Instructor: **Dr. Auzeen Shariati**
Office Location: Enterprise Hall, Room 337B
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Overview

This course will introduce diverse ways in which criminal justice systems are structured and implemented around the world. In order to understand a comparative perspective, the social, cultural, political, historical, and religious factors shaping different systems of justice will be examined. Four worldwide philosophies or legal traditions will be examined including: Common, Civil, Socialist, and Islamic Law. A comparison of crime prevention techniques, as well as processes of police, courts, and methods of dealing with convicted offenders in diverse nations will be undertaken.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that each student will be able to:

- Describe the value of comparing systems and issues of criminal justice
- Identify the primary sources of international crime statistics and describe how to best compare crime rates of different countries
- Examine distinguishing characteristics of each legal family of law
- Understand the basic structures of the criminal justice systems in six model countries
- Discuss similarities and differences between the United States and our model nations in terms of police, courts, and corrections

Required Textbook:

Harry R. Dammer and Jay S. Albanese, Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, Fifth Edition, ISBN-13: 978-1-285-06786-5

Graded Course Requirements

Three Online Discussions

20%

There will be three online discussions throughout the course. These assignments are used to assess students' knowledge and provide feedback to them throughout the semester. These discussions rely primarily on assigned textbook chapters and other materials posted in the weekly module. Together online discussions are worth **30% of your final course grade.**

Three Quizzes (including Final)

40 %

There will be three online quizzes, including a comprehensive final quiz. All quizzes will assume knowledge of ALL concepts discussed up to that point in the term. Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions, but may also include true/false, short answer, or fill in the blank questions. Together the quizzes are worth **40% of your final course grade.**

Group Project

40%

Students will work in a group to conduct a comparative study on an international or a transnational crime with a focus on two of our model nations (England, France, Germany, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia). The purpose of this assignment is to analyze contributing factors to the crime rates in each country, identify the similarities and differences between the two countries in their approach to criminal justice, and provide current specific examples (from the media) of the crime and societal reactions to the crime. Each group will need to write on a different topic. Any changes to the topic will need to be presented to the instructor.

Grading: The course grade will be computed based on the following components:

Course Requirement	Points	Percent
Online Discussions x 3	50 each (150 total)	20
Quizzes x 3	50 each (150 total)	40
Group Project	100	40
Total	400	100

Grading scale

A	93.0 - 100	C	73.0 - 76.9
A-	90.0 - 92.9	C-	70.0 - 72.9
B+	87.0 - 89.9	D	60.0 - 69.9
B	83.0 - 86.9	F	Below 60.0
B-	80.0 - 82.9		
C+	77.0 - 79.9		

Policies and Requirements

Blackboard

Please make sure you visit our class blackboard shell and check your Mason email frequently to see announcements and grades, among other important information.

Internet Access

Please note that lack of internet connection or problems with services are not acceptable excuses for not completing quizzes and/or turning-in assignments. If you have any internet issues or computer-related problems, please contact the ITS help desk for assistance.

Late Work

Papers and assignments are to be turned in on Blackboard by midnight on the day they are due. Grades for late assignments and papers will be reduced one letter grade the first 24 hours late and for every additional 24 hours thereafter. Assignments or papers more than a week late will not be accepted except in the case of documented illness or emergency.

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit for the course by attending relevant lectures and webinars and/or review relevant documentaries and writing a one-page report to be submitted during the final examination period. Each of these is worth 1 point toward the final grade.

Classroom Behavior

It is expected that everyone always treats one another respectfully. Respectful behavior includes being prepared for class, listening attentively (and with an open mind toward different viewpoints), and addressing each other respectfully in class discussions.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

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 Office of Academic Integrity (oai.gmu.edu). See oai.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Accessibility Resources

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at osd@gmu.edu or call 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

COVID-19 and Safe Return to Campus

All students taking courses with a face-to-face component are required to follow the university's public health and safety precautions and procedures outlined on the university Safe Return to Campus webpage (<https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus>). Similarly, all students in face-to-face and hybrid courses must also complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily, seven days a week. The COVID Health Check system uses a color code system **and students will receive either a Green, Yellow, Red, or Blue email response**. Only students who receive a "green" notification are permitted to attend courses with a face-to-face component. **If you suspect that you are sick or have been directed to self-isolate, please quarantine or get testing. Faculty are allowed to ask you to show them that you have received a Green email and are thereby permitted to be in class.**

Students are required to follow Mason's current policy about facemask-wearing. As of August 11, 2021, all community members are required to wear a facemask in all indoor settings, including classrooms. An appropriate facemask must cover your nose and mouth at all times in our classroom. If this policy changes, you will be informed; however, students who prefer to wear masks will always be welcome in the classroom.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. You will be advised in class and via Blackboard.

Week One (Aug 23 – Aug 29)

Topic: Introduction to the course, Why Compare Systems of and Issues in CJ?

READ: *Chapter 1: Introduction*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 1 (Ch 1, Prezi week 1, watch supplementary videos on BB)

Week Two (Aug 30 – Sep 5)

Topic: Why Measure and Compare Crime Data?

READ: *Chapter 2: Measuring and Comparing Crime in and across Nations*

Homework Assignment: Review Modules 1-2, Watch Movie “Hotel Rwanda” (2005) and participate in **Online Discussion 1** Due September 5, 11:59 pm.

Week Three

No Class (Labor Day)

Week Four (Sep 13 – Sep 19)

Topic: Major Families of Law: Common Law and Civil Law

READ: *Chapter 3: Families of Law (pages 38-51)*

READ: *Chapter 4: Six Model Nations (pages 66-80)*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 4 (Ch 3-4, Prezi week 4, watch supplementary videos)

Week Five (Sep 20 – Sep 26)

Topic: Major Families of Law: Socialist Law and Sacred Law

READ: *Chapter 3: Families of Law (pages 52-64)*

READ: *Chapter 4: Six Model Nations (pages 81-97)*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 5 (Ch 3-4, Prezi week 5, watch supplementary videos on BB)

Group Project: topic selection & outline due Sep 20, In Class

Week Six (Sep 27 – Oct 3)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Farshad Ghodoosi, Assistant Professor at California State University and Attorney at Law in California and New York

Week Seven (Oct 4 – Oct 10)

Topic: Comparing Policing Practices Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 5: Law Enforcement: Organization, Functions, & Current Issues*

Quiz 1 (Chapter 1-4) In Class (October 4th)

Week Eight
No Class on Oct 11 (Fall Break)

Week Nine (Oct 18 – Oct 24)

Topic: Comparing Criminal Procedure Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 6: Criminal Procedure*

Homework Assignment: Review Modules 6 & 8, Watch Movie “Rendition” (2007) and participate in **online Discussion 2** Due October 24 at 11:59 pm

Week Ten (Oct 25 – Oct 31)

Topic: Comparing Courts Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 7: The Courts & Legal Professionals*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 9 (Prezi week 9, watch supplementary videos)

Week Eleven (Nov 1 - Nov 7)

Topic: Comparing Sentencing Practices Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 8: After Conviction: The Sentencing Process*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 10, Watch Movie “Traffic” (2001) and participate in **online Discussion 3** Due November 7 at 11:59 pm

Week Twelve (Nov 8 – Nov 14)

Topic: Problem of Prisons Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 9: After Conviction: The Problem of Prisons*

Quiz 2 (Chapter 5-8): In Class (Nov 8th)

Week Thirteen (Nov 15 – Nov 21)

Topic: Transnational Organized Crimes

READ: *Chapter 11: Transnational Organized Crimes*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 12 (Prezi week 12, watch supplementary videos)

Group Project (Draft of PPT): Due November 21, at 11:59 pm

Week Fourteen (Nov 22 – Nov 28)

Topic: Juvenile Justice in International Perspective

READ: *Chapter 12: Juvenile Justice in International Perspective*

Week Fifteen (Nov 29 – Dec 4)

Group (In-Class) Presentations: November 29

Final Week

Quiz 3 (Final): Due December 13
