

George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
Spring 2022
CRIM-405-DL2/DL3: Law and Justice Around the World

Online Asynchronous

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Office Hours: Online 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

This course fulfills the university requirements for Mason Core, Global Understanding category, and meets the following learning outcomes:

- Identify and articulate one's cultural values and how those values influence the principles and practices of justice, both locally and globally.
- Demonstrate understanding of how globalization impacts law and justice practices, limitations, and priorities in our constantly evolving world.
- Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.

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 relevant movies which are made available on the library physical reserve. Additional instructions are provided in the course blackboard. Together online discussions are worth **20% of your final course grade.**

Three Quizzes

40 %

There will be three online quizzes that will be given in Blackboard. All quizzes will assume knowledge of ALL concepts discussed up to that point in the term but the focus will be on the recent chapters covered. 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.**

Research Project

40%

Each student will 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. The project will be delivered in three steps. The assignment instructions and rubric are provided in Blackboard within the "research project" module. These three steps together are worth **40% of your final grade.**

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
Research Project (step 1, 2, 3)	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.

Online Classroom Behavior

It is expected that everyone treats one another respectfully at all times. Respectful behavior includes being prepared for class, approaching different viewpoints with open mind, and addressing each other respectfully in online 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.

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 (Jan 24 – Jan 30)

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 (Jan 31 – Feb 6)

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 Feb 6**

Week Three (Feb 7 – Feb 13)

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 3 (Ch 3-4, Prezi week 3, watch supplementary videos)

Week Four (Feb 14 – Feb 20)

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 4 (Ch 3-4, Prezi week 4, watch supplementary videos on BB)

Week Five (Feb 21 – Feb 27)

Review (Chapter 1-4) and Take Quiz 1

Online Quiz 1 Due Feb 27

Week Six (Feb 28 – Mar 6)

Topic: Comparing Policing Practices Across Nations

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

Homework Assignment: Review Module 6 (Ch 5, Prezi week 6, watch supplementary videos on BB)

Research Project Step 1 (Topic Selection, Introduction, and Methods): Due Mar 6

Week Seven (Mar 7 – Mar 13)

Topic: Comparing Criminal Procedure Across Nations

READ: *Chapter 6: Criminal Procedure*

Homework Assignment: Review Modules 5 & 6, Watch Movie “Rendition” (2007) and participate in **Online Discussion 2 Due Mar 13**

Week Eight (Mar 14 – Mar 20)
No Class (Spring Recess)

Week Nine (Mar 21 – Mar 27)

Topic: Comparing Courts Across Nations

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

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

Week Ten (Mar 28 – Apr 3)

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 Apr 3

Week Eleven (Apr 4 – Apr 10)

Review (Chapter 5-8) and Take Quiz 2
Online Quiz 2 Due Apr 10

Week Twelve (Apr 11 – Apr 17)

Topic: Problem of Prisons Across Nations

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

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

Week Thirteen (Apr 18 – Apr 24)

Topic: Transnational Organized Crimes

READ: *Chapter 11: Transnational Organized Crimes*

Homework Assignment: Review Module 13 (Prezi week 12, watch supplementary videos)

Research Project Step 2 (Crime Control Strategies, Findings, and Implications): Due Apr 24

Week Fourteen (Apr 25 – May 1)

Topic: Juvenile Justice in International Perspective

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

Homework Assignment: Review Module 14 (Prezi week 14, watch supplementary videos)

Week Fifteen (May 2 – May 7)

Review (Chapters 9-11-12) and Take Quiz 3
Online Quiz 3 Due May 7

Final Week

Research Project (Final Paper) Due May 12