

# **Introduction to Criminal Justice**

## **CRIM 100/001 – Fall 2023**

**Friday 1:30 pm to 4:10 pm / Innovation Hall #105**

**Instructor: Adjunct Faculty Kevin B. Fornshill**

### **Office and Meetings**

All meetings with students will be by appointment, as I do not have an office. The best suggestion is to meet with me before or after class. Of course, you can email me anytime.

***“When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in,  
he has no choice but to become an outlaw”***

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**Nelson Mandela**

### **Course Goals and Policies**

This course is designed to provide an introductory understanding of the history and development of the criminal justice system in the United States.

This course will identify institutions of the United States-based criminal justice system. Develop an overall working knowledge of the legislative process. Address the history behind the American system of policing. Discuss and become familiar with the concept of due process.

General knowledge discussions will be held to understand the three-layers of criminal justice; administration of law enforcement, court processes, and corrections. Furthermore, the need for each of these separate entities will be examined.

Please be aware of Mason’s policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is

when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. There are, however, several extra credit opportunities available.

Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete scheduled coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do extra work to raise your grade. If some sort of personal or family crisis arises for you during the semester, and it provides a compelling reason that is beyond your control and prevents you from finishing scheduled coursework, I will be more than willing to work with you to take that into account, but you must let me know right away. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that according to Mason policy, "Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities." (see page 33 of the University Catalog.)

#### Privacy Policy

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

## Required Readings

*"Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend.  
Inside of a dog it's too dark to read"*

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Groucho Marx

Reading assignments are for outside the classroom. Be prepared to discuss the designated chapter at the beginning of each class. There will be selective in-class lessons. There will be time allotted for complete assignments given during class time.

The textbook is Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity and Change, by Callie Marie Rennison and Mary Dodge, 4th Edition.

You are always welcome to ask me questions about the readings or course work if you need clarification. Please complete the readings before coming to class, this will allow for a active exchange of ideas. Exams will also include material covered in class, including lectures, videos, guest speakers, and discussions.

## Grading Scale

A+	97-100% (4.0)	C+	77-79% (2.33)
A	93-96% (4.0)	C	73-76% (2.0)
A-	90-92% (3.67)	C-	70-72% (1.67)
B+	87-89% (3.33)	D	60-69% (1.0)
B	83-86% (3.0)	F	0-59% (0)
B-	80-82% (2.67)		

### Course Grade Components

25%	A midterm exam
25%	A final exam
25%	Research paper
25%	Class participation

## The Exams

***“Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance”***

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**Confucius**

The midterm and final exams will be closed-book and will most likely use a combination of structured response formats (such as multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, etc.) and unstructured response formats (such as short answer or essay).

The final exam will focus on material covered since the midterm exam. Schedule permitting, I'll try to reserve some time during the last class before each exam for a review session. I will answer questions to clarify the reading material, as long as the question shows that you have actually read the material and attempted to understand it on your own.

Obviously, the exams are to be taken on your own. Any evidence that a student used another person as a resource, whether that other person was in the classroom or accessed electronically, will result in a referral to the honor committee as a cheating violation. If the exams are closed book, then the same is true for any evidence that a student used any unauthorized hardcopy or electronic resource during the exam.

Make-ups will only be given under exceptional circumstances. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP so we can discuss a make-up. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you need to contact me ASAP to schedule a make-up. All make-ups must be completed within 3 business days (excluding weekends and holiday breaks) of the original exam date.

If you can provide written documentation from a professional (doctor, police, etc.) that demonstrates a compelling reason for missing the exam, and the reason was beyond your control, there will be no penalty applied for taking a make-up. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please remember the Mason policy about employment not taking priority over academic responsibilities (referenced above). If you cannot provide such documentation, there will be a 10-point reduction from your exam score for taking a make-up (cf. pg. 35, University Catalog).

## The Paper

*"I write to understand as much as to be understood"*

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Elie Wiesel

Written assignment:

The class project is in two parts. It is REQUIRED that all students participate:

- 1) Students are to take part in a police ride along with a pre-approved uniform agency, federal, state or local. This agency MUST BE based in the United States. The student is to provide a report of their experience, addressing such issues, but not limited to; *police discretion, community policing, race relations and any animus, anger, potential violence towards the officer(s)*. Due to an incident which occurred recently, the

student will now need a signature from the officer, or other representative, of that department, on the form uploaded on Blackboard Course Content.

The signature will be verification that you participated in the required assignment.

### **Extra credit if your ride a long occurs after 12 midnight.**

You must ride some portion of a uniform patrol shift, whether four, six, eight or 10 hours. Document interaction with the public and write about your experience addressing the topics listed above.

- 2) Next, you will be required to observe a formal judicial proceeding (criminal) at a federal or local courthouse. This, also, is to be based in the United States. You will have to meet with a government prosecuting attorney, whether an assistant United States Attorney, assistant State's Attorney, assistant Commonwealth Attorney or assistant District Attorney, or other court representative to have them sign the form uploaded on Blackboard Course Content

The signature will be verification that you witnessed some form of criminal court case.

Your written assignment will be eight to nine pages, double spaced, 12 font (**not including a coversheet and reference page**), where you will discuss your experience, both the ride along and court observation.

Please try to divide the paper equally between the ride a long and court, four and four.

The purpose of the experience is to allow the student, who might be unfamiliar with the American criminal justice system a firsthand look into police service (the arrest) and courts (the prosecution).

If you have taken part in a police ride a long, in the past, I will allow you to write about that experience, if it had taken place within the last 12 months (August 2022).

**This paper is due by midnight December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.**

**I will assess a penalty for papers received after the agreed due date.**

## Level of Effort:

### Your Participation, Your Learning Experience, and Your Grade

*“Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence –  
is the key to unlocking our potential”*

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Winston Churchill

This class will offer you some unique opportunities. I want to stimulate open dialogue and debate. The Socratic method comes to mind. I want to generate critical thinking. So, participation is critical! Be prepared to debate and defend your point of view.

All opinions are to be respected. Come to class, pay attention and talk. Take notes and read the material. Since 25% of your course grade is class participation, *so participate!*

Participation is to include in-class discussions and postings on Blackboard. I cannot make someone actively participate but remember that this counts for 25% of your overall grade.

I do take classroom attendance. Failure to appear in class will result in contact from me seeking an explanation regarding your absence. Lack of attendance, without an authorized excuse, will be reflected in your final grade.

**In conducting any research online, whether for classroom discussion or written presentation, I do not recognize Wikipedia as a legitimate source of information.**

**No cellular telephones or laptop computer are to be used in the classroom. If a student uses such a device after repeated warnings, the student will be asked to leave.**

**I do not allow my classroom presentations to be audio or video recorded. There is no need to do so since all PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard at the conclusion of each class. I am a private citizen, please respect my wishes.**

You are all university students, so I expect that level of effort in your final project and Blackboard postings.

Though I grant some leeway for simple grammatical or spelling errors, if your work product lacks quality and college-level achievement, your grade will reflect your effort.

Your project is both research-based and through direct observation. It can contain some personal opinions.

These are individual not group projects.

## **Extra Credit Opportunities**

You can earn extra credit points, to be added to your overall grade by proposing a topic. Any suggested topic should center on the history of the American criminal justice system, or a critical analysis of a select subject, e.g. capital punishment. The topic of any extra credit work must be pre-approved by the instructor.

### **Bad Weather and Other Emergencies**

Check Mason's homepage ([www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.

## **University Services and Resources**

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center ([writingcenter.gmu.edu/](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/)). Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services ([caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute ([eli.gmu.edu](http://eli.gmu.edu)).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services [caps.gmu.edu/learningservices](http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices). They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

## **Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines**

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see [registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu). The last day to add a class and the last day to drop a class without tuition loss is Tuesday September 3. The last day to drop a class with tuition loss is Wednesday September 18. After this date the class can be dropped by using a selective withdrawal option by Friday September 27 -- but you only have 3 selective withdrawals during your entire time at Mason, so use them wisely. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.



# University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and [honorcode.gmu.edu](http://honorcode.gmu.edu) for additional information. Mason's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

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

## Planned Course Schedule

(Changes Will Be Announced ASAP)

Date	Topic	Special Notes
Week #1	What is the Criminal Justice System?  <i>Police-Courts-Prisons</i>	Textbook, Part 1 – Chapter 1
Week #2	What is a crime? What if . . .	Textbook, Part 1 – Chapter 2
Week #3	What is 'due process'? What is probable cause?	Textbook, Part 1 – Chapter 3
Week #4	Do we need Police?	Textbook, Part 2 – Chapter 4
Week #5	American law enforcement Mid-term review	Textbook, Part 2 – Chapter 6
Week #6	Mid-term	
Week #7	Civil v. Criminal	Textbook, Part 3 – Chapter 7
Fall Break Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> This will not effect our class		
Week #9	Is it about the truth?	Textbook, Part 3 – Chapter 8
Week #10	Guilty, what now?	Textbook, Part 3 – Chapter 9
Week #11	Corrections Retribution or Rehabilitation	Textbook, Part 3 – Chapter 11
Week #12	Prisons	Textbook, Part 3 – Chapter 12
Week #13	Media and Criminal Justice	Textbook, pages 340, 349
Week #14	American Society and Criminal Justice	Textbook, pages, 333, 335
Week #15	Last week of class** Final review	

**\*\*All papers and projects due by midnight, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023. No further postings on Blackboard will be allowed after midnight on that date.**

**Final exam: To Be Determined**