

**Introduction to Criminology & Criminal Justice**  
**Sociology 253.001**  
**Fall 2024, Scott Bioengineering 101**  
**TR 3:30pm-4:45 pm**

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This course is designed to familiarize you with the aspects of the criminal justice system. We will spend time discussing the concept of crime, how crime is measured, the correlates of crime (such as race, age, gender, and social class), policing, sentencing, prisons, and corrections. This course will serve as an entry point into more specialized, upper-division courses. At the end of the semester, we should have a better understanding of crime, the criminal justice system, and policies within it.

### **Course Objectives**

- Learn about different types of criminological and criminal justice data, and the strengths and weaknesses associated with them.
- Familiarize ourselves with some of the institutions which make up the criminal justice system. Specifically: police, courts, and corrections.
- Apply sociological research methods to studies of criminal justice by reading and discussing original theoretical and empirical research.
- Integrate concepts from the theoretical and empirical literature and apply them to the criminal justice system, both orally and in writing.
- Formulate evaluations, critiques, and policy recommendations designed to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system.

### **Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course, although, completion of SOC 100 may be helpful.

## Required Reading

The following books are required for the course:

Mallicoat, S. L. (2020). *Crime & Justice: Concepts & Controversies*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Sage Publications.

In addition to these books, selected articles will be placed on Canvas.

## Assignments

**Response Paper Assignments (20 pts each, 80 pts total).** Over the course of the semester, you will be given six (6) response paper assignments, though you only need to complete four (4) of them. These assignments will ask a fairly straightforward question, which you will be asked to answer in a 1-2 page (double-spaced) response. You should use information from class to answer the questions, and you should not need to consult outside sources. Each of these assignments will be worth 20 points. Your responses will be graded on four components: 1) answering the question; 2) demonstrate understanding of relevant concepts; 3) integrating material from class; 4) writing and grammar. All responses must be submitted through Canvas.

**Reading Quizzes (4 pts each, 40 pts total).** Most weeks we will often have at least one reading quiz, which is designed to quiz you on how well you are keeping up with the reading. Quizzes will be taken on Canvas and must be submitted by Fridays at 11:55pm. There will be approximately 12 quizzes throughout the semester, worth four points each. They will simply cover the main points of the readings, so as long as you are keeping up with the readings, they should not be too difficult. Because there are ***no makeup quizzes allowed for any reason***, the last two quizzes of the semester will be treated as extra credit.

**Exams (80 pts each, 240 pts total).** We will have three exams in this course. Each exam will be multiple choice format with one essay (usually a choice among 3 options). Exams will be taken on Canvas.

**Participation (40 pts).** You will also be assessed on your level of engagement and participation in the course. Attending class is a necessary, but not sufficient condition to receive a high participation score. You are expected to ask questions, answer questions, and show overall engagement. Participation will also be used to make decisions in borderline cases. Please note that these are not “free” points – if you are not closely engaged and participating on a regular basis, you should expect a poor participation grade. Repeated class disruption will result in a 0 for your participation grade for the entire semester.

## Grading Scale

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
97%+	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
70-76%	C
60-69%	D
<60%	F

## Policies & Other Issues

The course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

Please come to class prepared. This includes completing the required reading for the day, and being ready to participate in discussion and activities. This will help you do well in all aspects of the course.

Be proactive. If you have a personal issue that is preventing you from doing well in the course, please come and talk to me as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the less I will be able to help you.

Please turn your cell phones off during class. Do not send text messages or browse the internet during class. If you want to do this, the Lory Student Center is probably more comfortable.

Late assignments are strongly discouraged. For each day that an assignment is late, 10% of the assignment's value will be deducted from your score.

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs.

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to

help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety.

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

- o Emergency Response 911
- o Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350
- o Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

**A Note on AI:** This class is specifically a space for learning and practicing invaluable writing and researching processes that cannot be replicated by generative artificial intelligence (AI). While the ever-changing (and exciting!) new developments with AI will find their place in our workforces and personal lives, in the realm of education, this kind of technology can counteract learning. This is because the use of AI diminishes opportunities to learn from our experiences and from each other, to play with our creative freedoms, to problem-solve, and to contribute our ideas in authentic ways. In a nutshell, college is a place for learning, and this AI simply cannot do that learning for us. Academic integrity plays a vital role in the learning that takes place in SOC 253, and submitting work as your own that was generated by AI is plagiarism. For all of these reasons, any work written, developed, created, or inspired by generative artificial intelligence does not lend itself to our learning goals and is a breach of ethical engagement and CSU's academic integrity policy.

### **Academic Honesty**

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Student Responsibilities page of the [CSU General Catalog](#) and in the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Student Resolution Center.

### **Course Calendar**

#### **Week 1: Crime & Criminal Justice**

August 20: Syllabus

August 22: Crime & Criminal Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 1)

### **Week 2: Measuring Crime**

August 27: Concepts of Law & Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 2)

August 29: Defining & Measuring Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 3)

**Response Paper #1 Due 8/30**

### **Week 3: Offenders & Victims**

September 3: Explanations of Criminal Behavior (Mallicoat Ch. 4)

September 5: Victims & the Criminal Justice System (Mallicoat Ch. 5)

### **Week 4: Criminal Justice Policy**

September 10: Criminal Justice Policy (Mallicoat Ch. 6)

September 12: Documentary: Sex Trafficking in America

**Response Paper #2 Due 9/13**

### **Week 5: Exam #1**

Exam #1 due onto Canvas by Friday 9/20 at 11:59pm.

### **Week 6: Policing**

September 24: Policing Organizations & Practices (Mallicoat Ch. 7)

September 26: Community Policing

### **Week 7: Policing**

October 1: Issues in Policing (Mallicoat Ch. 8)

October 3: Police Discretion

**Response Paper #3 Due 10/4**

### **Week 8: Policing**

October 8: Chief Callaghan Visit

October 10: No Class

### **Week 9: Courts & Sentencing**

October 15: Guest Speaker: Chief Deputy DA Amanda Duhon

October 17: Courts & Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 9)

### **Week 10: Courts & Sentencing**

October 22: Punishment & Sentencing (Mallicoat Ch. 10)

October 24: Focal Concerns Sentencing (Steffensmeier et al., 1998)

**Response Paper #4 Due 10/25**

### **Week 11: Exam #2**

Exam #2 due onto Canvas by Friday 11/1 at 11:55pm.

### **Week 12: Prisons & Jails**

November 5: Prisons & Jails (Mallicoat Ch. 11)

November 7: Guest Speaker: Megan Worthington

**Week 13: No Class**

November 12: No Class

November 14: No Class

**Response Paper #5 Due 11/15**

**Week 14: Juvenile Justice**

November 19: Community Corrections (Mallicoat Ch. 12)

November 21: Juvenile Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 13)

**Week 15: Fall Recess**

November 26: Fall Recess

November 28: Fall Recess

**Response Paper #6 Due 11/29**

**Week 16: Emerging Issues**

December 3: Transnational Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 14)

December 5: No Class

**Final Exam: Monday 12/9 by 11:59pm (Due on Canvas)**