

Introduction to Criminology & Criminal Justice
Sociology 253.001
Spring 2021, Remote
TR 11am-12:15pm

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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. (2018). *Crime & Justice: Concepts & Controversies*. 2nd edition. Sage Publications.

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

Course Structure

This course will follow a mostly asynchronous format. You can expect that all materials will be available on Canvas for the week by Monday at noon. This will include pre-recorded lectures and any assignments that are due for that week. I will also offer weekly Zoom meetings on Thursdays at 11am and will post the link in the module at the beginning of the week. These meetings serve as an opportunity to engage in real-time discussion with other members of the course. These meetings will be mostly unstructured, providing an opportunity to talk through some of the material for the course for that week. You can attend as many of these meetings as you like, but you need to attend at least two for Participation credit (see below).

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). Some, but not all lectures will conclude with a reading/lecture quiz question. The quiz will be posted as an assignment on Canvas alongside the lecture and slides for that week. You will have until the end of the week (Friday, 11:55pm) to submit your quiz response to Canvas.

Exams (80 pts each, 240 pts total). We will have three exams in this course. Each exam will consist of a Multiple Choice format with one essay (usually a choice among 3 options). You will take the Exam through Canvas. Once you launch the Multiple Choice portion, you will have one hour to complete it. The Essay will be untimed. You will have approximately one week to complete both parts and they are due by the end of the week (Friday, 11:55pm). NOTE: We will conform to the Final Exam Schedule for the Final, so that will be due on Tuesday, May 11, at 11:55pm.

Participation (40 pts). You will also be assessed on your level of engagement and participation in the course. Each week, I will post 1-2 discussion questions on Canvas. For each one, you may

write an original response, and/or you may respond to another person's comments. Your response should usually be at least a few sentences. Additionally, you will need to attend at least two weekly Zoom meetings during the semester. Your participation in each of the first two meetings that you attend will be worth up to 5 pts each.

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

Other Issues

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

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.

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. For example, if you turn in a paper assignment two days late, you will receive an 8 point (20% deduction) from the score you would have received.

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>.

Anyone caught cheating and/or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment and will be turned over to university officials.

Important information for students on COVID-19:

All students are required to follow public health guidelines in any university space, and are encouraged to continue these practices when off-campus(es). Students also are required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the university immediately, as well as if they have potentially been exposed or have tested positive at a non-CSU testing location. If you suspect you have symptoms, please fill out the COVID Reporter (<https://covid.colostate.edu/reporter/>).

If you have COVID symptoms or know or believe you have been exposed, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you complete the online COVID Reporter. Do not ask your instructor to report for you; if you report to your instructor that you will not attend class due to symptoms or a potential exposure, you are required to also submit those concerns through the COVID Reporter. If you do not have access to the internet to fill out the online COVID-19 Reporter, please call (970)491-4600.

If you report symptoms or a positive test, your report is submitted to CSU's Public Health Office. You will receive immediate, initial instructions on what to do and then you will also be contacted by phone by a public health official. Based on your specific circumstances, the public health official may:

- Choose to recommend that you be tested and help arrange for a test
- Conduct Contact Tracing

- Initiate any necessary public health requirements or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps

If you report a potential exposure, the public health official will help you determine if you are at risk of contracting COVID.

For the latest information about the University's COVID resources and information, please visit the **CSU COVID-19 site** (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).

Course Calendar

Week 1: Crime & Criminal Justice (Jan 18-22)

Reading:

Crime & Criminal Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 1)

Week 2: Measuring Crime (Jan 25-29)

Readings:

Concepts of Law & Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 2)

Defining & Measuring Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 3)

Response Paper #1 Due

Week 3: Offenders & Victims (Feb 1-5)

Readings:

Explanations of Criminal Behavior (Mallicoat Ch. 4)

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

Week 4: Criminal Justice Policy (Feb 8-12)

Readings:

Criminal Justice Policy (Mallicoat Ch. 6)

Sex Trafficking in America (Documentary)

Response Paper #2 Due

Week 5: Exam #1 (Feb 15-19)

Complete Multiple Choice & Essay by Friday (Feb. 19) at 11:55pm!

Week 6: Policing (Feb 22-26)

Readings:

Policing Organizations & Practices (Mallicoat Ch. 7)

Community Policing (Cordner, On Canvas)

Week 7: Policing (Mar 1-5)

Readings:

Issues in Policing (Mallicoat Ch. 8)

Police Discretion (Brooks, On Canvas)

Response Paper #3 Due

Week 8: Policing (Mar 8-12)

Reading:

Body-Worn Cameras (White, 2015)

Week 9: Courts & Sentencing (Mar 15-19)

Readings:

Courts & Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 9)

Supreme Revenge (Documentary)

Week 10: Courts & Sentencing (Mar 22-26)

Readings:

Punishment & Sentencing (Mallicoat Ch. 10)

Focal Concerns Sentencing (Steffensmeier et al., 1998, On Canvas)

Response Paper #4 Due

Week 11: Exam #2 (Mar 29-Apr 2)

Complete Multiple Choice & Essay by Friday at 11:55pm!

Week 12: Prisons & Jails (Apr 5-Apr 9)

Readings:

Prisons & Jails (Mallicoat Ch. 11)

Last Days of Solitary (Documentary)

Week 13: Spring Break (Apr 12-16)

Spring Break

Week 14: Community Corrections (Apr 19-23)

Readings:

Community Corrections (Mallicoat Ch. 12)

Life on Parole (Documentary)

Reaction Paper #5 Due

Week 15: Juvenile Justice (Apr 26-30)

Readings:

Juvenile Justice (Mallicoat Ch. 13)

Plea Bargaining Among Waiver-Eligible Offenders (Burrow & Lowery, 2015, On Canvas)

Reaction Paper #6 Due

Week 16: Transnational Crime (May 3-7)

Reading:

Transnational Crime (Mallicoat Ch. 14)

Final Exam Due: Wednesday, May 12, 11:55pm