

Introduction to Criminal Justice
Sociology 253.001
Spring 2023
10-10:50 AM MWF – Stadium 1207

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Office: Clark A-A14A
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9 AM – 12 PM via Zoom (or email to schedule an appointment)
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This course is designed to familiarize you with the measurement of crime and aspects of the criminal justice system, including crime rates, patterns, and trends. We will spend time discussing how crime is measured, the correlates of crime (such as race, age, gender, and social class), policing, sentencing, prisons, and capital punishment. At the end of the semester, you 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.

Prerequisites

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

Required Reading

The following book is required for the course:

Siegel, Larry J. and John L. Worrall. 2021. *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. 17th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. 978-0357630921.

In addition to this textbook, video links and other supporting material will be uploaded to Canvas. It is crucial to log on and check Canvas as exams, writing assignments, and reading materials will be posted there. I will also post announcements, reminders, and updates to Canvas.

Information in this syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Assignments

End-of-Chapter Discussion Posts: (10 pts each, 100 pts total): At the end of each chapter, I will ask a short open-ended question which requires a response based on your reading of the chapter. This question will get you thinking about the material and will help you prepare for exams. Responses will be brief (about two paragraphs) but will help keep you on track as you finish each chapter. I will ask a question at the end of every set of lecture notes for a chapter, but **you are only expected to complete ten (10) end-of-chapter informal responses total this semester.** You can choose which chapter material or questions you would like to respond to, but you must submit ten end-of-chapter responses this semester. These are due on Canvas. **You must also respond to at least one classmate's discussion post, and either ask a question, respond to their perspective, or engage with their argument.** Responses to others may be brief but are required for full credit for weekly discussion post participation. Remember, this course emphasizes CSU's principles of community and I expect that we all act with dignity and respect and will try to critically engage with the course material.

Response Paper Assignments (50 pts each, 100 pts total): Over the course of the semester, you will have two (2) response paper assignments. These assignments will ask a question, which you will be asked to answer in a 3–5-page response. Response papers must be submitted online to Canvas by 11:59 PM on the due date. You should use information from lecture, textbook, and other course materials to answer the questions. Each of these assignments will be worth 50 points. While part of these assignments will be graded on writing, the majority of the points will come from content. More information will be distributed on Canvas prior to the due date.

Exams (100 pts each, 200 pts total): We will have two exams in this course. Both exams will be multiple-choice format, and exam 2 will not be cumulative. Once a full week has passed, exams cannot be made up. Exams will be administered as Quizzes on Canvas. If you have any questions or issues accessing Quizzes, please let me know ahead of time.

Lecture Learning Checks (Up to 10 points): Each lecture, there will be lecture learning check questions integrated into the lecture which can be submitted at the end of class for extra credit points added to your point total at the end of the semester. Lecture learning checks are centered on participation and effort, not on providing a right answer. **This is the only extra credit opportunity available in this course.**

Grading Scale

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>		
392-400	A+	332-351	B
372-391	A	320-331	B-
360-371	A-	312-319	C+
352-359	B+	280-311	C
		240-279	D
		239>	F

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Policies and Practices

Email: Email is the best way to reach me (Kellie.Alexander@colostate.edu). I will not send out any grades via email. Your grades will be available via Canvas. Second, please do not send me assignments via email. Canvas is the correct repository for assignments. Third, please include the name of the course (SOC 253) in the subject line of the email and please always include your full name in the email sign off. I usually do not check email on the weekends or in the evenings, so please keep this in mind when awaiting a response. Finally, please be sure to check Canvas and your official CSU email often throughout this short semester.

Academic Integrity: All work you turn in for this course must be your own original work for this semester. 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. Colorado State University's policy on academic integrity can be found in the General Catalog (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/#academic-integrity>) and the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/conduct-code>). I reserve the right to apply any academic penalty that fits the extent of the academic misconduct.

Workload Expectations: Please expect to put in effort throughout this semester. This includes completing the required reading for the day, and being ready to think critically, and do some writing. This will help you do well in all aspects of the course. You should expect to work 2 hours for every contact hour we have.

Late Work: Late assignments are strongly discouraged. Any assignment turned in after the due date will lose 10% of possible points for each day it is late unless you let me know prior to the due date. Exams cannot be taken later without coordinating this with the instructor before the exam time. Please, be proactive. **If you have a problem or issue that is preventing you from doing well in the course, please talk to me as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the less I will be able to help you.**

Disabilities: If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class due to a disability or chronic health condition, I will need an accommodation letter from the Student Disability Center (SDC) before they are implemented. If you do not already have these letters, please contact the SDC as soon as possible to initiate the accommodation process. The SDC is in room 121 of the TILT building. Contact them at 970-491-6385 or visit www.disabilitycenter.colostate.edu

Principles of Community: The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative, and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

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Title IX Information: 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

Need Help? CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs, alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others, please know there is help available. CSU Health Network Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Your student fees provide access to a wide range of support services. Call (970) 491-6053 or visit Counseling Services on the 3rd floor of the Health and Medical Center, and they will work together with you to find out which services are right for you. Visit health.colostate.edu/counseling to learn more. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, use Tell Someone by calling (970) 491-1350 or visiting tellsomeone.colostate.edu to share your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources. Rams Take Care of Rams. Reach out and ask for help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

Important information for students on COVID-19: All students are expected and required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the university immediately, as well as exposures or positive tests (even home tests). If you suspect you have symptoms, or if you know you have been exposed to a positive person or have tested positive for COVID (even with a home test), you are required to fill out the COVID Reporter.

If you know or believe you have been exposed, including living with someone known to be COVID positive, or are symptomatic, 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 do not have internet access to fill out the online COVID-19 Reporter, please call (970) 491-4600.

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You may also report concerns in your academic or living spaces regarding COVID exposures through the COVID Reporter. You will not be penalized in any way for reporting. When you complete the COVID Reporter for any reason, the CSU Public Health Office is notified. Students who report symptoms or a positive antigen test through the COVID Reporter may be directed to get a PCR test through the CSU Health Network's medical services for students.

For the latest information about the university's COVID resources and information, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site.

Course Schedule

This course is organized into an Introduction and four modules, as listed below. Due to the brevity of this course, we will cover roughly one module per week. Please try to read the chapter on or before the day of class (So for January 20th, make sure you read through Chapter 1 of the textbook, as well as the lecture slides for Chapter 1).

Intro: Syllabus & Welcome

Date:	To Do:	Notes:
Week 1 - January 18 (W)	Read the Syllabus & About Me on Canvas	Send instructor an email with any questions regarding course, Canvas page, etc.

Module 1: The Nature of Crime, Law, and Criminal Justice

Date:	To Do:	Notes:
Week 1 & 2 - January 20 (F)	Ch. 1 – Crime and Criminal Justice, Lecture Chapter 1	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
January 23 (M)	Finish Ch. 1 lecture	
Week 2 – January 25 (W)	Ch. 2 – The Nature and Extent of Crime, Lecture Chapter 2	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
January 27 (F)	Finish Ch. 2 lecture	
Week 3 – January 30 (M)	Ch. 3 – Understanding Crime and Victimization, Lecture Chapter 3	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
February 1 (W)	Finish Ch. 3 lecture	
February 3 (F)	Ch. 4 – Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure, Lecture Chapter 4	
Week 4 - February 6 (M)	Finish Ch. 4 lecture	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
February 8 (W)	Work on Response Paper #1	Complete response paper #1, submit to Canvas. Review assignment details.
February 10 (F)	Response Paper #1 Due to Canvas (February 10th, 11:59 PM)	

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Module 2: The Police and Law Enforcement

Date:	To Do:	Notes:
Week 5- February 13 (M)	Ch. 5 – The Police: History & Contemporary Structure, Lecture Chapter 5	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
February 15 (W)	Complete Ch. 5 lecture	
February 17 (F)	Complete Ch. 5 lecture	
Week 6 – February 20 (M)	Ch. 6 – The Police: Organization, Role, and Function, Lecture Chapter 6	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
February 22 (W)	Complete reading Chapter 6, complete Lecture Chapter 6	
February 24 (F)	Complete reading Chapter 6, complete Lecture Chapter 6	
Week 7 – February 27 (M)	Ch. 7 – Issues in Policing, Lecture Chapter 7 Work on end-of-chapter post	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
March 1 (W)	Complete reading Chapter 7, complete Lecture Chapter 7	
March 3 (F)	Complete reading Chapter 7, complete Lecture Chapter 7	
Week 8 - March 6 (M)	Watch Film – Policing the Police, Review for Exam #1	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses. Complete Exam #1 via Quizzes on Canvas. Review assignment details.
March 8 (W)	Watch Film, Review for Exam #1	
March 10 (F)	Exam #1 (Modules 1 & 2, textbook, lecture, media clips)	

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Module 3: Courts and Adjudication

Date:	To Do:	Notes:
Week 9 - March 20 (M)	Ch. 9 – The Courts and the Judiciary, Lecture Chapter 9	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
March 22 (W)	Complete reading Chapter 9, Lecture Chapter 9	
March 24 (F)	Work on end-of-chapter post	
Week 10 – March 27 (M)	Ch. 11 – Pretrial and Trial Procedures, Lecture Chapter 11	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
March 29 (W)	Complete reading Chapter 11	
March 31 (F)	Work on end-of-chapter post	
Week 11 – April 3 (M)	Ch. 12 – Punishment and Sentencing, Lecture Chapter 12	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
April 5 (W)	Complete reading Chapter 12, Lecture Chapter 12	
April 7 (F)	Work on end-of-chapter post	
Week 12 - April 10 (M)	Watch Film, work on end-of-chapter posts.	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
April 12 (W)	Watch Film	
April 14 (F)	Watch Film, discuss any remaining materials	

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Module 4: Corrections

Date:	To Do:	Notes:
Week 13 - April 17 (M) April 19 (W) April 21 (F)	Ch. 14 – Corrections: History, Institutions, & Populations, Lecture Chapter 14 Complete reading Chapter 14, Lecture Chapter 14 Work on end-of-chapter post	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses.
Week 14 – April 24 (M): April 26 (W): April 28 (F):	Ch. 15 – Prison Life: Living in and Leaving Prison, Lecture Chapter 15 Complete Ch. 15 lecture Response Paper #2 Due to Canvas (April 28th, 11:59 PM)	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses. Complete and submit Response Paper #2.
Week 15 – May 1 (M) May 3 (W) May 5 (F)	Ch. 13 – Community Sentences, Lecture Chapter 13 Complete reading Chapter 13, Lecture Chapter 13 Work on end-of-chapter post, review for Exam #2.	Complete end-of-chapter post and peer responses. Review for Exam #2
Week 16 - May 8-12	Exam #2 (Modules 3 & 4, textbook, lecture, media clips) (Thurs., May 11th)	Complete Exam #2 via Quizzes on Canvas. Review assignment details.

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