

JUS510 Contemporary Criminal Justice: Issues and Trends

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

Provides a contemporary overview of the criminal justice system with a focus on current trends, major crime problems and statistics, crime control issues, the nature and causes of crime, justice agencies and personnel, key decision-making by justice agents, and the changing features of the American legal system and criminal justice agency management which impact on the quality of service to community residents.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Employ research literacy and critical thinking skills to evaluate discipline-specific knowledge.
2. Analyze and critique current reports, research, and discussions in the literature and relate them to contemporary criminal justice practice.
3. Debate contemporary issues that confront criminal justice practitioners/leaders within the criminal justice field today.
4. Apply problem-solving skills to contemporary issues, ethical dilemmas, and critical questions in criminal justice.
5. Identify new developments in the law and the legal process and consider how they impact crime victims, criminal justice agencies, citizens, and practitioners.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

There is no required textbook for this course.

It is strongly recommended that students purchase the most 7th edition of the APA Style Manual if you do not already have one (ISBN978-1433832161). This manual is used throughout your entire graduate program. There are also online resources such as Academic Writer, which are located in all Moodle Shells and APA Help Tutorials through Pfeiffer Library.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays, although the final activity in Week 7 is due on Thursday**.

Learning Activities

Throughout this course, various learning activities will determine your understanding of the course material and ultimately your successful completion of the course. Class discussion forums will allow us to explore different topics in the course that are multifaceted and often debatable. These forums will allow each student to present their stance on the issues and learn from other perspectives than their own to gain a holistic view of each topic.

Each week there will be a short research assignment related to the weekly learning goals. All assignments will require scholarly research and a well-written paper in APA format. These papers are created to allow each student to do a deeper dive into a specific issues that we have been discussing in the forums, often the student will have some choice in parts of the assignment and/or will be able to apply the assignment to their personal life.

There are two significant projects in Weeks 6 & 7 that will be the capstone assignments for the course. Week 6 will be the final paper where students can select an issue that is of interest to them and use the knowledge that they have gained throughout the course, in addition to their own research, to improve upon a current CJ issue/procedure/process. In

Week 7, students will create a visual/audio presentation that describes the findings in their paper a hypothetical audience of stakeholders. These final capstone projects will allow students to examine authentic real world problems and work towards becoming a part of the solution.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussion Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (30)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (30)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (30)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (30)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (30)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (30)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (30)	210
Assignments Activity 1.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 2.2 (25) Activity 2.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 3.2 (75) Activity 3.3 (10)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (75) Activity 4.3 (10)	Assignments Activity 5.2 (75) Activity 5.3 (10)	Assignments Activity 6.2 (200) Activity 6.3 (10)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (150)	790
105	130	115	115	115	240	180	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
Start Here	<input type="checkbox"/> MON: Activity 1.1: Introductory Forum – Photo Op – Initial Post
Week 1: Brainstorming Contemporary Issues Article Critique	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 1.1: Introductory Forum – Photo Op – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 1.2: Contemporary Issues – Google Doc Brainstorming <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 1.3: Article Critique

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
<p>Week 2: Defunding the Police Corruption & Misconduct Civil Unrest/Protests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 2.1: Police & Community Relations – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 2.1: Police & Community Relations – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 2.2: Final Project Topic Submission <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 2.3: Guided Byline Report
<p>Week 3: Diversity in Policing Recruitment Women in Policing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 3.1: Criminal Justice Agencies Today – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 3.1: Criminal Justice Agencies Today – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 3.2: Effective Recruitment Practices
<p>Week 4: PTSD/Suicide Job Related Stress Mental Health Wellness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 4.1: Mental Health in Criminal Justice – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 4.1: Mental Health in Criminal Justice – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 4.2: Personal Mental Health: Wellness Plan <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 4.3: Final Paper/Presentation Checklist
<p>Week 5: Prison Overcrowding Drug Epidemic/Legalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 5.1: Drug Legalization – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 5.1: Drug Legalization – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.2: Prison Overcrowding <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.3: Final Paper/Presentation Checklist
<p>Week 6: Firearm Violence Human Trafficking Cyber Threats Criminal Gangs Immigration Domestic Extremists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 6.1: Priority Threat – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 6.1: Priority Threat – Secondary Posts <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 6.2: Final Paper <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 6.3: Final Paper/Presentation Checklist

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
Week 7: Plea Bargaining Grand Jury	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 7.1: Judiciary Processes – Initial Post <input type="checkbox"/> THU: Activity 7.2: Narrated Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 7.1: Judiciary Processes – Secondary Posts

Tips for Success

Successful online learning requires a good deal of self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge and review one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery and constructiveness. Your course is a place for you to stretch and grow as you benefit from the expertise, knowledge, experience and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge, understanding and application.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.