TIFFIN UNIVERSITY / ONLINE

JUS110 Introduction to Criminal Justice
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

A survey of the Criminal Justice System and of its major subsystems: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Emphasis will be not only on structure and functions of the various components, but also their interactions. The course will also introduce the student to the basics of criminal justice research through the use of the collection of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and other professional sources of information.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the major agencies, procedures, personnel, and decision-making points which comprise the criminal justice system.

2. Define fundamental terms and concepts in the law and criminal justice.

3. Describe and evaluate the use of discretion by practitioners in law enforcement, court services, corrections, and juvenile justice.

4. Discuss significant problems and issues found in each subsystem of criminal justice.

5. Recognize the relationships and interdependencies among criminal justice and other social service agencies and their personnel in the fight against crime.

6. Recognize the career opportunities in criminal justice service.

7. Evaluate the difficulty in arriving at a consensus on criminal justice policy issues and in maintaining an ordered liberty in American society.

8. Distinguish the electronic data and other resources which store timely and useful criminal justice information in order to locate and investigate research data.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

This course requires no textbook. Instead, you'll follow links in the weekly **Explore** sections for required library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the Tiffin University Library.

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Time Commitment

Effective time management is a 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 require you to dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour for 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.**

Learning Activities

This course has been designed as a *Position Post* course type.

This means that on **Wednesday** of weeks 1, 2, 4, and 7, you will submit a "position post" to the forum in response to a given prompt. Although there is no specific minimum word requirement, your Position Post should:

- Be substantive enough to fully explore the question posed, while being well constructed and free of "filler" language and wordiness,
- Use, and properly cite, outside sources that support your position,
- Include your "Design Statement" that outlines your process for researching and constructing your Position

While **Saturday** assignments may vary, they will generally serve to deepen your understanding and build **connections** with the week's learning topics. Examples of possible Saturday activities include:

- A second Position Post in response to a new prompt
- Summarizing themes in your peers' Wednesday Position Posts
- Explaining how peers' Wednesday Position Posts affect your own thinking about the topic.
- Critiquing and refining your original Post in response to new information (additional readings, etc.).
- *Note: since Saturday activities will vary, be sure to read directions carefully.*

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By **Sunday** of each week, you will have a "summative" assignment due where you will **apply** what you learned. This could be an exam, a paper, a presentation, an infographic, etc. Be sure to read directions carefully for the assignment.

Finally, you will be writing a **reflection,** due each **Sunday,** that reflects on your learning. This kind of writing often asks you to think about your own thinking (metacognition) and will include a prompt to which you must respond. It is **not** writing about your feelings. Reflection is often the best way we learn something, so do your best to analyze your own thought processes.

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
Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (20)	**Forums** Activity 2.1 (20)	**Forums** (n/a)	**Forums** Activity 4.1 (20)	**Forums** (n/a)	**Forums** (n/a)	**Forums** Activity 7.1 (20)	**80**
Assignments Activity 1.3 (40) Activity 1.4 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 2.2 (100) Activity 2.3 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 3.1 (40) Activity 3.2 (100) Activity 3.3 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 4.1 (40) Activity 4.2 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 5.1 (100) Activity 5.2 (75) Activity 5.3 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 6.1 (100) Activity 6.2 (10)	**Assignments** Activity 7.2 (75) Activity 7.3 (180) Activity 7.4 (10)	**920**
70	**130**	**150**	**70**	**185**	**110**	**285**	**1000**

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

☐ MON: Activity 1.1: Course Anticipation

Week 1

☐ WED: Activity 1.1: Course Anticipation – Follow-Up Post

☐ WED: Activity 1.2: Law Enforcement Agency Components - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 1.2: Law Enforcement Agency Components - Follow-Up Post

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☐ SUN: Activity 1.3: Research on Criminal Justice Subsystems

☐ SUN: Activity 1.4: Weekly Reflection

Week 2

☐ WED: Activity 2.1: Crime Research - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 2.1: Crime Research - Follow-Up Post

☐ SUN: Activity 2.2: COMPSTAT

☐ SUN: Activity 2.3: Weekly Reflection

Week 3

☐ SUN: Activity 3.1: Federal and State Court Systems

☐ SUN: Activity 3.2: Social Service Agencies, Courts, and Mental Health Calls

☐ SUN: Activity 3.3: Weekly Reflection

Week 4

☐ WED: Activity 4.1: Social Media - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 4.1: Social Media - Follow-Up Post

☐ SUN: Activity 4.2: Resume

☐ SUN: Activity 4.3: Weekly Reflection

Week 5

☐ SUN: Activity 5.1: COP Paper

☐ SUN: Activity 5.2: Memorandum on POP

☐ SUN: Activity 5.3: Weekly Reflection

Week 6

☐ SUN: Activity 6.1: You Be the Judge

☐ SUN: Activity 6.2: Weekly Reflection

Week 7

☐ WED: Activity 7.1: Training Needs - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 7.1: Training Needs - Follow-Up Post

☐ SAT: Activity 7.2: Policy Brief on Reform

☐ SUN: Activity 7.3: Final Project

☐ SUN: Activity 7.4: Weekly Reflection

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Tips for Success

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

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.

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