

**Introduction to Criminal Justice - CRJ1010 – Syllabus**

**Fall II - 2021**

**Department of Criminal Justice - CRN 2099 & CRN 143 – Online  
3 Credit Hours**

**Instructor Information:**

Bobby Cushman; MPA, MBA, FBI-NA

E-Mails: Class email - [bcushman@elearning.apsu.edu](mailto:bcushman@elearning.apsu.edu)

APSU OneStop email - [cushmanb@apsu.edu](mailto:cushmanb@apsu.edu)

Personal email - [bobbygcushman@charter.net](mailto:bobbygcushman@charter.net)

Office Hours: Instructor does not maintain office hours. Please contact via the class email. Use APSU OneStop if the class email system is not functioning. You may also call Melissa Boyer, Criminal Justice Department Academic Assistant to the Chair, at 931-221-1480 to make contact.

Course Details: D2L Web class -- viewing and participation from date the class is made available.

**Course Description**

This is an introductory and required course in the criminal justice program. This course is a basic study of all components of the criminal justice system in the United States. Topics include concepts of law and crime; the criminal justice process; overview of criminal justice agencies; current criminal justice issues; interactions and conflicts between criminal justice agencies

**Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites**

None

**Course Topics**

- Topic 1 -- Discussion Boards
- Topic 2 -- Chapter Short-Answer Essay Questions
- Topic 3 – Special Topic Essay

- Topic 4 -- Quizzes

### **Course Learning Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. be familiar with the foundations of criminal justice;
2. be familiar with the foundations of law and crime;
3. be familiar with the theories on why people commit crime;
4. be familiar with the definitions of ethics and issues that confront police;
5. be familiar with the organization and operation of selected federal and state law enforcement agencies;
6. be familiar with police functions to include their recruitment and training;
7. be familiar with current police issues facing law enforcement as they perform their duty;
8. be familiar with the constitutional rights of the accused as well as the limitations placed on the police under the Bill of Rights;
9. be familiar the court structure and functions at federal, state, and local levels;
10. be familiar with what is considered the courtroom work groups and their functions;
11. be familiar with the judicial sentencing guidelines, punishment criteria, and appeal processes;
12. be familiar federal, state, and local jails in terms of their evolution and populations;
13. be familiar with the lives of prison inmates and the staff that manage them;
14. be familiar with the community corrections functions and alternative programs;
15. be familiar with the juvenile justice system and their criminal justice processes;
16. be familiar with the problems that plague society and pose serious future problems.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Required Materials**

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Peak, Kenneth J. and Madensen-Herold, Tamara D, (2021); Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process, 4th edition\*. SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.

ISBN 9781544372938 paper back - or (e-pub or pdf formats).

\*Third edition will do in a pinch.

### **Supplemental/Optional Materials**

Please note there are no supplement materials required for course.

### **Technology Requirements**

Students will need access to a computer with internet capability and Microsoft Word. Have the proficiency to search for information outside the textbook to complete assignments when required. Reminder to view the APSU Technology for Digital Learning webpage for information regarding recommended browsers for web courses.

### **Technology Skills Required for Course**

Students will need to have the computer skills sufficient to use a course management system like D2L, access web sites, use e-mail capable of attachments, and to prepare and submit assignments in MS Word. It is expected that students be able to grasp the technical nature and structure of the course.

## **Participation, Assessments & Grading**

### **Class Participation**

Each student is expected to contribute through the online interactive features of the course. Interaction and participation is especially essential throughout the discussion board forum open period since it replicates the opportunity provided in classroom sessions to have meaningful discussions and interactions with instructor and classmates.

Discussion board assignments are available for a week or more.

Assessment of postings will be based on frequency, focus, and relationship

of the postings to the topic as well as how much was read of classmates' postings. The D2L program provides instructor with student activity during the assignment open period regarding dates and times of participation.

### **Testing Procedures**

The student will take four on-line quizzes, each to cover the chapters in the textbook as indicated in the course outline. Quiz study guides will also be available for each quiz and accessible from the Content link in the course. Please remember that any exception to taking the on-line quizzes other than through the on-line features of the course needs to be discussed with instructor before the first quiz is available.

### **Grading Procedures**

There is an association to how grades are reflective to the expected course learning outcomes. Assignment grade achievement collectively is related to the learning outcomes in that assignments included one or more of the learning outcome objectives listed. Grades received from completing the assignments indicate the achievement level related to the learning objectives. Achievement grades in the assignments, both individually and collectively, constitute the level of proficiency in the expected learning outcomes.

### **Late and Missing Work Policy**

There is instructor discretion regarding late and missing assignments because of the issues relating to why there is a need to do so. The policy is discretionary in that individuals have different reasons for the request. D2L has special access provisions that allow instructor to adjust closing dates for assignments that only involve student and instructor. Discussion board assignments replicate classroom discussions and when assignment closes it cannot be made active again just as a classroom session could not. Please note that course assignment(s) that are late or missing because of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease issue can be extended within the timeframes of the course.

## Grading Scale

- 90% to 100% = A
- 80% to 89% = B
- 70% to 79% = C
- 60% to 69% = D
- Below 60% = F

Please note the class uses weighted factors in determining percentage grades. Each assignment topic is assigned a weight factor that is associated to how the grades accumulate. The D2L computer program converts the assignment grade as related to the weight factor.

### *Example:*

Maximum grade for course is 100%. The four discussion boards represent 12% of the class graded assignments. This computes to each discussion board having a weight factor of 3% each toward the course total of 100%. Each assignment is graded in percentage. The class assignments with weight factors follow.

## Assignments and Projects

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Weight Factors</b>
Discussion forums (total of 4 at 3% each)	12%
Module Chapter Short-Essay Questions (4 modules at 2.5% each)	10%
Special Topic Essay	6%
Quizzes (total of 4 quizzes at 18% each)	72%
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Total Percentage Possible	100%

## Instructor Grading and Feedback Response Time

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The instructor will assign grades and individual feedback to students within 3 days after the closing of assignments. Please note that the D2L program assigns quiz grades to grade sheets.

### **Course Expectations and Policies**

#### **Students are expected to:**

- Sign in to the online course space a minimum of three days per week to actively and substantially participate in the discussion forums and to complete required online course activities.
- Be prepared for active participation by keeping up with the homework, activities, and reading assignments.
- Read the required posted online materials, including discussion forum posts for the required forums.
- Complete the assignments by the posted due dates.
- Promptly communicate technical and other course issues or problems to the instructor.
- Adhere to all of the guidelines regarding academic honesty which can be found among other institutional policies in the [APSU Student Handbook](#).

#### **The instructor can be expected to:**

- Reply to student emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday. Response times may vary during weekends and holidays.
- Give timely and thorough feedback on all assignments and assessments. In this course, feedback will be provided within 3 days after assignment/assessment closing date.
- Post weekly announcements at the beginning of each module to update the class on progress and upcoming assignments/assessments.
- Set the tone of the course and lead the process of building an online learning community by being present and active.

#### **Communication Policy**

Announcements will be made through D2L on the news page. Please remember to check your APSU class email and D2L on a regular, if not

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daily, basis. If you have problems with accessing your APSU class email account or D2L, contact GovsTech at 931-221-4357 or email [govstech@apsu.edu](mailto:govstech@apsu.edu). Additional class communication will primarily be through ungraded discussion forums and AP OneStop email when the class email is not functioning. Contact me directly via personal email when none of the primary communications sources are functioning.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Austin Peay State University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, hearing, sight, or mobility impairments.

If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require reasonable accommodations, communicate with me and Disabilities Services in Morgan University Center 114 on the Clarksville Campus, 931-221-6230, [disability\\_services@apsu.edu](mailto:disability_services@apsu.edu), so that reasonable accommodations may be arranged. For more information, please visit the [APSU Disability Services](#) website.

### **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

"Austin Peay State University strives to promote values and attitudes that are reflective of solid academic character and integrity." All students are expected to complete their own work and conduct research and author assignments independently of others (unless specifically authorized to work together by your respective faculty).

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of your educational experience.

"When students participate in behavior that is considered academic misconduct, the scholarly value of their education is diminished."

Academic misconduct is defined as the following:

*Plagiarism.* The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution.

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*Cheating.* Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or aids in any academic exercise or test/examination. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.

*Fabrication.* Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

*Facilitation or Collusion.* Assisting or attempting to assist another to violate a provision of the institution's student code of conduct regarding academic misconduct.

Students should be aware that a violation of the University's Academic Misconduct Policy can result in disciplinary action which could include failure for an assignment, failure for an entire course, probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. If students are not certain whether a practice would be considered academic misconduct they should always consult with their instructor.

### Technical Support

#### **APSU Information Technology**

For Austin Peay email and OneStop login issues contact (931) 221-HELP (4357) or [govstech@apsu.edu](mailto:govstech@apsu.edu). Go to [GovsTech](#) for more information.

#### **Distance Education Support**

For technical issues within this online course, contact (931) 221-6625 or [online@apsu.edu](mailto:online@apsu.edu). Go to [Distance Education's](#) website for more information.

### Course Outline and Assignments

#### **Module One -- (Oct 20 – Oct 26)**

Study Chapter 1 -- Fundamentals of Criminal Justice: Essential Themes  
And Practices



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Study Chapter 2 – Foundations of Law and Crime: Nature, Elements, and Measurement

Respond to Discussion Board Question

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 1 & 2

### **Module Two -- (Oct 27 – Nov 2)**

Study Chapter 3 -- Theories of Criminality and Crime

Study Chapter 4 -- Ethical Situations: Doing Right When no One is Watching

Respond to Discussion Board Question

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

Respond to Special Topic Essay **(Oct 20 – closes on December 2)**

View the Textbook Publisher's PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 3 & 4

Quiz 1 is available **(Oct 25 – Nov 2)**

Study Guide Review for Quiz 1 accessible from Content link

### **Module Three -- (Nov 3 – Nov 9)**

Study Chapter 5 -- Police Organization Structure and Functions

Study Chapter 6 -- Police at Work: Patrolling and Investigating

Respond to Discussion Board Question

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 5 & 6

**Module Four -- (Nov 10 – Nov 16)**

Read Chapter 7 -- Policing Methods and Challenges: Issues of Force, Liabilities, and Technologies

Read Chapter 8 -- Expounding the Constitution: Laws of Arrest, Search, and Seizure

Respond to Discussion Board

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 7 & 8

Quiz 2 is Available **(Nov 1 – Nov 18)**

Study Guide Review for Quiz 2 accessible from Content link

**Module Five -- (Nov 17 – Nov 23)**

Read Chapter 9 -- Court Organization: Structure, Functions, and the Trial Process

Read Chapter 10 --The Bench, and the Bar: Those who Judge, Prosecute, and Defend

Respond to Discussion Board

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 9 &10

**Module Six -- (Nov 24 – Nov 30)**

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Read Chapter 11 -- Court Methods and Challenges: Sentencing and Punishment

Read Chapter 12 -- Prisons and Jails: Structure and Function

Respond to Discussion Board

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

Respond to Special Topic Essay (**Oct 20 – closes on December 2**)

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapters 11&12

Quiz 3 is Available (**Nov 15 – Nov 30**)

Study Guide Review for Quiz 3 accessible from Content link

### **Module Seven -- (Dec 1 – Dec 7)**

Read Chapter 13 -- The Inmates' World: The "Keepers" and the "Kept"

Read Chapter 14 -- Corrections in the Community: Probation, Parole, and other Alternatives to Incarceration

Respond to Discussion Board

Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapter 13 & 14

### **Module Eight -- (Dec 1 – Dec 10)**

Read Chapter 15 -- Juvenile Justice: Philosophy, Law, and Practices

Read Chapter 16 -- On the Crime Policy and Prevention Agenda: Drug Abuse, Sex Trafficking, Terrorism, and Immigration

Respond to Discussion Board

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Respond to Chapter Essay Questions

View the Textbook PowerPoint Slides for Chapter 15 & 16

Quiz 4 is Available (**Nov15 – Dec 9**)

Study Guide Review for Quiz 4 accessible from Content link

### Class Assignments and Dates

#### Quizzes

Quiz 1	Opens Oct 25	Closes Nov 2
Quiz 2	Opens Nov 1	Closes Nov 18
Quiz 3	Opens Nov 15	Closes Nov 30
Quiz 4	Opens Nov 15	Closes Dec 9

#### Discussion Boards

Discussion Board 1	Opens Oct 20	Closes Nov 3
Discussion Board 2	Opens Nov 1	Closes Nov 17
Discussion Board 3	Opens Nov 15	Closes Dec 1
Discussion Board 4	Opens Nov 30	Closes Dec 8

#### Special Topic Essay

Opens Oct 20      Closes Dec 2

#### Short-Answer Chapter Question Essays

Module 1 - 4	Opens Oct 20	Closes Nov 1
Module 5 - 8	Opens Oct 20	Closes Nov 15
Module 9 - 12	Opens Oct 20	Closes Dec 1
Module 13 –16	Opens Oct 20	Closes Dec 7

