



**SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM**

**SYLLABUS
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRJ 445**

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID M. STADELMAN
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TUESDAY 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

**JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS
FALL 2009**

Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
CRJ 445 Siena Heights University/JCC
Fall Semester 2009
Tuesday 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Professor: David M. Stadelman
Office Hours: Tuesday (before and after class) or by appointment
Phone: 517-206-0816
Email: dstadelman@yahoo.com

Required Text for Course

1. Ethics In Criminal Justice. Christopher Dreisbach. (2009). McGraw-Hill Irwin. ISBN 9780073379999
2. Drugs and Society. Annette E. Fleckenstein, Peter J. Venturelli, and Glen R. Hanson, (10th Edition), (2009), Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN 9780763756420

Course Description:

We will be looking at different drug related problems within a text that incorporates a variety of different dimensions from biomedical to social psychological. The class starts with an introduction to crime and will focus on drugs and society, drug regulation, cultural influences of alcohol and drugs on society. Secondly, how ethics and ethical behavior in criminal justice impacts the criminal justice system and our community. The last part of the semester will cover contemporary topics surrounding issues or problems facing criminal justice professionals.

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to link theory and practice.
2. Students will be able to critically evaluate the criminal justice system, identifying its strengths and weaknesses and understanding its operational and procedural process.
3. Students will be able to recognize the need for the development of a fair, just, ethical criminal justice system and provide examples of ethical issues that face the system and its personnel.
4. Students will be able to understand and develop explanations for a variety of human behaviors and seek solutions to social problems impacting the criminal justice field.
5. Students will be able to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the study of criminal justice, appreciating the role of the social sciences in the study of criminal justice.
6. Students will be able to understand a book report and some steps in the research process and why this is important to criminal justice.

Assessment Strategies:

This course will be based on the lecture format, class discussion of current criminal justice issues, and group activities. A strong emphasis will be placed on student participation in class discussion concerning reading material, current criminal justice issues and in class practicum where students problem solve critical situations faced by criminal justice professionals.

All students will be expected to do the required readings prior to class. Field experiences of the instructor will supplement the textbook readings. Examinations will cover lecture, textbook material, handout material, and video presentations

Expectations:

Readings and assignments listed in this syllabus should be read ***prior to class***, not in class or during class. Students should be ***prepared*** to discuss the readings and add to the lecture. All assignments are due on the day listed in the syllabus. Any late work will be only accepted with proper justification and a ***reduction in points***. The student's assigned reading material and assignments will be part of the lecture, ***plus*** additional material that may be prepared for that

Learning Strategy:

During this course we will critically evaluate contemporary issues affecting how the criminal justice system operates. Through these issues we will try to understand its strengths and weaknesses and look at possible solutions to these social problems. When studying these serious issues it is important the diversity of thought about criminality, causes, and extent of crime.

Grading Policy and Scale:

Your final grade will be based on a total possible points: **500 points**.

1. There are **two examinations** valued at 100 points each: **200 points**
2. There will be a **15 page research paper** completed: **200 points**.
3. Each student will prepare a 15 minute in class presentation in conjunction with their research paper: **50 points**.
4. Each student will prepare an outline of their research paper that will be discussed in class as scheduled in this syllabus: **50 points**

A = 475 - 500
A- = 450 - 474
B+ = 425 - 449
B = 400 - 424
C+ = 375 - 399
C = 350 - 374
D = 325 - 349
FAIL = Below 325

Note: I reserve the right to modify or revise this syllabus at any time and will make these changes very clear to students.

1. Attendance: I will be taking attendance. If you miss a class period, you are responsible for any material that you missed. I am available by email, phone, and before and after class to assist you in any way possible, but doing the work necessary for success is entirely up to you. **If you miss two or more class periods your grade is lowered 25 points.** Being late is not considered a missed class unless you arrive 15 minutes or more after class begins.
2. Participation: Class is always more fun and engaging if you decide to show up and are prepared. Participate and speak your enlightening thoughts so we can all enjoy them. I welcome intelligent and somewhat unintelligent discussion, sometime downright dumb discussion, from those that have read and have legitimate questions and comments that relate to topics being discussed.
3. Exams: There will be 2 in class exams. These exams will be composed of multiple choice, T/F, and essay. Each exam is worth 100 points for a class total of **200** points.
4. Research Paper: This research paper is to be at least 15 pages in length and clearly demonstrate college level work. It must be well organized, formulated, written **by you**. Follow the questions and directions below: **200** points.
 1. If you are going to be using material from a website, book, journal, lecture, professional interview, etc., it is necessary to cite the work properly within the paper, as well as a Works Cites page using APA format (In text citation).
 2. Typed, double-spaced and using one-inch margins.
 3. Font 12, using indented paragraphs, check spelling, grammar, etc.
 4. If the paper is written poorly and grammatically inferior for this level of college **15 points** will be automatically deducted.
 5. Due date for the paper is December 8th.
 6. The paper may not be emailed and must be submitted for presentation.
5. In-class presentation: The in-class presentation will be completed on December 8. This presentation will demonstrate your expertise on the subject of your paper and 15 minutes in duration. Be creative with the presentation! More discussion on the presentations will be conducted in class.
6. There may be Extra-Credit Assignments available at the discretion of the professor.

7. Makeup Exams: Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor. They will **only** be given when students have medical or other **VERIFIABLE** excuses that prevent you from completing the exam at the regular scheduled time. These verifiable excused makeup exams must be discussed with me within one class period before or after the regularly scheduled exam.
8. Cell Phones: Turn them off or put in vibrate mode.
9. Academic Dishonesty Policy: Neither plagiarism nor other forms of cheating will be tolerated. Your work should be your own. Any work used that is not your own should be cited properly. Documented proof of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for this course. *I will be utilizing a plagiarism site for paper verification.*
10. Academic Accommodations: Siena Heights University is committed to providing a learning environment that benefits all students. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 all reasonable accommodations will be made to meet documented needs of students. The Siena Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities requires a student to provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Academic Advising Office. If you require special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify each instructor during the first two weeks of the semester.
11. Beverages/Food: Coffee and soft drinks are permissible in class. No food!

COURSE SCHEDULE

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| Sept. 8 | <p>Introduction to class.
 Handouts: Syllabus
 Discuss: What is plagiarism? Expectations of Research Papers and other submissions.
 Assigned Readings - Chapter 1-5 Drugs and Society
 Assign Research Paper topics to students</p> |
| Sept. 15 | <p>Lecture/Discuss - Discuss Chapters 1- 5
 Assigned Readings - Chapters 6-10 Drugs and Society</p> |
| Sept. 22 | <p>Lecture/Discuss – Chapters 6-10
 Assigned Readings - Chapter 12-14 Drugs and Society
 First Outline for Research Paper- Discussion</p> |
| Sept. 29 | <p>Guest Speaker
 Lecture/Discussion – Chapters 12-14
 Assigned Readings – Chapters 1 & 3 Ethics in Criminal Justice</p> |

- Oct. 6 **Lecture/Discuss** – Chapters 1 & 3
Assigned Readings- Chapters 7, 8, & 9 Ethics in Criminal Justice
Second Outline for Research Paper- Discussion
- Oct. 13 **Lecture/Discuss-** Chapters 7, 8, & 9
Assigned Readings – None
- Oct. 20 **Lecture/Discuss** In class discussion
Assigned Readings - To be provided
Third Outline for Research Paper- Discussion
Review for mid-term exam
- Oct. 27 **Mid-term exam**
- Nov. 3 **Lecture/Discuss-** Assigned reading
Assigned Readings – Chapters 11 & 13 Ethics in Criminal Justice
Fourth Outline for Research Paper- Discussion
- Nov. 10 **Guest Speaker**
Lecture/Discuss – Chapters 14 & 15 Ethics in Criminal Justice
Assigned Readings- To be provided
- Nov. 17 **Lecture/Discuss** – Chapters 11, 12, 13 & 14 Ethics in Criminal Justice
Assigned Reading – Domestic Violence
Fifth Outline for Research Paper- Discussion
- Nov. 24 **Lecture/Discussion** – Domestic Violence
Assigned Reading - To be provided
- Dec. 1 **Lecture/Discussion** - Assigned Reading
Assigned Reading - To be provided
Sixth Outline for Research Paper- Discussion
- Dec. 8 Research Papers Due
In-class presentation for Research Papers
- Dec. 15 **Final Exam**