

Lassen Community College Course Outline

AJ-12 Introduction to Criminal Justice

3.0 Units

I. Catalog Description

This course explores the roots of our current justice system and the interaction of its various subsystems (law enforcement/prosecution, judicial and corrections). It emphasizes the organizational structure and legal considerations relevant to each subsystem. Topics include the origin of law, theories of crime causation, criminal procedure, and sentencing philosophies and alternatives. This course has been approved for hybrid and online delivery. This course uses an Open Educational Resource Textbook.

Recommended Preparation: Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to CSU only

C-ID AJ 110

GE Area B

CSU Area D

IGETC AREA 4

51 Hours Lecture, 102 Expected Outside Class Hours, 153 Total Student Learning Hours
Scheduled: Fall, Spring

II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time

Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass

Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable

TOP Code: 210500

III. Course Objectives

A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history, development, structure and function of American police, courts, and corrections
2. Demonstrate an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails.
3. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice as well as juvenile justice.

B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the history and evolution of the administration of justice system.
2. Identify, compare and contrast the objectives of law enforcement, judiciary and correctional components of the criminal justice system.
3. List the criminal justice system's responsibilities to the community.
4. Identify general concepts in crime causation, and the social implications of crime on society.

5. Compare and contrast the various local, state, and federal agencies, their organizational structure, and roles of each subsystem within the criminal justice system.
6. Recognize and identify the key steps in the judicial process.
7. Identify and explain key U.S. Constitutional rights related to criminal justice protected by the Bill of Rights and the Due Process clause.
8. Demonstrate an increased appreciation of the education, training, and professionalism, needed for career opportunities in the criminal justice system.
9. Explain the definition of crime utilizing the criminal theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, costs of crime and the extent of the crime problem in America.

IV. Course Content

- A. Understanding the Criminal Justice System
 1. Development of the Criminal Justice System
 2. The Formal Criminal Justice System
 3. Perspectives on Justice
 4. Ethics in Criminal Justice

- B. Crime and Victimization
 1. How is Crime Defined
 2. How is Crime Measured
 3. Crime Trends
 4. Crime Patterns
 5. Causes of Crime and Victimization

- C. Law Enforcement
 1. History
 2. Evolution of Policing
 3. Organization, Structure and Functions
 4. The Role of Policing
 5. Police Discretion
 6. Police and the Rule of Law

- D. Courts and Sentencing
 1. The Adversarial System
 2. Structure and Function of Federal Courts
 3. Structure and Functions of State Courts
 4. U.S. Supreme Court
 5. Court Participants

- E. Punishment
 1. History of Punishment
 2. Goals of Modern Sentencing
 3. Legal Aspects of Punishment
 4. Intermediate Sanctions
 5. Probation
 6. Capital Punishment

- F. Corrections
 - 1. History of Corrections
 - 2. Jails
 - 3. Prisons
 - 4. Federal Institutions
 - 5. Private Prisons
 - 6. Alternative Correctional Institutions
 - 7. Prisoner's Rights

- G. The Future of the Criminal Justice System
 - 1. Policing in a Post-Modern Society
 - 2. Procedural justice
 - 3. Criminal Justice Reform
 - 4. Disqualification

V. Assignments

A. Appropriate Readings

The student is to read the required OER text, legal updates, journals, and class handouts.

B. Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete written assignments, quizzes and submit a position paper on a criminal justice subject.

C. Expected Outside Assignments

The student will visit or research online criminal justice agencies and conduct research for assignment(s).

D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking

Students will review, analyze and compare the historical and philosophical aspects of the criminal justice system for class discussions, written assignments, exams and class presentations.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

Traditional Classroom Delivery

Objective and subjective examinations and/or quizzes, projects, homework assignments, exercises, presentations, and/or participation in classroom learning activities.

Online Delivery

Same as face-to-face instruction including a variety of evaluation methods such as: research papers, asynchronous and synchronous discussions (chat/forum), exercises/assignments, online quizzes and exams, and postings to online website.

Hybrid Evaluation

All quizzes and exams will be administered during the in person class time. Students will be expected to complete online assignments and activities equivalent to in class assignments and activities for the online portion of the course. Electronic communication, both synchronous and asynchronous will be evaluated for participation and to maintain effective communication between instructor and students.

VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

- Traditional Classroom Delivery Correspondence Delivery
 Hybrid Delivery Online Delivery

Traditional Classroom Instruction

Lecture, Powerpoint, and other media presentations, discussions.

Online Delivery

Online instruction will be utilized. 51 hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Online delivery will consist of participation in forum-based discussions and posts, web links, email communications, lecture posts, exams and online lectures. Adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

Hybrid Delivery

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Each semester a minimum of 17 hours, or 1/3 of the lecture hours, will be taught face-to-face by the instructor and the remaining hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional class instruction will consist of exercises/assignments, lectures, visual aids, and practice exercises. Online delivery will consist of exercises/assignments, lecture posts, discussions, adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies

Open Educational Resource Textbook (OER): *Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System* Burke, Carter, Fedorek, Morey, Rutz-Burri, & Sanchez (2022), Available free in Canvas class, when class is offered online or hybrid, or through link at <https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/ccj230/>

IX. Discipline/s Assignment

Administration of Justice

X. Course Status

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 3/27/1990

Revised By: Thomas Downing

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 01/17/2023