

Introduction to Criminal Justice
CJ 1310, Section 751
Summer, 2024
Asynchronous Online

Instructor: Romy Zingraff, M.S. (she/her/hers)

Office Hours: by appointment

Zoom and in-person meetings are available by appointment.

Office Location: Hill House

Email: romyzingraff@txstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This asynchronous online course will provide students with a broad overview of the history and philosophy of criminal justice, including ethical considerations and definitions of crime. Students will also learn about the origins and modern-day functions of law enforcement, court systems, prosecution and defense, trial processes, and corrections.

CONTENT WARNING:

Please be advised that some class material may contain images and related content that may be considered graphic or disturbing to some. Topics may be triggering for some; **practice self-care**. If need be, Texas State University offers **counseling services**. More information can be found on their website (<https://www.counseling.txst.edu/>). In addition, TimelyCare is a **FREE** mental health app for students (<https://www.healthcenter.txst.edu/timelycare.html>).

CONTACT POLICIES

Students who wish to contact me for various reasons can do so by **emailing me** (romy.zingraff@txstate.edu). Even though I do my best to answer emails as quickly as possible, please give me 24 hours (**weekend NON included**) before sending a follow-up email. You can also make an in-person or Zoom **appointment**.

COURSE CANVAS SITE

<https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/2280532#>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this course will have the necessary knowledge and skills to describe the major branches of the criminal justice system (the police, the criminal courts, and corrections) and how they function, identify the core terminology used to describe the criminal justice system, understand the strategies used by the system to respond to crime, discuss the historical development and evolution of the criminal justice system, and explain some of the current controversies surrounding criminal justice policies. These goals are achieved through various activities, including listening to the lectures, taking notes, participating in class discussions, reading assigned material, and asking questions.

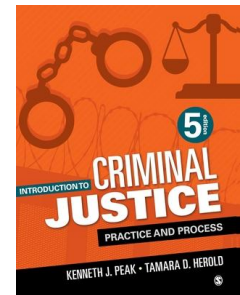
REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

The textbook you will need for this course: Peak, K. J., Madensen-Herold, T. D. (2023). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process*. 5th Ed. SAGE Publications.

ISBN: 9781071848982

ISBN-10: 1071848984

Publisher: SAGE Publications, Inc



EVALUATION

Chapter Quizzes (10): There will be 10 chapter quizzes corresponding to the chapter modules. You will need to complete each chapter quiz to access the following module. The material will cover textbook readings and lectures. You will be allowed to use your notes and textbook during the quizzes, but you will not have time to look up each question. Therefore, it is in your best interest to take good notes to reinforce the information from readings and lectures. There will not be retake opportunities. You are not allowed to collaborate with other students during tests, including copying answers, sending each other answers, screenshotting exam pages, or otherwise engaging in any behavior that violates the University's Academic Honor Code. **(Total: 100 points)**

Packback (4): There will be 4 PackBack discussions corresponding to the four chapter modules you will not be quizzed on. The Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on what we cover in class and relate topics to real-world applications. Each Packback is worth 10 points. Late assignments will not be accepted. **(Total: 40 points)**

Final grades will be out of 140 points:

A	126 – 140	90%-100%
B	111 – 125	80%-89%
C	96 – 110	70%-79%
D	81 – 95	60%-69%
F	80 or below	≤ 59.9%

Any grade disputes for assignments, exams, and/or the final grade must be submitted in writing within one week after the grade is given, with clear and substantial reasons for the desired grade change. I will not discuss grades without first receiving this written statement. However, if you believe an error has been made with your grade, please bring that to my attention as soon as possible.

LATE POLICY

Quizzes and PackBacks are to be taken on the scheduled date **before 11:59 pm**. If there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, religious observance, death in the immediate family, required participation in a university-sponsored activity, required participation in active military service) that prevent you from taking quizzes/ PackBacks on the scheduled date, notice and documentation must be given to the instructor. The student and instructor must schedule make-up/different-day quizzes, which may consist of essay questions and alternate formats of the original at the instructor's discretion.

COURSE POLICIES

Appointments and E-mail: Students are encouraged to meet with me at their convenience to address questions, concerns, and any other issues that may arise regarding the course. I am available by appointment on campus and via Zoom.

Absences: **Students without university-recognized absences will not be allowed to make up missed assignments or exams and will receive a grade of 0.** An excused absence will be granted in the case of a documented, physician-ordered illness, death in the immediate family, or other documented crisis, a call to active military duty or jury duty, a religious holy day, or an official university activity. If you miss an assignment or exam due to an emergency, please 1) notify me as soon as possible or 2) contact the Dean of Students Office to make an absence notification request at <https://www.dos.txst.edu/services/care-center/absence.html>.

Technology: You will need a computer and Internet to access Canvas for course materials and quizzes.

Netiquette: Respect the diversity of opinions among the professor and your classmates by engaging with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words? Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature, and unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by e-mail or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let the professor know.

Grade Reductions: I reserve the right to lower the final grade by one letter grade due to repeated instances of disruptive behavior. If you choose to engage in behavior that is disruptive to the learning environment, you will be given a written warning. If a student has received an official warning about his or her behavior and chooses to repeat it, they will be notified of the impending grade change that will occur at the end of the semester.

Notice of Copyright/Intellectual Property: I will post my slides on Canvas, but students are not to post lecture notes or other course materials on commercial or public websites. Notes are to be used for personal use only (which may include sharing notes with a classmate or in a study group, which is highly encouraged). Posting notes without my permission violates the academic honor code and university policies regarding intellectual property. Any infringement will result in the final grade being reduced by one full letter grade. In addition, university sanctions allowed by the relevant university policies and procedures will be pursued.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students Needing Accommodations: A student with a disability may require accommodation(s) to participate in this course. They must contact me within the first two weeks of the semester. They will be asked to provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at that time. Failure to contact me in a timely manner will delay any accommodations the student may be seeking. Ongoing care by a physician does not automatically qualify you as an ODS special needs student. Students are required to file paperwork for accommodations with ODS each semester. Accommodations granted one semester do not automatically carry forward to the next.

Academic Honesty Policy: The submission of any work for a grade for which unauthorized help has been received is termed academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a failing grade in the course. "Unauthorized" is a term used here to designate stealing, copying (with or without permission), or collaboration with other individuals. Students are strongly encouraged to review the academic honor code and refer to the Texas State University student handbook for policies

related to academic dishonesty. These policies may be found at <http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules.html>.

Addressing Acts of Academic Dishonesty: Students accused of dishonest conduct may have their cases heard by the faculty member. The student may also appeal the faculty member's decision to the Honor Code Council. Students and faculty will have the option of having an advocate present to ensure their rights. Possible actions that may be taken range from exoneration to expulsion. Students accused of violating the academic honor code are encouraged to consult UPPS No. 07.10.01 at <http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html>.

RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS

Although I put considerable effort into the syllabus to balance your workload and ensure that the course flows, adjustments to the content, timeline, and due dates for assignments may be required during the semester. If this is necessary, some components of the syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be posted on Canvas. The students are responsible for any such announced changes

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings/ Assignments	Due
1	M	07/01	Syllabus & Introduction		"Who are you?" due @11:59pm
	W	07/03	<u>Part I:</u> The Criminal Justice System	<u>Chapter 1:</u> Fundamentals of Criminal Justice	Quiz #1 @11:59pm
	F	07/05		<u>Chapter 2:</u> Foundations of Law and Crime	Quiz #2 @11:59pm
2	M	07/08		<u>Chapter 3:</u> Theories of Criminality and Crime	Packback #1 @11:59pm
	W	07/10		<u>Chapter 4:</u> Ethical Essentials	Quiz #3 @11:59pm
	F	07/12	<u>Part II:</u> The Police	<u>Chapter 5:</u> Police Organization	Sign up for mid-semester check-in Quiz #4 @11:59pm
3	M	07/15		<u>Chapter 6:</u> Police at Work	Mid-semester check-in Quiz #5 @11:59pm
	W	07/17		<u>Chapter 7:</u> Policing Methods and Challenges	Packback #2 @11:59pm
	F	07/19		<u>Chapter 8:</u> Expounding the Constitution	Quiz #6 @11:59pm
4	M	07/22	<u>Part III:</u> The Courts	<u>Chapter 9:</u> Court Organization	Quiz #7 @11:59pm
	W	07/24		<u>Chapter 10:</u> The Bench and the Bar	Quiz #8 @11:59pm
	F	07/26		<u>Chapter 11:</u> Court Methods and Challenges	Packback #3 @11:59pm
5	M	07/29	<u>Part IV:</u> Corrections	<u>Chapter 12:</u> Prisons and Jails	Quiz #9 @11:59pm
	W	07/31		<u>Chapter 13:</u> The World Behind Bars	Quiz #10 @11:59pm
	F	08/02		<u>Chapter 14:</u> Corrections in the Community	Packback #4 @11:59pm ALL assignments due @11:59pm