Soc 346 Criminal Justice Syllabus

Objective: The purpose of this syllabus is to guide the participant in the requirements, demands, logistics and expectations of this course.

Getting Help:
To receive technical assistance on issues related to WebCT contact:

Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk
ES 102
Spring and Fall Semester: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. MST (May-August 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT)
(719) 587-7371
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Your Instructor

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Welcome

My name is Dr. Stephanie Gonzales and I am currently an associate professor of Sociology at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. I currently teach the Criminology and Statistics courses on campus. I received my BA degree in sociology from Adams State College in 1994, my MA degree from CSU Fullerton in 1998, and my PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2003. While my PhD is in Sociology, I also have a minor in statistics from the Statistics department at the University of Tennessee.

I was born in New Zealand, but was raised in Los Angeles, CA. Because of my experiences, I have a keen interest in working with students from a wide range of locations and backgrounds. I will try to respond as quickly as possible to any questions regarding the course content, the textbook, or assignments and exams. Because I do not have the opportunity to get to know you on campus or in the classroom, feel free to tell me about yourself, your goals and your interests.

WebCT: This course will run through a web based program, called WebCT, located at http://webct.adams.edu. You will be given a login name and password and will be able to enter into the course and use this as a framework to submit and complete all requirements for the course. The syllabus is located in WebCT and all assignments are located in the Learning Modules. After logging into WebCT, all assignments and tests will be submitted online. The trick is to practice navigating WebCT your first week and ask me questions if any problems come up. I would also recommend pacing your readings and essays throughout the semester. Try not to wait until right before tests to read the textbooks. Also, begin working on essays at least one to two weeks before they are due. I look forward to working with you this semester.

Course Name and Prefix: Soc 346 Criminal Justice

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: SOC 245 Crime and Delinquency

Required Textbook

Making Sense of Criminal Justice: Policies and Practices. By G. Larry Mays and Rick Ruddell. Oxford University Press: 2008.

Criminal Justice in Action: The Core. By Larry K Gaines and Roger LeRoy Miller. Latest Annual Edition. Thomson/Wadsworth.

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the "ASC Bookstore" icon.

Use **Section Number: 1085** to order books from Bookstore site.

The textbooks used for this course were selected to give you an updated perspective on thecriminal justice system. They were also selected to give you the broadest perspective possible of the many issues facing the criminal justice system and the employees working in that system.

Academic Misconduct: Students should abide by all student ethical conduct, especially those rules pertaining to cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty in this course can expect a failing grade for the course.

Catalog Description/Objectives

This class will address the criminal justice system that has evolved and been put in place to address the complex and multifaceted problems of crime. In this course, we will examine agencies of justice and the procedures they use to identify and treat criminal offenders. We will examine the police, courts, and corrections as the primary components of the criminal justice system, discussing where the system works and where it does not. We will also discuss the constitution and the law and how it pertains to the operation of the criminal justice system.

Finally, we will discuss the juvenile justice system and its relationship to the adult justice system.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Describe the sequence in the criminal justice system.
2. Explain the relationship between the Constitution and the Criminal Justice system.
3. Compare and contrast the Juvenile Justice system and the adult justice system.
4. Define the broad goals and functions of the major components of the Criminal Justice system.
5. Analyze the effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses of the Criminal Justice system.
6. Develop effective writing skills.

Assignments and Grading

All exams are papers will be graded as soon as I receive them. I understand time is important to you, and I will do my best to get results back to you within one week after receipt. In order to be successful in this course, I suggest you pace yourself and create a schedule and timeline that you feel is best suited to your lifestyle and goals. Students who are the most successful in Extended Studies courses set time aside each week to accomplish specific reading and writing assignments. Because you will not be supplementing your reading with in-class discussions and lectures, it is vitally important to thoroughly read each assignment several times for clarity and reinforcement. Good luck and I look forward to working with you.

Exams: (40% of grade)

Two short answer/essay exams will be given for this course (each are 20% of grade). Each exam will require a short paragraph response to a series of questions based on the readings for this course. The first exam will be administered after the first essay has been completed and graded. The second exam will be administered after the second essay has been completed. If an exam is taken before completing the prerequisite essay, a grade of 0 will be recorded for the essay and there will be no possibility of making up that grade. Make sure all assignments are completed in order to insure you do not receive a 0 for any assignment.

Exams are available through the link in the appropriate Learning Module and in the Assessments area.

Essays: (30% of grade)

Each essay should be about 3-4 pages in length (each are 15% of grade), clearly describing the issue, all the relevant data and statistics, any relevant research, and current practices and policies in the criminal justice field.

Essay 1 *"How do constitutional and legal guidelines help or hinder the role of the police officer for effectively doing their job? Are all of the constitutional and legal guidelines necessary? How do they increase the professionalism and legitimacy of the police force?"*

Essay 2 *"How does the juvenile justice system differ from the adult justice system? Why has there been a trend to treat more and more juveniles as adults in the last 10 to 15 years? Is this trend diverting more juveniles away from crime or into a criminal lifestyle?"*

Essays will be submitted through the link in the appropriate Learning Module.

Research Paper: (30% of grade)

Each person in the class will be responsible for writing a research paper for this course. You will be required to select a topic of interest to you and write a 10 to 12 page research paper. The topic must be appropriate for a Criminal Justice course; therefore, all topics must be limited to some aspect of the Criminal Justice System. Topics for this paper must be selected from the following:

- Racial profiling
- DNA evidence
- The Miranda warning and other legal requirements when investigating a crime
- Eyewitness testimony accuracy
- Interrogation techniques
- Use of informants
- Expert witnesses
- Police ethics (criminal behavior and police abuse)
- Forensics (physical evidence in the court room); extent of use, relevancy, types of
- physical evidence, etc.
- Jury trials (how juries are selected and how they impact the justice system)
- Sentencing guidelines and disparities
- Prison culture and prisons ability to rehabilitate offenders
- Juveniles prosecuted as adults
- Death penalty

Citations and a bibliography will be required for this paper. You will be graded on its thoroughness, organization, clarity, grammar, and references. The papers should have at least 8 academic and peer reviewed resources in the Bibliography, with no more than two internet sources. If you do use any internet resources, they may only be .gov or .org sites (.com sites are not permitted). The paper must be written in either APA, ASA, or MLA format.

Research Papers will be submitted through the link in the appropriate Learning Module.

Grading:

A 90 % and above
B 80 – 89 %
C 70 – 79 %
D 60 – 69 %
F 59 % and below