

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
CRMJ 2120 Introduction to Criminal Justice Section 01

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 0

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 11:00 – 12:15

Days: Monday
Wednesday and Friday

Room: BU128

Instructor's Name: Art Washut

Instructor's Contact Information:

Office in room LH164 Call during office hours or leave a message

Office Phone:
268-2711

Email: awashut@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:

Office Hours: Reach me by telephone or in my office at LH164 Monday 9:00-9:45 AM and 1:30 – 3:30 Wednesday 9:00-9:45 AM, Friday 9:00-9:45 AM. I am also available in the classroom BU 128 from 12:15 PM until 2:00 PM on Tuesday and from 1:30 until 2:00PM on Thursday.

Course Description: The student will learn about the agencies and processes involved in the criminal justice system: The legislature, the police, the prosecutor, the public defender, the courts, and corrections. An analysis of the roles and problems of law enforcement in a democratic society with an emphasis upon inter-component relations and checks and balances.

Statement of Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course; however, college level reading and writing abilities are presumed. Students with an ACT English score below 18 or a Compass writing-skills score below 75 may want to complete Basic Writing (DVST 0610) before taking this course.

Goal: The student will learn about the agencies and the processes involved in the criminal justice system. The student will also be introduced to the terms used to describe various procedures and processes within the criminal justice system. In addition, the student will analyze the nature, causes and possible solutions for problems that are identified within and between the components of the criminal justice system.

Outcomes: Students who pass this course will have a basic understanding of and be able to recognize

- the Criminal Justice System components and the key principles of criminal justice
- some of the individuals who contributed to past and present criminal justice advances
- several of the major decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that impact the CJ system
- how the various components of the system interact with one another
- the elements of serious felony crimes

- the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities as these relate to the criminal justice system (**this corresponds with the college's outcome #7 "Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities"**).

Outcomes will be assessed by the examinations. Your instructor uses this data to guide his teaching approach in subsequent classes.

Outcomes: (Formal statements of what a student is expected to know, understand and/or be able to do at the end of the course. A specific measurable achievement, a unit of what we expect a student to learn from the material we are teaching. (Choose any Casper College General Education outcomes that apply from the list below.)

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
2. Use the scientific method
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Methodology:

Textbook reading, power point supported lecture, internet explorations, Q&A, and current events discussions

Evaluation Criteria:

EXAMINATIONS:

Each student must take five module examinations. Each of these examinations will account for 10 points toward the final grade. These examinations are demanding multiple choice examinations. Exams are to be completed independently without notes, books or assistance from others.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS – Generally there will not be any make-up exams. Only in the most dire of circumstances will your instructor consider granting a variance to this policy. When granted, make-up exams may be modified to maintain test integrity. Student athletes and others who miss a test due to a college sanctioned event will be allowed to make-up the test if they have made arrangements with the instructor in advance.

CHAPTER REFLECTION PAPERS: Chapters from the textbook will have a corresponding chapter reflection paper posted as a set on Moodle. Each paper contains a few short answer essay questions. Students are required to complete ten (10) chapter reflections and bring each to the first day of class when that chapter will be lectured on. The paper is due at the beginning of that class period and the

student must be present in order for his/her paper to be marked as received. Because only 10 papers are required, there are no make-ups for missed papers. Your paper should be written in such a way that it is evident to the reader that you have read the corresponding material in the textbook and understood it. Completed reflection papers will be stamped as complete on the due date. They will be graded for content at the end of the semester.

CURRENT EVENTS:

Each student will post on Moodle **before the last class day of the week** a link to an online news story related to the topics covered in that week’s chapter. For example, if the chapter is about policing an article about police corruption or a high speed chase or a murder investigation would be acceptable. An article about a judge dismissing a case for lack of speedy trial would not be. The article should be about events that have occurred within the past month. In addition to the link, the student will create 2 questions about the news story that were not answered in the news story. Students should look at one another’s postings and decide which one they would like to discuss in class. Students can earn up to 10 points by completing 1 posting per chapter for 10 chapters as the semester progresses. Students will not be allowed to add postings after the week has ended.

An appropriate source might be the Casper Star Tribune www.trib.com, Time Magazine www.time.com, U.S. News and World Report www.usnews.com, or perhaps FOX news www.foxnews.com. Students must submit 10 articles over the course of the semester for a maximum of 10 points.

CASE BRIEFS:

During the course of the semester students will be required to write two case briefs. The first case brief will be for instruction and practice only. The second brief will be graded. Briefs turned in late will be penalized 50%.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and participation are expected. Attendance may be taken into account when granting leeway to students.

Exam #1	10 points maximum
Exam #2	10 points maximum
Exam #3	10 points maximum
Exam #4	10 points maximum
Exam #5	10 points maximum
Chapter Reflections	20 points maximum
Current Events	10 points maximum
Case Brief	10 points maximum
Final exam	10 Points
TOTAL	100 points maximum

Grading Scale: On all grading the following scale is used:

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

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Criminal Justice Today 13th Edition by Frank Schmalleger, published by Prentice Hall. Earlier editions are not recommended.

Class Policies: The last date to change to audit status or to withdraw with a W grade is the Friday before finals week with permission of the instructor. Students can withdraw without consent of the instructor until November 12, 2015. Classroom etiquette is as essential to an orderly online class as it is in a live classroom. Classroom distractions created by personal conversations, personal attacks, or threats will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to deny access to disruptive students. Students are expected to interact politely with one another and with the instructor. **This does not mean that we have to agree with one another, only that we disagree in a civil manner!** Vigorous debate on the issues discussed in class is encouraged.

Criminal Justice Employment: Criminal justice employment will almost always require the applicant to complete and pass a thorough background investigation. Students majoring in criminal justice should be aware that criminal history, substance abuse, mental illness, and significant financial problems may render them unemployable in a criminal justice agency. Likewise, students should make every effort to safeguard their reputations while attending college. Many criminal justice agencies also have physical fitness requirements that candidates for certain positions must be able to pass. In addition, some agencies have maximum age standards for entry level positions.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty - (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The

Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: This is a **tentative** schedule. The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule. Changes will be announced in class.

WEEK BEGINNING ON MONDAY	TOPIC(S)	READING ASSIGNMENT	ONLINE COMPONENT & HOMEWORK
August 24	Monday - Syllabus and success Chapter 1 Wednesday - What is Justice? Friday - Public Order v. Individual Liberty	Chapter 1	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions
August 31	Measuring Crime - Chapter 2	No Classes Chapter 2	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link &

			Questions Wednesday
September 7	Labor Day Monday Criminal Law- Chapter 4	Chapter 4	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday Wyoming State Statutes Title 6
September 14	Monday- Module #1 Exam Chapters 1,2,and 4 on Monday Wednesday and Friday - Police History	Chapter 5	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
September 21	Police Organizations	Chapter 6	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
September 28	Police Legal Issues Friday How to write a Case Brief	Chapter 7	Case Brief Scroll down and read section on Student Briefs. HOMEWORK - Write a student case brief on one of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions listed discussed in Chapter 7 of the text. Email the brief to your classmates and to the instructor. BE CERTAIN TO WRITE YOUR OWN BRIEF – DO NOT COPY ONE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WROTE. Brief is due at the start of class on Friday October 9th. Chapter Reflection Friday

			Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
October 5	Policing Issues Module #2 Exam Chapters 5,6,7 and 8 on Friday	Chapter 8	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday Case brief due Friday
October 12	Courts: Structure and Participants Wyoming Courts	Chapter 9	WY Courts Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
October 19-20	Fall Vacation No Classes		
October 19	Wednesday and Friday - Pretrial / Trial Process	Chapter 10	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
October 26	Monday – Sentencing Wednesday - Sentencing Death Penalty Friday - Module #3 Exam on Chapters 9, 10 and 11	Chapter 11	Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday
November 2	Monday - Community Corrections	Chapter 12	WY DOC Chapter Reflection Friday Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday Case Brief Scroll down and read section on Student Briefs. HOMEWORK - Write a student case brief on one of

			<p>the U.S. Supreme Court decisions listed discussed in Chapter 12 or Chapter 13 of the text. Email the brief to your classmates using Moodle and to the instructor. BE CERTAIN TO WRITE YOUR OWN BRIEF – DO NOT COPY ONE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WROTE.</p> <p>Brief is due at the start of class on Friday 11-13.</p>
November 9	<p>Monday and Wednesday - Prisons and Jails</p> <p>Friday - Module #4 Exam on Chapters 12 and 13</p>	Chapter 13	Case Brief Due Friday 11-13.
November 16	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 15	<p>Chapter Reflection Friday</p> <p>Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday</p> <p>WY Juvenile Justice</p>
<p>November 23</p> <p>November 25-27 Thanksgiving Break No Classes</p>	Monday- Open	Chapter 16	
November 30	Monday - Drugs & Crime	<p>Chapter 16</p> <p>Open</p>	<p>Chapter Reflection Friday</p> <p>Current Events Link & Questions Wednesday</p> <p>DEA www.justice.gov/dea/</p>

December 7	Monday – Terrorism 17 Wednesday – Terrorism 18 Friday - Exam 5 Module #5 on Chapters 15, 16, and the parts of 17 and 18 pertaining to Terrorism.	Chapter 17 pp.629-647 Chapter 18 pp.663-664	Chapter Reflection Monday Current Events Link & Questions Friday
December 14-17	Monday December 14 Final Exam		
