



INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A. Course Description

- **Credits:** 3.00
- **Lecture Hours/Week:** 3.00
- **Lab Hours/Week:** 0.00
- **OJT Hours/Week:** 0
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Corequisites:** None
- **MnTC Goals:**
 - 05 – Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
 - 09 – Ethical/Civic Resp

This course will provide an overview of the philosophy of criminal law and deviance, and of the nature and extent of crime in America. The theory, structure, and operation of each of the principle components of the Criminal Justice System (ie. police, courts, and corrections) will be examined in detail. Major topics include the historical foundations of our Criminal Justice System, critique of current sociological theories on crime, analysis of impact of legal and social systems on human behavior, rehabilitation, public safety (including homeland security), and citizen responsibility. We will create a learning environment that takes into account all backgrounds and experiences where we can learn from one another.

B. Course Effective Dates: 2/16/11 – Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

As noted on course syllabus

D. Learning Outcomes

1. evaluate and discuss programs for treatment, prevention and control of crime in the U.S.
2. contrast positivism with classical criminology
3. contrast the crime control and due process models
4. define FBI crime reports and describe how data is gathered
5. define and contrast the functions of the court (including role of the prosecution vs. the defense)
6. define crime and identify different types of crime
7. define crime cross-culturally and demographically using historical and theoretical

perspectives

8. define historical perspective of crime
9. define social process theory
10. define sociological perspectives on crime
11. define the juvenile justice system and the nature/extent of juvenile delinquency in America
12. describe the use of DNA and forensics in law enforcement and prosecution
13. discuss media's relationship to crime in the U.S.
14. discuss the challenges of effective plicity
15. distinguish between the National Crime victimization survey and self-reported surveys in terms of how crime is measured
16. examine current trends in punishment and sentencing
17. examine historical court cases that influence the power and authority of police
18. examine law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security
19. examine police work
20. examine probation, parole, and community corrections
21. examine role of citizen in building safer communities and working toward preventing crime based on contemporary theory
22. examine the principals and functions of American criminal law
23. examine the role of prisons
24. explain the factors that influence crime rates
25. identify 3 levels of law enforcement
26. identify addiction models and their relationship to crime
27. identify and compare crime in the U.S. to crime on a global level
28. identify and exam the correction process applying both historical perspective and current trends
29. identify and research two major programs designed to reduce crime in the U.S. - apply them at a local level-understand the political, ethical, economical issues involved-identify if there are interests served
30. identify crime theory
31. identify gender differences as related to crime
32. identify social stratification and its relationship to crime
33. measure extent and distribution crime in the U.S.
34. understand the Criminal Trial Process
35. understand the importance of the Constitution and policing
36. understand the role of cyber crime in society
37. understand, apply, and critique a current theory on crime

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 — Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 — Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. Learner Outcomes Assessment

As noted on course syllabus

G. Special Information

None noted