

CJ 601: Seminar in Criminal Justice Fall 2015

Dr. Dru Bora
Criminal Justice & Criminology Program
Department of Integrated Science & Technology

Office: Science Building 270
Office Phone: 304.696.3638
Email: bora@marshall.edu
Web: <http://science.marshall.edu/bora/>

Office Hours: By appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as a forum to acquaint students, faculty and guests with each other's research and experiences in dealing with criminal justice issues (2014-2015 MU Graduate Catalog). This course will also provide students with a cursory review of the history of the criminal justice system and criminology, allowing the student to become familiar with current research topics and issues.

- Prerequisites: None
- CJ 601 meets on Thursdays from 4:00-6:20 in SH 418 and will be taught as a blended course. A blended course is where 50% of the content is delivered in the classroom and 50% of the content is delivered online. This course will include interactive, web-based activities, a student-centered learning approach, and frequent feedback loops to enhance learning.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE CJ PROGRAM

Upon completion of the Master of Science degree in criminal justice, and in part emphasized and reinforced through this course, graduate students will be able to:

Exhibit specialized knowledge in the criminal justice and criminology field by:

1. demonstrating advanced knowledge of the terms, laws, theories, processes, research methods, statistics, and key principles and
2. analyzing and critiquing concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and trends.

Demonstrate oral, written, and analytic abilities by:

3. evaluating contemporary criminal justice issues using analytical reasoning, problem solving, and effective communication skills;
4. preparing and delivering a presentation using effective oral communication skills that contains sustained, coherent arguments or explanations; and/or
5. interpreting descriptive and inferential statistical data.

Integrate and apply advanced knowledge of the criminal justice and criminology field by:

6. designing and producing an applied, investigative, paper or project with real-world implications that draws on scientific literacy, theoretical criminology, and research methods;
7. supporting a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature and using citations in APA format; and
8. assessing and articulating the relevant public policy implications of that project.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES MATRIX

Course Learning Objectives	How Practiced in this Course	How Evaluated in this Course
Understand the criminal justice system from a historical perspective.	Assigned readings, in-class and online discussions	Mid-term exam, critical analyses
Examine the current issues and crimes by using historical lessons as a guide.	Assigned readings, in-class and online discussions	Mid-term exam, critical analyses, final exam
Evaluate the effectiveness of law as social control and alternately, social control as a mechanism for influencing the law.	Assigned readings, in- class and online discussions	Mid-term exam, assignments, critical analyses
Develop and enhance critical thinking and analytic skills by dissecting our criminological roots.	Assigned readings, in-class and online discussions	Mid-term exam, final exam, critical analyses
Enhance professional presentation and communication skills.	In-class and online discussions	Presentation
Write analytically and critically at the graduate level using correct citation and reference styles.	In-class and online discussions	Mid-term exam, final exam, critical analyses

REQUIRED TEXTS

Oliver, W. M., & Hilgenberg, J. F., Jr. (2010). *A history of crime and criminal justice in America* (2nd ed.). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

**Additional readings will be assigned and placed on reserve in SH 423 (GA Office) from the following text:* Muraskin, R., & Roberts, A. R. (2009). *Visions for change* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ Pearson.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Students must have a computer or access to one, as well as access to the Internet to send and receive email messages. If you are using an email account other than your Marshall email account, (i.e., hotmail, yahoo, aol, etc.) you must set your Marshall email account to forward to your other account. Also, students are responsible for knowing the University Computing Services' Acceptable Use Policy.

In addition, because this is a blended course, students will be required to have access to MU Online in order to complete the necessary discussions, exams, and assignments. Make certain that you use a computer that is compatible for completing any online course requirements (I recommend an internet connection that is fast and secure. Do not use iPads or other tablet computers, especially for completing exams).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DETERMINATION OF GRADES

To evaluate your progress in reaching the aforementioned course learning objectives, you will be assessed in the following ways:

Criteria	Weight	Scale
Mid-Term Exam & Final Exam	50 %	90-100 % = A
Assignments & Online Discussions	20 %	80-89 % = B
Presentation	20 %	70-79 % = C
Active Participation & Attendance	10 %	60-69 % = D
		Below 60 % = F
TOTAL	100 %	

Please note that course grades are calculated using weighted percentages as shown above. Also, grades are updated regularly and can be viewed in our Blackboard course via MU Online.

MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAM (50%)

There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final (each is worth 25%). Exams will be taken online and without the use of notes or the textbook. Cheating at the graduate level is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. Exams may be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, listing, short answer, essay, matching, fill-in and/or any combination of the above listed formats. Examinations must be taken during the periods designated in the syllabus. Deviations from this policy can be made if the student makes provisions with the instructor before the test date. It is the student's responsibility to notify me if he/she is unable to take an examination.

Exam Schedule:

Mid-Term Exam: October 21 (Online)

Final Exam: December 10 (Online)

ASSIGNMENTS & ONLINE DISCUSSIONS (20%)

A. Critical Analyses

Each student will complete 12-one page, single-spaced, typed critical analyses related to the history of criminal justice using Oliver and Hilgenberg (2010) (see course schedule). The purpose of these analyses are to sharpen your analytical and critical thinking skills as well as to help us get a better sense of where we came from as a system and discipline, and where we are going. If at all, perhaps we can use this knowledge to inform policy and reduce crime. Directions for the analyses are available on Blackboard.

B. Online Assignments & Discussions

During the online class sessions, a variety of graded assignments may be given. For example, you may be asked to engage in an online discussion or complete a small task. Directions for each of these weeks are provided on Blackboard (see Tasks and Assignments in each module).

PRESENTATION (20%)

A portion of this class is devoted to current issues and crimes that plague the criminal justice system in the twenty-first century. Each student will complete a 20-25 minute presentation (PowerPoint preferred) stemming from a chapter topic in Muraskin and Roberts', *Visions for Change* (2009). More details and assignment instructions are available on Blackboard.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE (10%)

At the graduate level, students are expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis, as it is at best, one of the most valuable avenues for learning in the classroom. Thus, students are expected to make a significant contribution by asking pertinent questions, making insightful observations, and sharing information. In order to participate, you must be present in class.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Class Absences:

I understand that there are circumstances that may arise throughout the semester that prevent a student from attending class. Verified excused absences include those resulting from death or illness of a family member, pre-approved university sponsored activity, or religious holiday (see MU Graduate Catalog). In the case of an unexcused absence in which an assignment is due, you will be expected to get that material to me somehow on the assigned date. For each class day missed without a legitimate excuse and documentation from the Dean of Student Affairs, 12.5 points will be deducted from your participation/attendance grade.

Deadlines and Penalties for Online Assignments, Discussions, and Exams:

You must adhere to the dates listed for completion of quizzes, exams, discussions, and assignments. Once a due date has expired, the item will no longer be accessible and you will receive a zero for that particular item. While there is some flexibility in completing some of the online activities, it is imperative that you complete everything by the due date. Most of the discussions, exams, and assignments will become **UNAVAILABLE** after midnight on the due date. While you can take an assessment before the due date (as soon as it is made available), please make sure you are thoroughly prepared to complete it successfully, as you only have one attempt. At the same time, do not wait until the last available minute on the due date to complete an assignment or exam because you never know when a technological glitch can occur (which I cannot be responsible for). You should plan to complete all activities at least one day prior to the scheduled due date to be on the safe side. This way, if there is a technical problem, you can contact me and I can try to remedy the situation. If you contact me on the day an activity is due, I cannot do anything about it!

Emails and Teacher-Student Correspondence:

If you have any questions about the course material, exams, or assignments you may email me or schedule an appointment to meet with me. Under most circumstances, I will get back to you

on email within 24 hours (normally between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM EST Monday through Friday). However, there may be times when my response is delayed when I am out of town at an academic conference, for example.

Feedback Loop:

Because some of the course material will be administered online, I will respond to any submitted materials that requires me to do so within 24 hours after it is due. Please keep in mind that lengthier documents (i.e., papers) may not be returned to you as quickly. Nonetheless, as part of the feedback loop, many online assignments will provide you with an immediate response so that you can assess and gauge how well you are acquiring the course material.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication and falsification of data or information, plagiarism, bribes/favors/threats, and complicity (i.e., helping or attempting someone commit an act of dishonesty). If a student violates this policy, discretion will be used by the instructor; the possible sanctions to be applied will be a failing grade for the assignment, exam, or paper. For those of you who need a reminder about the policy, please refer to the MU Graduate Catalog.

Plagiarism:

For students (major or non-majors; undergraduates and graduates) who plagiarize a paper that is less than 10 pages in length, a letter grade of zero will be issued for that assignment. When a student plagiarizes a major research paper, report, legal paper, presentation, etc., that is 10 pages or more in length, a failing grade will be issued to the student for the course. It should be noted that students are entitled to an appeals process.

University Policies:

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies: Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ and Sexual Harassment.

Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on "Marshall University Policies." Or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802.

Extra Credit:

Students may receive extra credit in this course by attending the annual West Virginia Criminal Justice Educators' Association conference. The conference is on Friday, November 13 at WVU-Parkersburg. Students will receive 10 points to be added to their mid-term exam grade or final exam.

CJ 601: TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

8/27	Week 1
	Review of course syllabus and introduction Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 1 & 2
9/3	Week 2-Online
	The Colonial Era-Village and Town Period Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 3* & 4* Online discussion & critical analyses
9/10	Week 3
	A New Nation and the Jacksonian Era Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 5* & 6* Upload critical analyses on Blackboard before class
9/17	Week 4 –Online (ACJS Abstracts Due Sept. 19)
	The Civil War Era and The West Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 7* & 8* Online discussion & critical analyses
9/24	Week 5
	The Gilded Age and The Progressive Era Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 9* & 10* Upload critical analyses on Blackboard before class
10/1	Week 6 (note: we are meeting back-to-back these weeks)
	The Crisis Era and The War Years Read Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 11* & 12* Upload critical analyses on Blackboard before class
10/8	Week 7 –Online
	The Nationalization Era, Post-Modern Era, and CJ History in Context Oliver & Hilgenberg-Chapters 13*, 14*, & 15 Online discussion & critical analyses
10/15	Week 8
	Crime challenges Read Muraskin & Roberts Chapter 1 & TBA Student presentations and class discussion
10/22	Week 9 –Online
	Online Mid-Term Exam (Oliver & Hilgenberg) [due by midnight]
10/29	Week 10 (WVCJEA Abstracts Due Oct. 30)
	Crime challenges Read Muraskin & Roberts TBA Student presentations and class discussion
11/5	Week 11 –Online
	History of the discipline Online readings/discussion/assignment

11/12	Week 12 (WVCJEA Conference-Nov. 12 & 13)
	Crime challenges Read Muraskin & Roberts TBA Student presentations and class discussion
11/19	Week 13 –Online
	Professionalism in Criminal Justice and Criminology (ASC and ACJS) Online readings/discussion/assignment
11/26	Week 14
	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
12/3	Week 15
	Criminal Justice history and crime challenges in review
12/10	Week 16-Online
	Online Final Exam [due by 6:00 pm]

**Signifies chapters for which a critical analysis is due.*