

# **JS 103- INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYLLABUS SPRING 2022**

*Instructor:* Angela Wartel

*Class Hours:* Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:30-11:45

*Office Hours:* Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-2:00 or by  
appointment

*Office:* SPH304

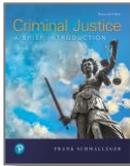
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## **Preferred Method of Contact**

Please send emails to arwartel@lcsc.edu. Allow at least 24 hours for a response during the week and 48 hours during the weekend.

## **Required Texts**



Schmalleger, F. (2018). *Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction*, 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0135186268

## **Course Overview**

This survey course provides students with a general introduction to the concepts, phenomena, and issues in the study of criminal justice. The criminal justice system is an often controversial but essential aspect of our society. The sensationalized depictions of crime by the media and the “get tough” philosophy on crime have led many to question the justice system's effectiveness overall. This semester we will study the purpose, function, and history of the agencies that make up the criminal justice system. A survey of criminal law, criminal procedures, law enforcement agencies, the criminal courts, and corrections (both institutional and community-based) will be conducted to understand the dynamics of the justice system.

## **Course Objectives**

- Evaluate current criminal justice issues, policies, and court cases.
- Analyze the functions of the components of the criminal justice system and their interrelationship.
- Describe the history and development of the criminal justice system.
- Explain the need for a system of order maintenance and detail the role of law within that system.
- Describe the nature of due process and the specific constitutional amendments based on due process guarantees.
- Analyze the goals and philosophies of modern sentencing.
- Evaluate modern correctional practices and the philosophies guiding both institutional and community corrections.

## **Course Technology**

This course has a web presence on Canvas. To access Canvas, go to lcsc.instructure.com. Your username should be the first part of your LCSC email (usually your first and middle initial, followed by your last name). If you have any problems accessing the site, please notify IT (208-792- 2231) as soon as possible.

The course site will have a copy of the syllabus and schedule, course notes and assignments, and a section for your grades. You must log in to this site at least weekly.

*Email:* You are expected to check your LCMail regularly. Important course information (such as schedule changes and assignments) may be sent through email.

*Technological Requirements:* You must have a reliable internet connection.

### **Class Format**

This course is designed to have both a lecture and an online component. Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively. Students will be able to access course lecture notes from the Canvas class site. It is recommended that students print these notes to complete in class. Due to privacy concerns and to create a safe environment in the classroom, lectures cannot be recorded.

*Introductory courses are not to be taken lightly. Due to the volume of the material we will be covering, I strongly urge you to make every effort to be prepared for class.*

### **Course Requirements**

**Syllabus Quiz (10 points):** The syllabus quiz is a short quiz that must be completed by all students entering the course. This quiz will cover basic information from the syllabus. There is no time limit for the quiz, and it can be retaken one time.

**Introduction Post (10 points):** Write a paragraph or two introducing yourself to the class. Some ideas of things to include --your year in college, major, hobbies, future goals, hometown, family, pets, jobs, or anything else you are comfortable sharing. Include a photograph of you or something important to you (pets, hobbies, favorite place, etc.). If you post a picture with another person, make sure you have permission to do so.

**In-class Participation (120 points):** Students are expected to come to class with all assigned readings completed. Points will be awarded to students who actively participate in course discussions and activities. These points rely on your active participation, so they cannot be made up in the event of a class absence. Two of your lowest participation scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Exams (4 @ 90 points each):** Four exams will be conducted in the course. Exams cannot be submitted late! Exams may consist of multiple-choice, true/false, essay, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

### **COURSE GRADING BREAKDOWN AND POINT VALUES**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Range</b>
Exams (4 @90)	360 points	A (93-100)	465-500
Syllabus Quiz & Introduction Post	20 points	A- (90-92)	450-464
Participation	120 points	B+ (87-89)	435-449
<b>Total</b>	<b>330 points</b>	B (83-86)	415-434
		B- (80-82)	400-414
		C+ (77-79)	385-399
		C (73-76)	365-384
		C-(70-72)	350-363
		D+ (67-69)	335-349
		D (60-66)	300-334
		F (59 and below)	299 and below

*I do not curve grades. Every point counts!*

## Course Topical Outline

### Introduction to Criminal Justice

- Overview of the system
- Crime statistics
- Criminal law

### Policing

- Purpose and organization
- Legal aspects
- Issues and challenges

### The Courts

- Overview of the courts
- The courtroom working group and the criminal trial
- Sentencing

### Corrections

- Probation, parole, and community corrections
- Institutional corrections
- Prison life

## Course Policies and Syllabi Addendum

**Late Work and Incompletes:** Exams cannot be submitted late. If an emergency arises that prevents you from completing your work on time, email as soon as possible to make arrangements. Emergencies are defined as anything serious and unexpected. Examples of emergencies are car accidents, a serious health crisis of the student or the student's immediate family, etc. Examples of non-emergencies are weddings, vacations, or any other event which can be planned around.

Students are expected to complete all work in a timely fashion. Incompletes are granted at the instructor's discretion after at least 80% of all coursework is finished successfully (D+ or higher). Incompletes are reserved only for documented catastrophic or extenuating circumstances. The instructor reserves the right to set the course completion deadline, which may be at any time before the end of the following semester. Incompletes revert to an F if the work is not completed by the expiration deadline.

**Course Etiquette:** This course will bring together students from diverse backgrounds. We are working together to develop an inclusive and respectful community for all students. The goal of inclusiveness encourages and appreciates expressions of different views so that conversations can turn into the opportunity for intellectual and personal growth. We will be discussing controversial topics, which will challenge you to analyze your views and the views of others. In keeping with this goal, hate speech, racist, sexist, homophobic, or other discriminatory language and behavior will not be tolerated. It is okay to disagree, but it must be done civilly. Mutual respect, civility, and recognizing others' views are crucial to critical thinking. Active, thoughtful, and respectful participation will make this course productive and engaging.

**Flexibility Clause:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the course requirements and other related policies as circumstances dictate, with sufficient notification to all students. Even the professor can have an unanticipated emergency, and the college—or the community at large—may experience an emergency that requires changing the class schedule or requirements. I do not expect to invoke this clause, but you will be notified as soon as possible if I do. Any change will also be posted to Canvas.

Keep up to date on the [LCSC Social Sciences Division](#) and  
the [LCSC Justice Studies Club](#)