

Introduction to Criminal JUSTICE

Professor: **Dr. Robert J. Durán**

Email: rjduran@nmsu.edu

Class Hours: T&TR: 10:20 – 11:35

Class Room: Hardman Hall 114

Office: Breland Hall Room 141

Office Hours: MWF: 9:30 – 10:20; TTR: 9:30 – 10:00

Office Phone: 505-646-2371

M: 5:10 - 5:45; TR: 2:45 – 5:00

Required Reading: Fuller, John Randolph. 2006. *Criminal Justice: Mainstream and Crosscurrents*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Overview

I am excited to introduce the study of Criminal JUSTICE. This class will concentrate on both the historical and contemporary aspects of justice and injustice and all the grey in between. I have three objectives: (1) to provide an overview of “crime” and “justice” (2) evaluate how the criminal processing system determines guilt or innocence; and (3) analyze the outcomes in punishment. This class will be graded according to the following criteria:

WebCT will contain all course information, lectures, practice quizzes, and communication tools. <http://salsa.nmsu.edu/> You can also access this link on your my.nmsu.edu

Grading: Total Points = 1,000 points

Attendance	105 points
Participation	230 points
Three Tests	150 points each (450 total)
Three End of Chapter Questions	35 points each (105 total)
One Assignment	110 points

All assignments and tests will be turned in on time unless given prior approval.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked regularly. I expect everyone to be seated before class begins. Walking in late or leaving early is a distraction to the class and will not earn full attendance credit. Getting in the routine of attending class regularly will help you throughout your college career. I will allow two unexcused absences. Each additional absence beyond two will deduct 35 points from your attendance grade. Excused absences include emergencies and required school functions (examples include: death in the family, jury duty, heart surgery). Valid documentation must be presented within one week of absence. You are responsible for all information covered during an absence, so be sure to get the material from one of your classmates. **DO NOT MISS MORE THAN 6 TIMES OR YOU MAY NOT PASS.** Research data supports the strong relationship between attendance and better grades.

Positive Participation

I strongly emphasize the knowledge building that occurs in the classroom. This is our arena to speak how we feel and engage with people who have different opinions. My job is to develop or counter these opinions with research findings. I want to hear from every student in the class about what they think and why. I prefer verbal participation, but written input through email and WebCT is also encouraged. I want our class to be a comfortable atmosphere to share our personal knowledge. I expect everyone to come to class attentive, alive, and prepared. *Assigned readings need to be completed before class.* After each class, I highlight the roll sheet

in yellow for the students that verbally participated and mark in green the students who participated by email or WebCT. Check your spelling prior to participating on WebCT or email.

Negative Participation

There is no reason for rude or disrespectful comments. I will not tolerate sexist, racist, or demeaning language in class or on WebCT. If you feel like a nap, want to play on your cell phone, hold side conversations, or engage in some other activity that wastes our time don't bother coming to class! Classroom failure to read the assigned readings will result in no lecture or discussion, but simply quiet time in-class to read and write a one page paper on the chapter. Whatever information was lost from missing lecture will not be provided but will remain assigned for the test. I document negative participation into your overall grade. Disruptive behavior that conflicts with the course will result in a warning to change the behavior. If this behavior cannot be corrected by the third warning you will be administratively dropped from the course.

Tests

There shall be three multiple choice tests. Tests will cover material from readings, lecture, discussion, groups, news articles, and videos. Most of my lectures will build on the readings and not repeat the book. Therefore you need to read the chapters assigned. Tests are not cumulative. Test dates: February 26; April 8, May 8

Three Chapter Questions

At the end of each chapter there are ten to thirteen questions. The Thursday before each test I will pick up your questions for one chapter. You can choose any chapter to answer the questions. Answer each question thoroughly in your own words. End this assignment with a paragraph of your thoughts on what you read. These need to be typed. Check course assignment schedule for due dates. *A zero grade will be given if you plagiarize the book or one of your classmates' papers.*

Assignment One

Introduce one or two areas of the criminal processing system (CPS: courts, jails, police, probation, or prison) and how it has influenced your life or neighborhood. Use three complete pages, double space, and 12 point font. Check your spelling and grammar. You can include positive or negative outcomes with CPS. What type of behavior(s) did you observe? Was the CPS seen the same way by people of different ages, class, gender, race or ethnicity, or nationality? Use an introduction (what you are going to talk about), main points (body of paper), and conclusion (how the main points influenced your final thoughts). **DUE: March 18**

Cheating on a test, plagiarizing chapter questions or an assignment is **UNACCEPTABLE** and will result in a zero grade for that assignment. Please consult the student handbook:

http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpss/SCOC/student_hand_book.html

Moreover, even with citation, failure to put quotation marks around direct quotations also constitutes plagiarism, because it implies that the writing is your own. Material should either be paraphrased or clearly designated as quotation. Note that replacing words with synonyms, changing verb tense or other minor alterations do not qualify as paraphrasing.

Extra Credit Grading

News Presentation	20-60 points
Office Visit	40 points

Extra Credit News Presentation

I would like individuals in the class to have an opportunity to go in-depth about a current topic (2003-2008) related to crime or criminal justice. You will be the expert on the topic and should read as many news articles available to know the story well (2-5 articles required). I will read your articles after the presentation. The presentation of information will range in time from 7 to 10 minutes. Start the presentation with an overview of the story and what rules/laws were violated. How do these news articles portray the characters? End your presentation with your personal thoughts and a question for the class. I will pass around a sign-up sheet. Because of the amount of students we shall do these presentations throughout the semester. Sign up early to take advantage of this opportunity. **Cash Value: 20-60 points.**

Office Visit

Given the large number of students in the class I can better ensure adequate progress in the course by speaking to everyone individually. Visiting me during office hours gives me a chance to introduce myself, the criminal justice department, and allow the opportunity to discuss how you are doing. I want to make sure you remain successful at New Mexico State University.

Steps I will take to Improve Your Grade in this Course

Early Warning System- If for any reason you miss more than two classes someone will contact you by email or phone to encourage you to attend class. If you receive a grade on the test or an assignment of 60 percent or lower I will ask that you come visit me during office hours so that we can find a solution to improve your future scores. After a third absence I will refer you to an NMSU's QuickConnect advocate to help with any obstacles in attending or performing well in the class. They will also contact you by phone or email. The early warning system takes a lot of time on my part and thus your effort to attend class will be much appreciated.

Spring Schedule

Week 1-6 Crime and Justice

<i>January</i>	<i>Your Part</i>	<i>My Part</i>
Week 1	Theme: Introduction	
17 Thursday:	N/A Introduction	Syllabus
Week 2	Theme: Criminal Justice/Injustice	
22 Tuesday:	Chapter 1: The Problem of Social Control (p.3-14)	Defining Crime
24 Thursday:	Chapter 1: The Problem of Social Control (p.15-39)	Defining CJ
Week 3	Theme: Crime Data/What do we know?	
29 Tuesday	Chapter 2: The Nature and Measurement of Crime (p.41-58)	UCR
31 Thursday	Chapter 2: The Nature and Measurement of Crime (p.58-73)	CJ Funnel
<i>February</i>		
Week 4	Theme: Drugs	
5 Tuesday	Chapter 15: Crime and Values (p.499-518)	War on Drugs
7 Thursday	Chapter 15: Crime and Values (p.518-535)	Sex Work

Week 5 **Theme: Explanations for Crime**
12 Tuesday Chapter 3: Theories of Crime (p.75-90) Biology
14 Thursday Chapter 3: Theories of Crime (p.91-105) Sociology

Week 6 **Theme: Criminal Law/Making Rules**
19 Tuesday Chapter 4: Criminal Law (p.107-128) Ideology/Hegemony
21 Thursday Chapter 4: Criminal Law (p.128-142) Defense
Hand in Questions for one of the following chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, or 15.

Week 7-12 Determining Guilt or Innocence

Week 7 **Theme: Enforcing Rules**

26 Tuesday **TEST**-----

28 Thursday Chapter 5: History and Organization of Law Enforcement (p.145-177)

March

Week 8 **Theme: Police/Rule Enforcers**

4 Tuesday Chapter 6: Controlling the Police (p.179-194)

6 Thursday Chapter 6: Controlling the Police (p.194-211) COINTELPRO

Week 9 **Theme: Police/Rule Enforcers**

11 Tuesday Chapter 7: Issues in Policing (p.213-227)

13 Thursday Chapter 7: Issues in Policing (p.227-247) Justifiable Homicide

Week 10 **Theme: Courts**

18 Tuesday Chapter 8: History and Organization of Courts (p.251-266)—**Paper Due--**

20 Thursday Chapter 8: History and Organization of Courts (p.267-281)

Week 11 **Theme: Spring Break**

25 Tuesday No Class

27 Thursday No Class

April

Week 12 **Sentencing**

1 Tuesday Chapter 9: Working in the Courtroom (p.283-319)

3 Thursday Chapter 10: The Disposition (p.p.321-352) Sentencing

Hand in Questions for one of the following Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10

Week 13-16 Punishment Outcomes

Week 13 **Theme: Control**

8 Tuesday **TEST**-----

10 Thursday Chapter 11: The History of Control (p.355-374)

Week 14 **Theme: Prison**
15 Tuesday Chapter 11: The History of Control (p.375-391) Capital Punishment
17 Thursday Chapter 12: The Contemporary Prison (p.393-411)

Week 15 **Theme: Corrections**
22 Tuesday Chapter 12: The Contemporary Prison (p.415-423)
24 Thursday Chapter 13: Corrections in the Community (p.427-459)

Week 16 **Theme: Future Trends**
29 Tuesday Chapter 16: Present and Emerging Trends (p.537-552)
1 Thursday Chapter 16: Present and Emerging Trends (p.552-565)
Hand in Questions for one of the following Chapters 11, 12, 13, 16

Final: May 8th 10:30 a.m.

Feel free to call Jerry Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity, at 505-646-3635 with any questions you may have about NMSU's Non-Discrimination Policy and complaints of discrimination, including sexual harassment.

Feel free to call Michael Armendariz, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, at 505-546-6840 with any questions you may have on student issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

As the professor, I reserve the right to change any part of the class.
Please keep all returned exams (and other returned work) in the event that you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester.

Official communication to you will often come through your NMSU e-mail box or WebCT. Please access it regularly, or forward it to your current use address, as your success in college may ride on your ability to respond quickly.