

**ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF JUSTICE STUDIES**  
**Fall 2015**

**Prof. Chris Menton**  
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**CJS 105 – Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**Section - 05 TTh 09:30AM - 10:50AM**  
**Office Hours: M,T,Th noon to 2pm**  
**come by, call or email**

**Course Description**

An overview of the American criminal justice system in the context of this course that discusses in detail the individual components of the criminal justice system, including the police, the courts, and corrections. The course is designed to provide basic understanding of our legal system, but also to provoke thinking on key legal and criminal justice issues such as the focus of enforcement, sentencing laws and the management of offenders.

**Course Objectives**

Lists of learning objectives are included at the opening of each chapter in the text. Beyond the text this course being an introduction to the study of Criminal Justice is an opportunity for you the student to find out if this is your calling. Do you have a suitable mix of interest, work ethic and the collection of other personal qualities that would make this field a fulfilling life venture?

**Required Reading**

Siegal L. (2015). Essentials of Criminal Justice (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

**Course Requirements**

Expectations	=====	5%
Questions	=====	10%
Participation	=====	15%
Quizzes	=====	15%
Midterm	=====	20%
Final Exam	=====	20%
Term paper	=====	15%

## CJS 105 – Introduction to Criminal Justice

### Course Expectations

What is expected of you the student is important to consider and will constitute the first assignment of this course. More further on in the syllabus

### Integrity **Recall the Collective Pledge**

**?**We, the undergraduate students of Roger Williams University, commit ourselves to academic integrity. We promise to pursue the highest ideals of academic life, to challenge ourselves with the most rigorous standards, to be honest in every academic endeavor, to conduct ourselves responsibly and honorably, and to assist one another as we live and work together in mutual support. **@** (Roger Williams University Convocation Exercise, <http://www.rwu.edu/academics/academicaffairs/standards/> ). Is there, should there a higher ethical standard for people involved in the study of the criminal justice field?

**TURNITIN Statement** **?**Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site. **@ Student guides available at sharpint.rwu.edu.**

Attendance - Class participation and, therefore, attendance is required. Three unexcused absences is a lot. Four or more unexcused absences places a student in danger of failing the course or needing to submit additional work.

Class Participation - All students are expected to come to class each week prepared to discuss the assigned readings and participate in class debates and exercises. Note - the quality of participation is more important than the quantity.

Reading Assignments - Follow the schedule and find the time to do the reading prior to class.

Student Issues - Submit only your own or cited work. Inform me as soon as possible of other issues you may have such as; diagnosed learning needs, medical or family emergencies, and the host of other legitimate issues that may arise.

## CJS 105 – Introduction to Criminal Justice

### COURSE SCHEDULE

**Participation requires chapters to be read prior to the session they are examined**

Week 1 – Aug. 27	Course introduction and overview – Introduction Criminal Justice through the looking glass
Week 2 – Sept. 1 & 3	Siegel Chapter 1 Crime and Criminal Justice
Week 3 - Sept. 8 & 10	Siegel Chapter 2 Crime and victimization
Week 4 - Sept. 15 & 17	Siegel Chapter 3 – Substance and Procedure
Week 5 - Sept. 22 & 24	Siegel Chapter 4 Police – history and organization
Week 6 – Sept 29 Oct. 1	Siegel Chapter 5 Police role and function
Week 7 - Oct. 6 & 8	Siegel Chapter 6 Policing issues
Week 8 - Oct. 15	Siegel Chapter 7 Courts components
Week 9- Oct. 20 & 22	Siegel Chapters 8 Pretrial and trial
Week 10 – Oct. 27 & 29	Siegel Chapter 9 Punishment and Sentence
Week 11 - Nov. 3 & 5 <b>Paper due</b>	Siegel Chapter 10 Community sentences
Week 12 - Nov 10 & 12	Siegel Chapter 11 Corrections history institutions and populations
Week 13 - Nov. 17 & 19	Siegel Chapter 12 living in prison and leaving prison
Week 14 - Nov. 24	Siegel Chapter 13 Juvenile justice
Week 15 - Dec. 1 & 3	Siegel Chapter 14 looking into the future
Week 16 Dec. 8	Conclusion Criminal Justice final review
Final Exam	

## CJS 105 – Introduction to Criminal Justice

### How do you see the criminal justice system in America?

How you view and think about criminal justice in America will affect how you learn more about it. You, like everyone, have preferred ways of knowing. Take a few moments to read over the following lines. Decide which lines most reflect your thoughts on the subject. You may find you see importance in more than one line - still choose only one line. You may not find any of these lines agreeable - choose the line you find least disagreeable.

- A. Uncovering the facts about the criminal Justice system leads to the best way to know what the system is and ways to improve its operation.

You can have facts without knowledge, but you cannot have knowledge without facts.

- B. Understanding criminal justice system must follow an organized pattern. The best method of knowing about the Criminal Justice system is having information presented in an orderly fashion.

Without order there is chaos.

- C. The best approach to finding justice is intuitive. To get a grasp on the emotions and feelings of those involved in the Criminal Justice system provides the most comprehensive look at how justice works.

Everything that counts cannot be counted.

- D. The Criminal Justice System is a dynamic endeavor, what happens in the system is justice. It is through the behavior of the actors in the system that the reality of criminal justice is revealed.

Doing is knowing.

## CJS 105 – Introduction to Criminal Justice

**Assignments:** All assignments need to be emailed to be in .doc, .docx or .rtf format and posted in the assignment section of course bridges page

**Introduction exercise. = 5%** Expectations- in less than 500 words present your demands upon this course and yourself as a member of this course. Clarity in presentation and genuineness of tone will be the grading criteria. No more than personal reflection and organization are required. Your thoughts might consider the role of the criminal justice system in society and the realisticness of these expectations. Due week 2

**Ten test quality questions.** What you genuinely see as valid material for this course is important, therefore each student is responsible to develop 10 questions based on the readings that can be used for quizzes, a study guide and on exams. Question construction can be tricky. Ask yourself what is important about what you just read, then put it in the form of a question (just like on Jeopardy). (Give the answer and page number please). I want these questions to cover breadth of the course and therefore they need to meet the following requirements. Most of the questions you submit should be multiple choice. A small portion can be short essays. Opinion questions, questions with incorrect answers, and true and false, will not be accepted. Questions that are too easy or too complex will be returned for adjustment. You may turn in only one question per week. At least 5 are due by mid semester. **If you have questions and/or need assistance, contact me**

### Quizzes

Seven short quizzes will be given at the start of selected classes. The five best scores will be averaged and constitute 15% of your grade. These may include student created questions. Quizzes are designed to motivate reading and attendance. Because only the best five will be counted, makeups should not be needed.

**Term paper.** Do a little research. Find a topic to fit the title “It is a crime it is not a crime.” Here you are to identify an activity that is classified as a crime and make a solid argument that the activity should not be classified as a crime.

**OR**

Identify an activity that is not classified as a crime and make a solid argument that the activity should be classified as a crime.

The final product should be a APA style paper of 6 to 10 pages. **Due Week 11**

Suggestion for approaching this assignment, create a Prospectus. I will be happy to critique yours in October

"The Prospectus is normally ungraded: if it is submitted *on time*, it will be used solely for feedback to help you write a stronger final research paper. The **Paper Prospectus** should consist of the following components:

- ≙ a working title which clearly identifies the work(s) you will discuss and gives some indication of the topic you will explore and the thesis you will argue in your paper;
- ≙ a fully articulated thesis, i.e., an explicit statement of the interpretation you will argue in your paper (what you will argue about your topic, not just the topic itself);
- ≙ a tentative outline of your paper mapping out its paragraph structure (to ensure you will make your points in logical order) and indicating what, specifically, you will argue about the evidence you will introduce in each paragraph"

Dr. Debora B. Schwartz, English Department, California Polytechnic State University

Part I: THE NATURE OF CRIME, LAW, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 1. Crime and Criminal Justice. 2. The Nature of Crime and Victimization. 3. Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure. Part II: THE POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. 4. Police in Society: History and Organization. 5. The Police: Role and Function. 6. Issues in Policing: Professional, Social, and Legal. Part III: COURTS AND ADJUDICATION. 7. Courts, Prosecution, and the Defense. 8. Pretrial and Trial Procedures. 9. Punishment and Sentencing. Part IV: CORRECTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS. 10. Community Sentences: Probation, Intermediate Sanctions, and Restorative Justice. 11. Corrections: History, Institutions, and Populations. 12. Prison Life: Living in and Leaving Prison. Part V: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 13. Juvenile Justice in the Twenty First Century. 14. Criminal Justice in the New Millennium.