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Date created: April 2013
Textbook update: Fall 2019
C & GE Approved: May 13, 2013
Board Approved: June 12, 2013
State Approved: July 4, 2013

Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1501 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3 Units) CSU:UC

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: None

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 with a grade of “C” or better strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course introduces the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States. Focus is placed on examining crime measurement, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to crime, components of the system, and current challenges to the system. The course examines the evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system and the evolving forces which have shaped those principals and approaches. Although justice structure and process is examined in a cross cultural context, emphasis is placed on the US justice system, particularly the structure and function of US police, courts, and corrections. Students are introduced to the origins and development of criminal law, legal process, and sentencing and incarceration policies. C-ID: AJ 110

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text such as: [McKee, Adam J. *Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System*. DocMcKee.com, 2016.](#)

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories used to explain crime and criminality;
2. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime;
3. Understand the history, development, and structure, and function of American police, courts, and corrections;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, structure, and function of the police;
5. Convey an understanding of the process of adjudication;

6. Show an understanding of corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails;
7. Identify and describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development;
8. Critically analyze and discuss issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives;
9. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice;
10. Demonstrate the ability to raise critically relevant questions based on independent reading of criminal justice literature;
11. Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in the social sciences;
12. Explain the definitions of crime; and
13. Understand the extent of the crime problem in America.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- A. History, development, structure and function of American criminal justice:
early development of law
 - a. early development of law enforcement, courts and corrections
 - b. common law
 - c. modern criminal and civil laws
- Unit II Crime and Victimization
- A. Crime definitions
 - B. Uniform Crime Report and other sources of crime data
 - C. Patterns of criminal activity
 - D. Costs of crime
 - E. Criminological theories in the justice system
 - F. Victimization from various perspectives
- Unit III Law Enforcement
- A. History, structure, function and inter-relationships between:
 - a. local law enforcement
 - b. state law enforcement
 - c. federal law enforcement
- Unit IV Courts and Sentencing
- A. Function and adjudication process:
Local Courts
 - a. state courts
 - b. federal courts
 - c. appellate courts
 - B. Court work group
 - C. Victim/witness programs
 - D. Sentencing theories and options
- Unit V Punishments and Corrections
- A. Functions of incarceration:
 - a. local correctional facilities

- b. state correctional facilities
- c. federal correctional facilities
- B. Alternatives to incarceration:
 - a. parole
 - b. probation
 - c. community corrections
 - d. fines, restitution, and other alternatives

- Unit VI The Future of the Criminal Justice System
- A. Special issues of the criminal justice system:
 - a. juvenile issues
 - b. drugs
 - c. immigration
 - d. homeland security
 - e. jail and prison overcrowding
 - f. court backlogs/plea bargaining
 - g. internet crimes and identity theft
 - B. Technological developments
 - C. Crime predictions for the future

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying textbook (s)
2. Completing required reading including case studies
3. Completing required written exercises
4. Library research
5. Internet research

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Audio/Visual presentations
4. In- class scenarios
5. Group discussion
6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. essay exams
 - b. research paper using APA or other generally accepted social science format
2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
3. Case analysis
4. Projects
5. Homework assignments
6. In class exercises/presentations

7. Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet sites