

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Criminal Justice/Sociology

CRMJ 5000 – Survey of Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2020

T 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Via Zoom

Professor: Dr. Jamie Snyder

Email: jsnyde29@uwo.edu

Office: Building A&S, Room 311

Office Hours: (Virtual) Wednesdays 11:00-1:00pm and Thursdays 2:45-3:45pm and by appointment

Required readings:

All required readings will be posted online in WyoCourses.

Prerequisite: Graduate Student Status

Course Description:

Covers historical and contemporary readings in criminal justice. Three areas will be focused on: Police, Courts, and Corrections.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Discuss crime trends and measurement in the United States
- Describe the historical development of the criminal justice system
- Discuss major issues in the CJ system today

Major Topics

- Crime/measurement/trends
- Police
- Courts
- Corrections

Course Requirements:

Zoom

The weekly meeting for this course will be conducted using Zoom, a video-conferencing service provided by the University. Students will need to have a computer with a microphone and video camera. Students are required to attend the Zoom meetings each week. This time will be

utilized for discussion and lecture. We will meet via Zoom for approximately 2 hours each Tuesday starting at **4:00pm**.

Your grade for the course will be based on two exams – Mid-term, and Final, and two class discussion leads/summaries.

Mid-term Exam:

The mid-term exam will cover the material from the first half of the class. It will be in essay format. Students will be provided the questions one week prior to the due date. You will be given limited choice in which questions you wish to answer.

- The exam is due 7:00pm Wednesday (10/17/18). Submit your answers as one Word document (.doc, .docx, or .rtf). NO late exams will be accepted.
- Your answers should be organized (paragraphs, introduction, evidence/argument, conclusion), grammatically and structurally sound, and should address questions completely.
- Use APA 6th edition to cite references. Include a reference page in APA 6th edition format.
- You should base your answers on the reading for the course, other readings, and knowledge gained from other courses.
- Your answers are positions, not opinions. Positions are supported by evidence, sound reasoning, and critical analysis.
- More information regarding the exam will be discussed in class.

Total number of points: 100

Final Exam:

The final exam will cover the material from the second half of the class. It will be in essay format. Students will be provided the questions one week prior to the due date. You will be given limited choice in which questions you wish to answer.

- The exam is due 7:00pm Friday (12/14/18). Submit your answers as one Word document (.doc, .docx, or .rtf). NO late exams will be accepted.
- Your answers should be organized (paragraphs, introduction, evidence/argument, conclusion), grammatically and structurally sound, and should address questions completely.
- Use APA 6th edition to cite references. Include a reference page in APA 6th edition format.
- You should base your answers on the reading for the course, other readings, and knowledge gained from other courses.
- Your answers are positions, not opinions. Positions are supported by evidence, sound reasoning, and critical analysis.
- More information regarding the exam will be discussed in class.

Total number of points: 100

Article Summaries and Class Discussion Lead: Each week (Starting week 4), certain students will be required to write a summary of that week's readings AND lead the discussion for that

week. Discussions will be held on Zoom. Each student will lead twice, once before the midterm and once after the midterm. When writing a summary for that week, students should consider the following:

- What is the main issue being discussed in the articles?
- What types of factors contribute to the issue being discussed?
- What are two suggestions for addressing the issue?
- Questions or critiques regarding the articles.

On your assigned week, you will be required to turn in your summary of that week's articles and participate in leading discussion. Students will receive two grades, one for your written assignment and one for leading the discussion. You must attend class to receive credit. There will be no make-up opportunities (unless you are sick).

Article Summary: 50 points each – Total 100 Points

Class Discussion Lead: 25 points each – Total 50 Points

Class Participation: All students are expected to knowledgably contribute to class discussions. This means being prepared to discuss the readings, asking and answering questions, and engaging in respectful debate. Class attendance is imperative to successfully complete this class. Students are allowed to miss ONE class without penalty (not the week the student is the leader) – further absences may result in course grade reduction. On the Zoom conference calls, attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of class. To be counted as present, a student must be present at both the beginning and end of class. Calling in using a telephone will not count as attending class. Flexibility is available given sickness – please contact me.

Course Policies

Missing an Examination:

Make-up examinations will not be given without a documented (e.g., doctor's note) and valid excuse (e.g., severe illness, family emergency, etc.). With emergencies, please contact me via email within 24 hours of the missed examination if at all possible; however, you still need to provide proper documentation. Failure to contact me within 24 hours and provide me with proper documentation could result in a zero for the missed examination. If, with the proper notification of 24 hours and documentation is given, a make-up examination is given, it will be an alternative version to the original examination (e.g., it can be in any format – all essay, all fill-in the blank, all short answer, a combination of formats, etc.). If a make-up examination is scheduled and you fail to complete the make-up examination at the scheduled time, you will receive a zero on the examination. Flexibility is available given sickness – please contact me.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone found to participate in these activities will receive an F for the assignment and possibly the course. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University guidelines (UniReg 2-114). In addition, grade appeals will be handled according to these same guidelines. These guidelines can be found in the University Regulations.

General Courtesy Issues:

We may discuss topics that are very sensitive in nature during the course of this class. I expect that all students treat one another with the utmost respect at all times. Any disrespectful behavior and/or language will not be tolerated and you will be dismissed from the class for that day. Along with maintaining a professional and respectful manner, I expect that you come to class on time and prepared (e.g., having read the required material before class), remain for the entire class period, be engaged in the class, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may be distracting to others. Therefore, do not come late to class and/or leave early (unless you otherwise have made arrangements with me), sleep, text message, read outside materials, or wear headphones during the class period. Also, please turn your cell phones off or on vibrate/silent. If you must take a call due to an emergency circumstance, please leave the classroom. If you engage in any of the above behaviors, you will be asked to leave the class.

Contacting Me:

The best way to contact me is through email: jsnyde29@uwyo.edu. I check my email at least once per day, so you should receive a response from me within 24 hours. In emails, you **MUST** refer to the course in the subject line. Use proper email etiquette. It is very important to check your email on a regular basis as important class information (e.g., assignments, class cancellations, and changes in the syllabus) will be relayed via email.

WyoCourses:

As a resource for this class, a WyoCourse site is available to you. This site provides the opportunity to have all of the course materials in one place that is accessible to everyone. Assignments and announcements will be posted to this site. As part of the requirements for this class, you are expected to check and use this site regularly. **Make sure to check your UW email as this is the address that will be utilized for any posted announcements.**

[Additional student resources regarding UW's commitment to diversity, upholding non-discriminatory policies and Title IV, duty to report, academic dishonesty, information on disability services, as well as other resources can be found on the class WyoCourses site under the Classroom Climate and Conduct and Learning Tools tabs.](#)

Final Grade Distribution and Scale:

Midterm exam	100 points
Final exam	100 points
Discussion leads	50 points
<u>Article summaries</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total:	350 points

Your grades will be determined by the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1:

Tues Aug 25 Course Overview/Introduction and Syllabus

Week 2:

Tues Sep 1 Crime Trends and Measurement

Week 3:

Tues Sep 8 Policing History

Week 4:

Tues Sep 15 *Contemporary issues in Policing – Corruption*

Week 5:

Tues Sep 22 *Contemporary issues in Policing – Body-worn cameras and use of force*

Week 6:

Tues Sep 29 History of Courts

Week 7:

Tues Oct 6 *Plea bargaining*

Week 8:

Tues Oct 13 Sentencing and Three strikes

Week 9:

Tues Oct 20 Midterm Exam due 11:59pm MT

Week 10:

Tues Oct 27 History of Corrections

Week 11:

Tues Nov 3 *Prison overcrowding and current issues*

Week 12:

Tues Nov 10 *Rehabilitation, treatment, and community corrections*

Week 13:

Tues Nov 17 *The death penalty*

Week 14:

Tues Nov 24 Max prison documentary

Week 15:

Tues Dec 1 NO Class meeting – Final Paper due Dec 7th 11:59pm MT