

Syllabus
Comparative Criminal Justice



CRMJ 4280

Fall Semester, 2018
AG Building, Room 218
Tues & Thurs: 1:20 – 2:35 pm

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Office Hours

Office: AS 402
Time: Tues & Thurs – 10:00-11:00 am & 12:30–1:15 pm

Introduction

Comparative Criminal Justice, CRMJ 4280, examines how criminal justice systems differ in countries around the world. The course will explore crime, policing, criminal justice processes, corrections, and alternative sentencing or diversion around the world.

Course Objectives

Objectives or outcomes have been defined for individual modules or activities as well as at the course level. Only objectives for the course are listed here. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic crime patterns in different regions or countries around the world
- Identify social, economic, political, and cultural factors that relate to criminal justice policies and practices in different countries
- Discuss the various typologies used to compare criminal justice systems
- Describe the relationships between governments and their citizens in relation to crime and societal responses to that crime

Books/Resources

This course will use two books - one book will be used as the text for the subject matter, and the second book will be used to guide the documentation of material cited in this course. In addition, students will spend time reading scholarly articles, searching on-line for materials relevant to the course, viewing streaming videos, and accessing course-related materials using the WyoCourses. The following are required:

- **Primary Textbook** – *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, 5th Edition*, by Harry R. Dammer and Jay S. Albanese.

- **Reference Manual** - *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition.*
- **OnlineUW** – Online WyoCourses is the University’s on-line supplemental course website. To register, go to: http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/ctl/Online_courses/student.htm and follow the instructions. If you have difficulties with WyoCourses at any time during the semester, use the technical support available by calling 306-766-5499 or emailing onlnsupp@uwyo.edu.
- **Microsoft Word** – Various documents must be submitted in an electronic format in Microsoft Word. Paper copies or electronic files in electronic formats other than Microsoft Word will not be accepted.

Class Schedule

This course takes place between August 30, 2018 and December 12, 2018. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the day cited in the Course Chart. For a detailed breakdown of assignments for each week of the course, see the attachment to the syllabus titled *Course Chart*.

Course Assignments

Course work will consist of completing a diverse set of assignments. These are briefly described below. All quizzes and written assignments are due before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday evening of the week listed in the Course Chart. Any changes to due dates will be posted in the Announcements area of WyoCourses. Assignments may not be completed and/or submitted late without an excused absence.

- **Quizzes** – A quiz will be taken every three to four weeks. The exam may be taken anytime during the week in which it is due. Each quiz consists of multiple-choice, true-false, matching, and completion questions. Questions (and the answers) are drawn from the two texts, the lectures, research articles, and videos. A quiz may be taken twice; if retaken, the higher of the two scores will be counted. The quizzes are worth 46 weighted points toward the final grade.
- **Discussion Boards** – Over the course of the semester, six discussion boards will be held (one approximately every two weeks). For details about how the discussion boards will be conducted, see the syllabus attachment titled Discussion Boards. The six discussion boards are worth 54 weighted points toward the final grade.
- **Extra Credit** – There are 100 weighted points assigned to the regular course assignments. An additional four weighted points (making a total of 104 weighted points) are available to help a student who is close to receiving the next higher grade. The extra credit quiz is 25 multiple choice, true/false, matching, and completion questions about APA formatting. It can be taken any time during the semester.

Grading

The final grade for the course will be based on the weighted points accumulated over the course of the semester. One hundred total points are possible for each of the assignments. The points received for an assignment must then be multiplied by the assigned weighted to determine the

weighted points earned for that assignment. The weighted points for all assignments are then added up to get the final grade for the course.

- A person receiving 90% or more of the possible weighted points will receive an A.
- A person receiving from 80% to 89% of the possible weighted points will receive a B.
- A person receiving from 70% to 79% of the possible weighted points will receive a C.
- A person receiving from 60% to 69% of the possible weighted points will receive a D.
- A person receiving less than 60% of the possible weighted points will receive an F.

Weighting	
Discussion Boards . . .	54%
Quizzes	46%
Extra Credit Quiz	<u>04%</u>
Total	104%

Points for assignments will be posted in WyoCourses. Points for quizzes will be available upon completion of the test. Points for the discussion boards and the research paper will normally be posted within two weeks. The final weighted score will not be rounded up; for example, an 89.8% will be a B and will not be rounded up to an A. The extra credit quiz is there to help you make the leap to the higher grade.

Students with Disabilities

It is University of Wyoming’s policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

Academic Honesty

Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, collaborating on or otherwise cheating on exams, exercises, or assignments of any sort will be reported to the appropriate University authorities for disciplinary action and may be grounds for expulsion from the University. To read the University’s policy on academic dishonesty, click on [UW Regulation 6-802](#) and review the documents that are provided there. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, consult the regulations or arrange to meet with the instructor before you submit the materials in question. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will receive zero points for the assignment in which the violation took place.

Excused Absences

Assignments can be completed at the student’s discretion during the days prior to the due date. Excused absences must be made up within seven days of the original due date or the end of the excused absence period (whichever is later). Excused absences procedures apply to all assignments, including missing class. Excused absences include the following:

- **University Excuse** - In order to be excused from meeting a deadline, a valid University excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office

of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the student's absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence.

- **Serious Illness** - A serious illness is defined as a medical condition that requires hospitalization, immediate treatment at a doctor's office or medical facility, and/or bed rest which makes it impossible for the student to complete the scheduled expectation of the class. To be considered a serious illness, a doctor's written excuse must be provided which states that, on the days preceding the missed assignment, the student was unable to complete the tasks defined by the syllabus. Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician. These excuses must be for the days in question, and must state that you were unable to do the assignment. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor within two days of the missed assignment.
- **Death in the Immediate Family** - An immediate family member is defined as father, mother, sibling, spouse, or child. Documentation must be provided; acceptable documentation includes an obituary published in a commercial newspaper which lists the student as an immediate family member, or a letter from a member of the clergy on church stationary confirming the death and the relationship of the deceased to the student.
- **Special Circumstances** - It is understood students have a life outside university classes. For example, a person may be required to appear in court. Accommodations will be made to allow students to be absent when special circumstances create conflicts with assignments defined in the syllabus. Special circumstances are up to the course instructor to approve.

Late Assignments

Assignments may be turned in up to five days late. There is a 10% per day late penalty for a late assignment. Assignments may not be turned in more than five days after the original deadline. Placing the wrong file or a corrupted file in a drop box will be accepted as a submission. An initial thread for a discussion board is due on Tuesday evening; late penalties apply after Tuesday evening. Participation points are awarded during the week of the discussion board, and may not be made up.

Office Hours/Advising

Office hours will be held at the times listed at the top of the syllabus. Students desiring additional time can request it and a mutually agreed upon time will be arranged.

Instructor

The instructor lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. Communication by email is welcomed and encouraged. The goal is to make this class a learning experience for students and the instructor, and an ongoing dialogue between students and the instructor is seen as an important component of learning. Emails with questions about the course content and other topics relevant to the course are considered an essential part of the course. Feel free to communicate via email. The instructor spends a portion of every day working on the computer and carries a smart phone. As a result, an email may be answered within minutes, and will generally be answered the same day. It will be a rare occasion that an email is not returned within 24 hours. If you do not receive an answer to an email within 48 hours, please resend it; it may have gotten lost somehow.

Communication by cell phone outside of scheduled office hours should be viewed as a last resort and reserved for emergencies. Feel free to call if you have an emergency. Voice mail is available

so if the phone is not answered feel free to leave a message; a call because of an emergency will be returned promptly, and making the instructor aware of a problem as soon as possible is important.