



**South Portland, Maine 04106
Criminal Justice Department**

Title: Introduction to Criminal Justice **Semester:** Spring 2021
Catalog Number: CJUS-105-02 **Credit Hours:** 3 **Contact Hours:** 45
Offered: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am-9:15am, online through ZOOM and Brightspace
Professor: Thomas P. Joyce Jr. **Phone:** (207) 741-5551
Email: tjoyce@smccme.edu **Office Hours:** Flexible and by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the major components of the Criminal Justice System - law enforcement, courts and corrections - including historical and social perspectives; the roles and functions of the various agencies; theories on crime and behavior and the processes involved in the administration of justice.

Learning Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the agencies of justice, the formal justice process, and the concept of the informal justice system, which involves discretion, deal making and plea-bargaining.
2. Develop awareness for how justice policy is shaped.
3. Describe the nature and extent of crime and victimization.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship of criminal law to the justice system and the historical development and role of law enforcement in the United States.
5. Define the role and inter-relationships of the police, courts, and correctional system components of the criminal justice system.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the state and federal court systems.
7. Define the basic terminology of civil and criminal law.
8. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of basic constitutional rights.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the punishment philosophy in the United States.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of the community supervision of offenders.
11. Identify career opportunities in the criminal justice field.

(In addition, see the “Learning Objectives by Chapter” handout found on the course website.)

Course Topics (Presented in the order as listed)

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.

14. Criminal Justice in the New Millennium.

Course Requirements

All students are required to take charge of their own learning. The professor will work with all students to help ensure they successfully complete the course. Students must periodically review and comply with the “Key to Academic Success”.

Key to Academic Success!!!

1. I will attend class regularly and arrive to class on time.
2. I will treat others with courtesy, respect and how I would like to be treated. I will respect and attempt to understand the opinions of others.
3. I will bring all required materials to class (i.e. notebooks, workbook, textbook, assignments due)
4. I will be attentive in class.
5. I will participate in whole class and group discussions.
6. I will complete my assignments on time.
7. I will ask questions when I do not understand the material.
8. I will take notes in class.
9. I will study for quizzes and examinations.
10. I will be honest (avoiding plagiarism, cheating)
11. I will reflect on how I could make improvements to my learning.
12. I will seek out my professor or advisor if I am having difficulty with my course(s).
13. I will meet the learning objectives of each chapter.
14. I will recognize this course syllabus as a contract that I must abide by to ensure my academic success.

Work Outside of the Classroom

All students should be prepared to spend a minimum of two hours on out of class preparation for each hour of classroom instruction.

This preparation will include but not limited to review of lecture notes, completion of reading assignments, studying of course materials and completion of class projects/papers as assigned.

Required Materials

- **Textbook/Resources**

Essentials of Criminal Justice authored by Larry J. Siegel, 11th edition. Available at the S.M.C.C. Book Store.

Grading

Course Grade:

A	93-100	A-	90-92.9		
B+	87-89.9	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9	D	63-66.9	F	0-62.99

“I” Grade: A temporary grade of “I” may be given when a student has, *due to extraordinary circumstances*, failed to complete all required course work by the end of the semester. This assumes that the student has made a consistent and persistent effort up to the point the “circumstances” occurred and that most course work has been completed. The remaining work must be completed and a new grade submitted by the mid-point of the semester following receipt of the “I” grade. An “I” grade which is not changed during this period automatically becomes an “F”.

Calculation of the course grade:

Quizzes (30%)

Quizzes will cover the chapter reading, lecture material and classroom discussions. There will be no make-up quizzes given. The professor drops the lowest quiz grade before calculating the final course grade.

Tentative Quiz Schedule:

Chapter 1 February 2nd
Chapter 2 February 9th
Chapter 3 February 18th
Chapter 4 February 25th
Chapter 5 March 4th
Chapter 6 covered on the mid-term examination.

Mid-term examination (30%) March 11th, part one. March 23rd part two is due.

Chapter 7 March 30th
Chapter 8 April 6th
Chapter 9 April 13th
Chapter 10 April 20th
Chapter 11 April 27th
Chapter 12 May 4th
Chapter 13 (Skip)
Chapter 14 covered on the final examination

Final examination (30%)

May 11th, part one, May 13th, part two due.

Only under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the professor will a student be allowed to take a missed examination. In the event that the class is cancelled, the scheduled quiz or examination will be given at the next class meeting.

Written assignments (10%)

Students will complete five critical thinking written assignments. Each assignment is worth 2% of the course grade. No partial credit is given. Critical thinking work will be graded credit 2% or no credit. (See the grading rubric on the course website and the handout provided. The rubric gives the student the requirements of the written assignments and provides the criteria for grading.)

Assignments will be typed and sent as an attachment to the email. The written assignment must be sent as a Microsoft Word document or another file format that can be opened by Microsoft Word such as a Google doc file. Students must use their SMCC email account. Students will give the course (CJUS-105) and assignment on the topic line of the email message. Students will email their assignments to the professor prior to class on the date due. No credit will be given for late assignments. The professor will send a reply message that the assignment was received. A scoring rubric will be given in class to those students who turned in an assignment.

Students may submit their written assignment for review no less than one week prior to the due date. The Professor will provide feedback and the student can make any needed corrects before the paper is submitted for grading.

Critical thinking written assignments involve:

- exhibiting previously learned material by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts and answers.
- demonstrating understanding of facts and ideas by organizing, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions and stating main ideas.
- solving problems by applying acquired knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a different way.
- examining and breaking information into parts by identifying motives or causes; making inferences and finding evidence to support generalizations.
- compiling information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions.
- presenting and defending opinions by making judgments about information, validity of ideas or quality of work based on a set of criteria.

Requirements:

Keeping those points in mind, you are to write clear, detailed, answers to all written assignments. Give specific reasons for your opinions; cite information from textbooks, classroom lectures, discussions, and your own experiences when appropriate to support your answers. Review the rubric on the course website and the handout provided. The rubric gives the specific grading criteria.

Due dates and topics for the written assignments are as follows:

***1st written assignment is due on February 4th**

Select from the following assignments:

Chapter 1....”The New Orleans Group Violence Reduction Strategy” Read the article on page 9 in your text and answer critical thinking questions 1 and 2.

Chapter 2.... Part 1: Visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation website the area dealing with Crime Statistics and UCR Data (2017). The link <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016>

Review the data under the heading “Offenses Known to Law Enforcement. Give three conclusions based on the data provided for violent crime, property crime and clearances.

Part 2: Go on the Internet and examine the Crime Analysis Unit section of a police department’s website. What did you find particularly interesting and why? Did any information surprise you and why? Was there information not present that you expected to see?

Chapter 3.... “Born and Alive” Read the article on page 58 in your text and answer the critical thinking question at the end of the article.

Chapter 4.... Body Cameras. Read the article on pages 97-98 in your text and answer the three critical thinking questions at the end of the article.

***2nd written assignment is due February 25th**

Select from the following assignments:

Chapter 5....Does Patrol Deter Crime? A Look at the Evidence. Read the article at the top of page 112 in your text and answer the two critical thinking questions at the end of the article.

Chapter 6....Tasers and Cognitive Impairment. Read the article on page 148 and then answer the two questions at the end of the article.

Chapter 7....Defending the Despised. Read the article on page 179 and then answer the three questions at the end of the article.

***3rd written assignment is due March 25th**

Select from the following assignments:

Chapter 8....Strange Plea Agreements. Read the article at the bottom of page 197 in your text and then answer the two questions at the end of the article.

Chapter 9....Reducing Wrongful Conviction. Read the article on page 233 in your text and answer the two questions at the end of the article.

***4th written assignment is due April 6th**

Select from the following assignments:

Chapter 10....A Surge in Electronic Offender Tracking. Read the article on page 263 in your text and then answer the two questions at the end of the article.

Chapter 11....Technocorrections: Contemporary Correctional Technology. Read the article on page 283 and then answer the two questions at the end of the article.

***5th written assignment is due April 22nd**

Chapter 12....Reforming Solitary. Read the article on page 315-316 and answer the three questions at the end of the article.

Chapter 14....Global Trafficking in Persons. Read the article on page 374 and then answer the two questions at the end of the article.

Course and College Policies

ZOOM and Attendance Policy

Students must be online, signed into ZOOM and prepared for the start of class. In order to meet the course learning objectives students must be present and visible in the ZOOM classroom and participate in the exploration and discussion of course content. Students will not be credited with attending a class if they are not visible to the professor and other students.

It is the responsibility of the student to make sure their equipment is in proper working order to successfully send and receive the ZOOM course. Students should contact the SMCC Information and Technology Department (IT) in regards to ZOOM reception or transmission issues. The IT Department contact information is available on the SMCC website. The professor will make every effort to ensure ZOOM is working properly from the SMCC transmission end.

Any more than three absences regardless of the reason(s) will result in a (3) point deduction per absence from a student's final course grade calculation.

Being late to class three times regardless of the reason(s) will constitute one absence. Late means arriving on-line in the ZOOM classroom once the professor has begun the class. Point deductions will begin at the conclusion of add/drop week.

A student who misses three classes in a row without notifying the professor prior to the missed classes or during the period the student is absent will be dropped from the course and not be permitted to return. Enrollment Services will be notified. It is then up to the student to go to Enrollment Services and formally withdraw from the course to prevent an adverse affect on the student's GPA.

Cell phones

If a student needs to text or use the cell phone during class the student will inform the professor that they have an important matter to attend to and will be leaving the ZOOM classroom. The student will inform the professor if they expect to return or not.

Food and beverages

Beverages are permitted; eating of food is not permitted during class.

Student Code of Conduct:

All students are expected to be aware of and conform to the Student Code of Conduct. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook: The Compass.

Administrative Failures (AF)

An Administrative Failure (a final grade of AF) identifies students who have stopped attending class and who have had no contact with the faculty member for a period in excess of one week. A student may be administratively failed after missing one more consecutive class meeting than the number of class meeting per week (4 for a class that meets three times a week, three for a class that meets twice a week, two for a class that meets once a week).

A student in an online course may be administratively failed after not submitting an assignment, responding to a discussion question, completing a graded assignment, or otherwise performing some type of activity that shows active involvement in the course for a period of two weeks.

At their discretion, faculty may reinstate students who resume attending after the grade has been assigned.

End-of-Course Evaluation

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

For Classes with any Face- to -Face Component

While the syllabus represents current plans, there may be changes during the semester in response to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. Depending on the progression of the virus, it is possible that the College may have to suspend face-to-face instruction for part of the semester. If we must stop face to face instruction anytime during the semester, your instructor will contact you via your SMCC email or the Brightspace course homepage to discuss next steps for the course.

ADA Statement

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon

request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

The Learning Commons:

The library, tutoring and writing centers, and reference/research assistance (typically located on the second floor of South Portland's Campus Center and in the Midcoast's LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center) will be fully available online during the fall 2020 semester.

Here you can find free academic support through individually scheduled and drop in, online tutoring. You can also find information literacy/research librarians, and professional academic strategy/planning mentoring online. While the physical space of the Learning Commons will not be available at this time, we can also work with you to set up zoom classrooms for small group study. Services are offered by appointment or as drop-in assistance.

To access services:

- Visit My Learning in My Maine Guide or
- Select the "tutoring needed" button if it appears inside your Brightspace course.

Whether On Site or Online, students have consistently reported that the Learning Commons is a friendly, risk-free, and helpful place to seek academic support. It has also been shown that those who make use of the Learning Commons do better in a course than those who do not. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this valuable and enjoyable resource.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to helpdesk@smccme.edu.

Refunds

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts.

Plagiarism Statement

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct