

ADMJ-120: INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

10/04/2024

AS Approval

10/24/2024

BOT Approval

11/21/2024

COCI Approval

02/11/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Administration of Justice

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Administration of Justice (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	

Subject Code

ADMJ - Administration of Justice

Course Number

120

Department

Administration of Justice

Division

Administration of Justice (ADMJ)

Full Course Title

Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Short Title

Intro to Criminal Justice Sys

CB03 TOP Code

2105.00 - *Administration of Justice

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

C - Clearly Occupational

Rationale

Course description, course objectives and assignments updated to align with similar courses eligible for meeting CSU and IGETC requirements.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course presents the evolution, history, and philosophy of the administration of justice. Topics presented include the American system of justice and the various sub-systems, Constitutional Rights, the roles and interrelationships of criminal justice agencies, theories of crime causation, concepts of crime accusations, punishments, and rehabilitation, and issues pertaining to ethics, bias, education, and training for participants in the criminal justice system. The course examines contemporary crime problem solving strategies and current issues facing the criminal justice system.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Describe the history, structure, and functions of the main components of the American criminal justice system.
2.	Analyze principles and applications of statutory and Constitutional law, particularly the requirements adhered to by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
3.	Produce written communications that meet the standards for transfer and a criminal justice system professional.
4.	Examine critically contemporary problems and issues within criminal justice.
5.	Examine bias and cultural competence in the criminal justice system.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Examine theories of criminology 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.	Discuss the history, development, structure, and function of police, courts, and corrections in the United States.
4.	Demonstrate an understanding of the history, structure, and function of the police.
5.	Describe the process of adjudication.
6.	Examine the corrections system including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails.
7.	Describe special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development of preventative programs.
8.	Analyze 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.	Examine bias and cultural competence in the criminal justice system;
11.	Explain the definitions of crime; and
12.	Evaluate the extent of the crime problem in the United States.

Course Content

1. Introduction to the U.S. system of justice
 - a. Historical origins
 - b. Understanding the American Criminal Justice System
2. Crime and its Consequences and Impact on Society
 - a. Definitions of Crime
 - b. Measuring and evaluation the U.S. crime problem
 - c. Costs of Crime
3. Theories of criminality
 - a. Classical
 - b. Positivist
 - c. Critical
4. Constitutional Law
 - a. Bill of Rights
 - b. "Crime control" model vs. the "due process" model
5. Law Enforcement
 - a. History of policing in the United States
 - b. Origins of modern day policing
 - c. Community Policing and Procedural Justice
 - d. Issues in Policing
 - e. Bias and cultural competence in law enforcement
6. The American Court Structure
 - a. Crime and justice within the role of the criminal courts
 - b. Key Roles
 - c. Process of adjudication

- i. Pretrial
 - ii. Trial
 - iii. Sentencing
- d. Death Penalty
- e. Contemporary issues in the legal system
- f. Jury bias and bias in sentencing
- 7. Corrections System
 - a. Philosophies of punishment vs. rehabilitation
 - b. Security, Services, and Programs
 - c. Prison Life
 - d. Inmates Rights
 - e. Release
 - f. Recidivism
 - g. Bias and cultural competence in corrections
- 8. Community Corrections
 - a. Roles of Probation and Parole
 - b. Diversion and alternatives to incarceration
 - c. Changing philosophies in Corrections
- 9. Juvenile Justice System
 - a. Philosophical differences in juvenile vs. adult adjudication
 - b. Current issues involving juvenile delinquency
- 10. The Future of the Criminal Justice System
 - a. Social Changes
 - b. Technological Changes
 - c. Contemporary Issues and Justice System Reform

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An instructor facilitated discussion about jury bias. 2. A small group discussion about an instructor provided scenario involving law enforcement ethics.
Field Trips	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A field trip to tour the police academy on the main campus. 2. A field trip to tour a local law enforcement agency.
Lecture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An interactive instructor lead lecture about the Bill of Rights. 2. An interactive instructor lead lecture about the role of community policing in modern day law enforcement.
Other	<p>Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A term-length research project paper and presentation based on scholarly research about a controversial issue in the criminal justice system. 2. An essay assignment requiring analysis of a crime and justice issue that includes at least two different perspectives.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An instructor facilitated discussion about jury bias facilitated on Canvas. 2. A small group discussion about an instructor provided scenario involving law enforcement ethics facilitated on Canvas.
Directed Study	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Optional field trip to tour the police academy on the main campus. 2. Optional field trip to tour a local law enforcement agency.
Lecture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An instructor lead lecture about the Bill of Rights provided in text and or video on Canvas. 2. An instructor lead lecture about the role of community policing in modern day law enforcement provided in text and or video on Canvas.

Other	<p>Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A term-length research project paper and presentation based on scholarly research about a controversial issue in the criminal justice system. Paper and a video recording of the presentation to be submitted in Canvas. 2. An essay assignment requiring analysis of a crime and justice issue that includes at least two different perspectives. To be submitted in Canvas.
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Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Announcements/Bulletin Boards
- Chat Rooms
- Discussion Boards
- E-mail Communication
- Telephone Conversations
- Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Chat Rooms
- Discussions
- Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A mid-term exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions about content from assigned reading, 2. A final exam with multiple-choice, true-false, and short essay questions based on content from assigned reading and class lectures. 3. A final exam with short-essay questions about bias within the criminal justice system.
Quizzes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quiz with multiple-choice and true-false questions based on assigned reading. 2. A quiz with multiple-choice, true-false, and short essay questions about class lectures.
Essays/Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A term paper examining the pros and cons of a contemporary issue facing the criminal justice system. 2. A research paper analyzing a controversial issue of crime and justice that includes multiple perspectives.
Homework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapter 1 in the required textbook. 2. Go online and research crime data using the Department of Justice "Open Justice" interactive crime data base.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read chapter 1 of "Criminal Justice In Action."
2. Read an instructor provided article on current theories of criminology and the relationship with socio-economic status.

Writing Assignments

1. Write a paper about law enforcement's early history with slave patrols has shaped public views of law enforcement today.
2. Write a paper about the impact of bias in death penalty cases.
3. Prepare a paper describing how professional ethics are effective or not effective in preventing correctional officers from introducing contraband into secured facilities.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

1. Using a case study provided by the instructor, work with a group of students and assuming the role of a juvenile probation officer. Make a recommendation on how the case should be adjudicated.
2. Examine the role of the criminal justice system in addressing homelessness in a community. Identify strategies that work and those that have not.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Gaines and Miller

Title

Criminal Justice in Action

Edition/Version

11th

Publisher

Cengage

Year

2021

ISBN #

9780357630785

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

N/A

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000293313

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No

Faculty Author's Comments

Course updated based on review of Sacramento City College and DVC outlines, both of which meeting Social Science and Area 4 requirements for CSU and IGETC.