

POL 210
POLITICS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
MW 2:00-3:15

Instructor Information:

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If you have an emergency, questions, etc, the best way to contact me is through email.

Office Hours:

MW 3:30-4:30

Course Content: This course explores the structure and dynamics of the criminal justice system as a form of social control in the United States. We touch on four main areas: the criminal justice system itself as a form of social control, the law and public policy as a form of social control, law enforcement as social control, and the role of corrections in social control. Some of the themes we touch upon include due process, rights and liberties, and public order. We finish the semester with a look at the role of the criminal justice system in the war on terror.

Please read the remainder of this syllabus carefully; it can be viewed as a contract of sorts (although I retain the right to make changes if necessary – they will be kept to a minimum and will be discussed in class), laying out what you can expect of me as well as what I will expect of you. I look forward to working with you this semester. Welcome.

Required Textbook:

Joycelyn M. Pollock, *Crime and Justice in America*, 2nd edition.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester each student should be able to...

- **Describe and discuss the system of crime and punishment in the United States;**
- **Evaluate the criminal justice system as a form of social control;**
- **Explain and analyze concepts such as due process, rights and liberties;**
- **Explain the basic functions of the court system in the United States;**
- **Describe and discuss the U.S. system of corrections;**
- **Analyze the American system of crime and punishment in a global context.**

Attendance: I believe, in general, that attendance policies should not be necessary at the university-level. Unfortunately, experience has shown that many students will only attend class regularly if it directly affects their grade. Even though the course this semester is being delivered via Zoom, I will still take attendance. If you cannot make class on any particular day, the lecture will be recorded and uploaded into Canvas. You are to watch the recording and send me a brief paragraph – by email – describing the lecture. That will count as your attendance on that particular day. During the course, your discussion will be worth 50 points. Obviously, you cannot discuss if you do not attend. I will take attendance every day.

Academic Honesty

Please do not cheat – cheating does nothing but rob you of the chance for an education. As a college student, you are part of an academic community and are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful of that community, in part by being academically honest. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to “cheating on an examination,” “submitting a paper or assignment as one’s own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another,” and “submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas.”

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance is required. See the section above on attendance for a discussion of my policy.
2. Discussion is important. Don’t be afraid to speak up, ask questions, or challenge the information I give you. Education is not strictly a spectator sport -- you will find the class more interesting and informative if you participate. Because the course is being offered via Zoom, I will not be able to see you raising your hand or waving to participate. Just speak up and interrupt me... it will not be considered rude in these circumstances.
3. Be nice, be patient, be tolerant.
4. Exams and stuff like that –

- There will be three exams given in this class; two “midterm exams” and the final exam. Each midterm exam will be worth 120 points and the final will be worth 160 points.
- Regular class attendance and participation will be worth 50 points.
- Each student will be expected to write a short “research” paper addressing some aspect of the criminal justice system in the United States. The paper will be 3-4 pages in length and will be worth 50 points. The assignment will be discussed in more detail (and you will be given a handout in Canvas) during the first two weeks of the course.
- To review, the distribution of points will be as follows:

Attendance and participation	- 50 points
Exams	- 400 points
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>- 50 points</u>
Total	- 500 points

There will be no make-up exams or assignments except in the case of a bona fide (and verified) emergency! All make-up exams will consist of essay questions only.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93-100%

A- = 90-92 %

B+=87-89%

B = 83-86%

B-= 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 73-76%

C-= 70-72%

D+= 67-69%

D = 60-66%

F = 59% or below

Extra Credit: NO! Sorry, I simply do not believe in extra credit.

Course Schedule: Subject to change. I will try to keep changes to a minimum and will announce them in class. All readings are in Pollock.

Day	Date	Subject	Reading, Assignment, Etc.
Wed	9/2	Course Introduction	
Mon	9/7	NO CLASS Labor Day	
Wed	9/9	Social Control	Chapter 1
Mon	9/14	Social Control	
Wed	9/16	Crime and Society	Chapter 2
Mon	9/21	Crime and Society	
Wed	9/23	Why Crime?	Chapter 3
Mon	9/28	Why Crime?	
Wed	9/30	Police in America	Chapter 4
Mon	10/5	Police in America	
Wed	10/7	EXAM 1	
Mon	10/12	Policing and the Legal Process	Chapter 6
Wed	10/14	Policing and the Legal Process	
Mon	10/19	Law and Society	Chapter 7
Wed	10/21	Law and Society	
Mon	10/26	Courts	Chapter 8
Wed	10/28	Courts	
Mon	11/2	Due Process	Chapter 9
Wed	11/4	Due Process	
Mon	11/9	EXAM 2	
Wed	11/11	Corrections	Chapter 11
Mon	11/16	Corrections	
Wed	11/18	Probation	Chapter 12
Mon	11/23	Probation	
Wed	11/25	Prisons and Jails	Chapter 13 Research Paper is due by 10pm
Mon	11/30	Prisons and Jails	
Wed	12/2	Parole	Chapter 14
Mon	12/7	Terrorism	
Wed	12/9	Terrorism	Chapter 15

FINAL EXAM: Due on December 18, 3pm