

CRM 1829 – Introduction to Criminal Justice (3 credit hours)

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

Eastern Illinois University

Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Caitlin Lynch

Meeting Time: MWF 10:00-10:50AM

Meeting Location: Blair Hall 2103

Email: clynch2@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00,

TR 10:00-12:00PM, and by appointment

Office Location: Blair Hall 3131

Catalog Course Description: An analysis of the criminal justice system focusing primarily on the roles and functions of the police, courts, and correctional system.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the various ways in which individuals navigate through the criminal justice system and how the components of the criminal justice system are interrelated
2. Examine the different types of laws and how they function as mechanisms of social control
3. Analyze the history of policing, the roles and functions of the police, occupational challenges of police work, and the ways in which the police are bound by the rule of law
4. Examine the history of the court system, the roles and responsibilities of courtroom actors, pretrial stages, the criminal trial, and sentencing
5. Identify the various community and institutional correctional responses, the challenges associated with incarceration and reentry, and how the history of corrections in the U.S. shapes our current understanding of the era of mass incarceration
6. Analyze the creation of delinquency, how delinquency differs from adult crime, how youthful offenders navigate the juvenile justice system, and the various ways in which juveniles are waived to adult court

Required Readings: Rennison & Dodge. *Introduction to Criminal Justice* (3rd Edition).

Additional readings will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L) in the “supplemental readings” folder.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L): This course uses D2L for course management purposes. Students are expected to check D2L and PantherMail prior to each class meeting period for announcements and other course material.

Work Requirements:

Midterms (2x25 points each)
Final Exam (50 points)
Reflection Papers (4x25 points each)

Grading Scale:

A: 179-200 points
B: 159-178 points
C: 139-158 points
D: 119-138 points
F: < 119 points

Exams (100 Points):

All exams will be administered online via D2L in lieu of a class meeting period and will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Midterm Exam #1 will cover material from weeks 1-5, and Midterm Exam #2 will cover material from weeks 6-12. Students will have one hour to complete the exam once it has been opened.

While the final exam is not cumulative per se, many of the topics discussed throughout the semester will be relevant throughout the course and therefore be covered in the final, along with material discussed in week 13-15. Students will have two hours to complete the final once it has been opened. A review guide for all three exams is available in the "course resources" folder in D2L.

- Midterm Exam #1 (25 points): due online Friday, February 9 by 11:59PM
- Midterm Exam #2 (25 points): due online Friday, April 5 by 11:59PM
- Final Exam (50 points): due online Tuesday, April 30 by 11:59PM

Reflection Papers (100 Points):

Reflection papers are required to be 2-3 FULL pages each. Specific instructions for each paper can be found in the "Paper Prompts and Guidelines" page in the "course resources" folder in D2L, along with paper examples and an APA style guide.

- Criminal Defenses (25 points): due online Sunday, January 21 by 11:59PM
- Wrongful Convictions (25 points): due online Sunday, February 25 by 11:59PM
- 13th Reflection (25 points): due online Sunday, March 17 by 11:59PM
- Juvenile Court Cases (25 points): due online Friday, April 21 by 11:59PM

Late Policy: Exams and papers are due no later than 11:59PM on their assigned due date. While extenuating circumstances may grant a professor-approved extension without penalty, all other late assignments will be accepted for partial credit (80% of earned score) if submitted within 48 hours of the date. Late work submitted after 48 hours but within one week of the due date will be accepted for 50% of the earned score.

Attendance Policy: While attendance is not formally taken, students are expected to be in class and on-time in order to be successful on exams and writing assignments. If an absence is inevitable, students must obtain notes from a classmate or visit office hours to get caught up on missed material.

Course Overview and Expectations:

Module	Module-Level Learning Objectives and Student Expectations
Foundations of the Criminal Justice System Week 1: January 8-12	This module provides students with an overview of police, courts, and correctional systems in the United States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 1 (Rennison & Dodge)
Crime and the Law Week 2: January 17-19	This module provides students with an understanding of the basic principles and goals associated with the rule of law, along with the different types of law and criminal defenses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 3 (Rennison & Dodge) NO CLASS JAN. 15 (MLK DAY OBSERVED) Criminal Defense Reflection Paper (due Sunday, January 21)
Introduction to the Police Week 3: January 22-26	This module analyzes the history of the police, the different types of police organizations, and the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 4 (Rennison & Dodge)
Police and the Rule of Law Week 4: January 29-February 2	This module examines how police are bound by the rule of law, with special attention paid to the Fourth Amendment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 5 (Rennison & Dodge)
Occupational Challenges in Police Work Week 5: February 5-9	This module discusses some occupational health and safety, causes and consequences of police misconduct, and police accountability measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 6 (Rennison & Dodge) Midterm Exam #1: Friday, February 9 (online)
Introduction to the Courts Week 6: February 12-14	This module provides an overview of the dual court system in the United States, along with the roles and responsibilities of courtroom actors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 7 (Rennison & Dodge) NO CLASS FEB. 16 (LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVED)
The Criminal Trial Week 7: February 19-23	This module examines pretrial activities, the practice of plea bargaining, and the stages of the criminal trial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapters 8 and 9 (Rennison & Dodge) Wrongful Conviction Reflection Paper (due Sunday, February 25)
Sentencing and the Death Penalty Week 8: February 26-March 1	This module explores sentencing options, along with the history and controversy surrounding the implementation of the death penalty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read DPIC (2022) Year End Report
Introduction to Corrections Week 9: March 4-8	This module provides students with an overview of community-based and institutional correctional responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapters 10 and 11 (Rennison & Dodge)
Mass Incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex Week 10: March 11-15	This module examines the rise of mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex in the United States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie (2022) in D2L 13th Reflection Paper (due Sunday, March 17)
SPRING BREAK: March 18-22	
Challenges with Incarceration Week 11: March 25-29	This module discusses the challenges associated with incarceration, including solitary confinement, prison violence, mental illness while incarcerated, and death and aging behind bars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 12 (Rennison & Dodge)
Reentry and Recidivism Week 12: April 1-5	This module examines the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated people and how the collateral consequences of incarceration facilitate recidivism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Life after Prison article in D2L Midterm Exam #2: Friday, April 5 (online)

Understanding Delinquency Week 13: April 8-12	This module provides students with foundational knowledge of the causes, consequences, and prevention efforts of delinquency in society. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 13 (Rennison & Dodge)
The Juvenile Justice System Week 14: April 15-19	This module examines how juvenile justice system differs from the adult criminal justice system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Juvenile Life without Parole: An Overview in D2L • Juvenile Court Case Reflection Paper (due Sunday, April 21)
Juvenile Waivers to Adult Court Week 15: April 22-26	This module examines the ways in juveniles can be waived to adult court and relevant SCOTUS rulings pertaining to juveniles in the adult system.
Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30 (available online 6:00AM-11:59PM)	

Accommodations for Students with Accessibility Needs: Students with accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (217-581-6583) to discuss any necessary academic accommodations. Additional information about the various services available at EIU can be found here: <https://www.eiu.edu/disability/>.

Student Success Center: For students who experience difficulties achieving academic goals, EIU's Student Success Center offers a variety of services, including workshops, tutoring, time management strategies, study tips, and more. Additional information about the Student Success Center can be found here: <https://www.eiu.edu/success/index.php>.

Early Alert System: EIU's Early Alert System is designed to notify students of when they are falling below academic standards, including excessive absences, late or missing work, and poor performances on assignments and/or exams. This course utilizes the Early Alert System on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.

Student Well-Being: EIU is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our students. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal mental health and well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol or other drugs, identities, and finances.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. Below is a list of available campus resources to assist with student well-being:

- [EIU Counseling Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3413; for after-hours urgent support, call 1-866-567-2400. The Counseling Clinic offers individual and group counseling, emergency services, and resources.
- [Online Mental Health Screening](#): online, private screening tool for depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and alcohol and substance misuse.

- [EIU Health Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3013. The Health Clinic services include lab work, pharmacy, and women's health and men's health programs.
- [Health Education Resource Center](#) (HERC): 2201 Blair Hall; 217-581-7786. The HERC offers health programming in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and education, flu and cold prevention and education, nutritional analysis and education, and sexual health education, in addition to other health-related topics.
- [Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity](#) (GSD): Stevenson Hall, lower level; 217-581-7117. The GSD Center provides services such as the Trans*formation Station, a large library full of books and movies, year-round programming, and a comprehensive Safe Zone Training program.
- [EIU Campus Food Pantry](#): 1347 McAfee. The EIU Campus Food Pantry is a means to support students and the campus community by alleviating barriers to consistent, adequate, and healthful food. Anyone with a Panther Card can visit the pantry two times per month.
- [Student Legal Service](#): MLK Jr University Union Room 2420; 217-581-6054. Student Legal Service can assist with off-campus housing issues, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal offenses, municipal ordinance violations, and expungement.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#): Student Services Building East Wing; 217-581-6405, Fax: 217-581-6422, finaid@eiu.edu. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information and guidance to secure the necessary financial resources to meet educational goals and financial obligations to the university.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.