CRIM 1100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE (HONORS)
Fall 2009

M/Th 11:45am-1:25pm
Ell Hall & Blackmun Auditorium 310

Professor: Natasha A. Frost, Ph.D.
Office: 415 Churchill Hall
Email/Phone: n.frost@neu.edu / 617.373.4076
Office Hours: Mondays/Thursdays 10:30am – 11:30am

Teaching Assistant: Michael Rocque
Office: TBA
Email/Phone: rocque.mi@neu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment


COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a comprehensive survey of the administration and organization of criminal justice from arrest through final adjudication. The course will begin with an overview of the criminal justice system. The overview will be followed by in depth discussion of crime, victimization, and criminal justice policy. Students will be introduced to constitutional rights, the application of those rights to criminal justice, and their evolution, particularly over the course of the past century. The second half of the semester will be devoted to discussing each of the various components of the criminal justice system (police, prosecution, courts, and corrections), the effects of each component on the next (system effects), and the role of discretion in each.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to help you achieve the following specific objectives:

- To develop substantive knowledge regarding the different parts of the criminal justice system, their functions, history, and interrelationships with one another.
- To develop an understanding of the criminal justice process, the role of various types of discretion in that process, and the nature of disparities throughout that process.
- To encourage understanding around the complexities of crime and of criminal justice administration and to teach students to be wary of simple solutions to complex problems.
- To appreciate that justice is an ideal and that there are challenges to achieving justice.
- To develop analytical skills for assessing information about the criminal justice system.
- To encourage students to critically evaluate existing and proposed policies with particular attention to empirical evidence.
- To teach students to recognize that there are both intended outcomes and unintended consequences associated with criminal justice policies and practices.
ASSIGNMENTS

First Assignment: It is important that I learn who my students are; therefore, your first assignment is to create a homepage on Blackboard. Upload a digital picture and tell me and your classmates about yourself (your major, class, interests, etc...). Failure to complete the first assignment by Wednesday September 17th, will result in a lowering of your participation score.

Reaction Essays: Students must submit ONE 2-3 page reaction essay over the course of the semester. The reaction essays, which are based on documentaries shown in class, are described in detail on the reaction essay guidelines sheet. Due dates are noted on the class schedule (reaction essays will be marked down two points for each class day that they are late).

Examinations: There are three examinations that will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Examinations will cover both material discussed in class and material in the required reading. Chapters covered on the exam are clearly indicated on the class schedule. Exams will be given on the days noted on the class schedule without exception.

Research Paper: Students are required to submit a 6-8 page research paper on a topic of their choice (selected in consultation with the professor). The paper, which must be in APA format, should be 6-8 double spaced pages with 1 inch margins and a 10-12 point font. You must use a minimum of six sources in your paper, at least four of which must be journal articles. Topics, outlines, and papers are due as noted on the class schedule. Papers are graded for both form and substance and will be marked down 5 points for each class day that they are late.

Extra Credit: Students will earn one point (towards each examination grade) for summarizing a current newspaper article relevant to the class. The article should be no more than two weeks old and should be reasonably related to the topic to be covered in class that week (see the boldface weekly topics on the class schedule). Extra credit article summaries are due at the beginning of class each Monday. The article must be attached to the typed summary. You must be in class and on-time to earn extra-credit. Extra credit summaries cannot be emailed. Extra credit points will accumulate until each examination and will be added to the examination score. There will be no other extra-credit opportunities.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance requires that you arrive to class on time and remain in the class for the entire class session. Participation requires that you actively participate in class discussions. Attendance is graded out of 5 points, with all unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your attendance score. 1 point is deducted for each unexcused absence and ½ point is deducted for every unexcused late arrival or early exit. Absences will be excused provided the student submits legitimate written documentation for the absence. Only those who regularly contribute constructively to the course will receive the full 5 points for participation. Inappropriate or disruptive classroom behavior will result in the loss of participation points.

CRIM 1100: Introduction to Criminal Justice
– Page 2 –
**EXPECTATIONS**

In order to provide for a rich learning experience for all involved, it is imperative that all students arrive at class having completed all of the reading for that week. Lectures will be used to clarify and elaborate on the course material and to elicit critical discussion. Attendance, preparedness, and participation will account for a portion of your grade. Participation requires that you attend class prepared for each lecture (having read the material), engage in class discussions, and arrive on time/remain in the classroom for the entire class session. All students can expect to be treated with respect and must show respect to and for each other. Students are required to regularly check the class blackboard page. I reserve the right to make changes or additions to the schedule as necessary. Days for examinations will not change.

**GRADING**

Grades are assigned using objective criteria and are non-negotiable. Your running course average will be available on blackboard from the beginning of the semester. Your grade reflects points that you have earned over the course of the semester – please do not approach me at the end of the semester asking for an extra credit opportunity or reconsideration of assigned grades. *Incompletes will not be given except in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Final grades are NOT rounded.* If you score 89.87, your grade is a B+ (see grading scale below). Assignment of the final grade will be based on:

20%: Examination #1 (100 points)
20%: Examination #2 (100 points)
20%: Examination #3 (100 points)
20%: Paper (100 points)
10%: Reaction Essay (20 points)
10%: Attendance and Participation (10 points total: 5 for attendance & 5 for participation)

**GRADING SCALE FOR ASSIGNMENT OF FINAL GRADES**

*Final grades are NOT rounded.* If your class average is 89.87, your final grade in the course is a B+ (see grading scale below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 - 89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 - 86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 - 79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 - 76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 - 69.99</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 - 66.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 62.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC HONESTY & INTEGRITY

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected in this course. As such, all students should remind themselves of Northeastern University's Academic Honesty and Integrity policy, which can be found in the Student Handbook. Any instances of cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or other academic dishonesty, will be dealt with in accordance with Northeastern University's official policies (also described in the Student Handbook).

OTHER CLASS POLICIES

Except in exceptional circumstances, exams must be taken as scheduled. If you have a conflict or if you must miss an exam due to a medical or other emergency, please try to let me know ahead of time (email me, or call and leave a message). If you simply miss an exam, you will receive a zero. Exams will only be rescheduled for those who have a valid medical note or who have consulted with me prior to the exam. *Make-up exams may be different from the original exam.*

The use of portable electronic devices of any kind – including computers - is not permitted at any time during the class. Please turn off all computers, cell phones, pagers, pdas, mp3 players etc. prior to the beginning of class. If you need to use a recording device or computer in class and have a legitimate reason for needing to do so, please consult with me prior to using the device.

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me during my office hours. I would like to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in this course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is important that you register with the Disability Resource Center (617-373-2675; www.drc.neu.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.
### Week of 9/7/2009
**Introductions**

Thursday 9/10: Introductions, Expectations, Syllabus, and Course Requirements

**Reading for next week:** Cole and Smith, Chapter 3: The Criminal Justice System

### Week of 9/14/2009
**The Criminal Justice System**

Monday 9/14: The Criminal Justice System
Thursday 9/17: *Murder on a Sunday Morning*  
(Library Call #: PN1995.9.D6 M873 200r 1: Crime & Justice in America)

**Reading for next week:** Chapter 1: Crime & Justice in America

### Week of 9/21/2009
**Crime and Justice in America**

Monday 9/21: The Criminal Justice System (REACTION ESSAY DUE)  
Thursday 9/24: Crime and Justice in America (PAPER TOPICS DUE)

**Reading for next week:** Chapter 2: Victimization & Criminal Behavior (pp.42-60 only)  
Chapter 4: Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law (pp. 114 – 123)

### Week of 9/28/2009
**Victimization / Foundations of Criminal Law**

Monday 9/28: Victimization  
Thursday 10/1: Foundations of Criminal Law

**Reading for next week:** Chapter 4: Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law (pp. 124-153)
Week of 10/5/2009
Substantive & Procedural Criminal Law

Monday 10/5: Substantive Criminal Law
The Insanity Defense

Thursday 10/8: Substantive & Procedural Criminal Law (REACTION ESSAY DUE)

Reading for next week: No New Reading – Study for Exam 1 (Chapter 1, 2, 3, & 4)

Week of 10/12/2009
EXAMINATION #1

Monday 10/12: NO CLASSES – COLUMBUS DAY

Thursday 10/15: EXAMINATION #1 (Cole & Smith, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Reading for next week: Chapter 8: Police & Constitutional Law

Week of 10/19/2009
Police & Constitutional Law

Monday 10/19: Police & Constitutional Law

Thursday 10/22: Police & Constitutional Law / Policing (PAPER OUTLINES DUE)

Reading for next week: Chapter 5: Police
Chapter 7: 21st Century Policing (pp. 242-257)

Week of 10/26/2009
Courts & Pretrial Processes

Monday 10/26: Policing, Contemporary Issues

Thursday 10/29: Courts & Pretrial Processes

Reading for next week: Chapter 9: Courts & Pretrial Processes
Chapter 10: Prosecution & Defense
Week of 11/2/2009
Determination of Guilt

Monday 11/2: Prosecution & Defense
Thursday 11/5: The Plea
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/plea/view/

Reading for next week: Chapter 11: Determination of Guilt

Week of 11/9/2009
Punishment & Sentencing

Monday 11/9: Determination of Guilt (REACTION ESSAY DUE)
Thursday 11/12: EXAMINATION #2 (Cole & Smith, Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11)

Reading for next week: Chapter 12: Punishment & Sentencing

Week of 11/16/2009
Punishment & Sentencing

Monday 11/16: Punishment & Sentencing
Thursday 11/19: Punishment & Sentencing (PAPERS DUE)

Reading for next week: Chapter 13: Corrections
Chapter 15: Incarceration & Prison Society

Week of 11/23/2009
The Prison Society

Monday 11/23: The New Asylums
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/asylums/view/
Thursday 11/26: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Reading for next week: No New Readings – HAPPY THANKSGIVING
### Week of 11/30/2009

**Corrections**

Monday 11/30: Corrections *(REACTION ESSAY DUE)*
Thursday 12/3: Incarceration & the Prison Society

**Reading for next week:** Cole & Smith, Chapter 16: Reentry to the Community

### Week of 12/7/2009

**Reentry into the Community**

Monday 12/7: Release from Incarceration & Prisoner Reentry
Wednesday 12/9: LAST DAY OF UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

**EXAMINATION #3**
(to be held during Final Examination Period)
Cole & Smith Chapters 12, 13, 15, & 16