CRIM 1100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Fall 2014

Mon., Wed., & Thurs. 9:15am–10:20am
Snell Library, Room 033

Professor: Janice A. Iwama, M.S.  Office: 401A Churchill Hall
Email: j.iwama@neu.edu  Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:30am-12:30pm
Phone: 617.373.8849  And by appointment


COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers students an introduction to the criminal justice system. The first part of the semester will include an overview of the criminal justice system, including an 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 part 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, and the role of discretion in each.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- To develop a comprehensive understanding on the different parts of the criminal justice system, their functions, history, and interrelationships with one another.
- To gain 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 recognize the complexities of the different types of crime and of criminal justice administration and policies.
- To critically evaluate existing and proposed policies with particular attention to empirical evidence and the nature of evidence-based policies.
- To recognize the intended outcomes and unintended consequences associated with criminal justice policies and practices.

EXPECTATIONS

In order to provide for a rich learning experience, it is essential that all students arrive to 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. 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.
**Assignments**

**Reading Quizzes:** Students are required to complete each quiz by themselves on Blackboard each week. The quiz will test the student’s knowledge on the required reading material for that week. The quizzes must be completed no later than **Monday at 9 am** that week as indicated on the schedule. You will no longer be able to access the quiz after its due date for completion. Once you start a quiz, you have ten minutes to complete it. You cannot restart a quiz at a later date.

There are a total of 11 quizzes in the semester, but the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Therefore, the final grade will be based on the score for 10 quizzes.

**Examinations:** There will be 3 exams over the semester that will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Exams 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. **Important:** Exams will take place on the days noted on the class schedule without exception.

**Extra Credit:** Students will earn 2 points (towards each examination grade) for writing a reaction essay on one of the films shown in class. The reaction essay must be submitted no later than one week after the film is shown and should link to the topic covered in class that week. Extra credit reaction essays are due at the beginning of class the following week. **You must be in class and on time to earn extra-credit.** Extra credit summaries cannot be emailed. Extra credit points 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. Attendance is graded out of 10 points; all unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your attendance score. One 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.

**Participation** requires that you attend class prepared for each lecture (having read ALL the material), engage in class discussions, and arrive on time/remain in the classroom for the entire class session. Only those who **regularly contribute** constructively to the course will receive the full 10 points for participation. Be prepared to be called on at random and share your opinion or explain a concept in class. Inappropriate or disruptive classroom behavior will result in the loss of participation points.

**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).
Final grades are assigned at the end of the semester 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.

Assignment of the final grade will be based on:

- 20%: Exam #1 (100 points)
- 20%: Exam #2 (100 points)
- 20%: Exam #3 (100 points)
- 20%: Quizzes (10 points x 10 quizzes = 100 points TOTAL)
- 20%: Attendance and Participation (10 for attendance + 10 for participation = 20 pts TOTAL)

**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).

- 93 - 100 = A
- 90 - 92.99 = A-
- 87 - 89.99 = B+
- 83 - 86.99 = B
- 80 - 82.99 = B-
- 77 - 79.99 = C+
- 73 - 76.99 = C
- 70 - 72.99 = C-
- 67 - 69.99 = D+
- 63 - 66.99 = D
- 60 - 62.99 = D-
- Below 60 = F

**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 electronic devices – except for laptops specifically used for note-taking- is not permitted at any time during the class. Please turn off all cell phones, iPods, etc. prior to the beginning of class. It is distracting to you and to other students.

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me during my office hours. 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 1: Introductions

Wednesday 9/3: Introductions and Syllabus Overview
Thursday 9/4: What is the point of a criminal justice system?

Reading for next week: Chapter 1: Crime & Justice in America
Quiz #1: Complete before class on Monday, September 8th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 1)

Week 2: Crime and Justice in America

Monday 9/8: Crime & Justice in America
Wednesday 9/10: Crime & Justice in America
Thursday 9/11: Crime Classifications and Data Collection

Reading for next week: Chapter 2: Victimization and Criminal Behavior
Chapter 3: The Criminal Justice System
Quiz #2: Complete before class on Monday, September 15th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 2 & 3)

Week 3: Victimization and the Criminal Justice System

Monday 9/15: Theoretical Explanations on Crime
Wednesday 9/17: Theory & Policy Implications
Thursday 9/18: The Criminal Justice System

Reading for next week: Chapter 4: Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law
Quiz #3: Complete before class on Monday, September 22nd (Cole & Smith: Chapter 4)

Week 4: Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law

Monday 9/22: Foundations of Criminal Law
Wednesday 9/24: Substantive Criminal Law
Thursday 9/25: Procedural Criminal Law

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

Week 5: Policing

Monday 9/29: EXAMINATION #1 – Cole & Smith: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4
Wednesday 10/1: Film - TBD
Thursday 10/2: Policing – Guest Speaker

Reading for next week: Chapter 5: Police
Chapter 7: Contemporary Issues and Challenges
Quiz #4: Complete before class on Monday, October 6th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 5 & 7)
## Week 6: Policing: Contemporary Issues and Challenges

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10/6</td>
<td>Policing: Organization &amp; Challenges</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10/8</td>
<td>Policing: Technology</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/9</td>
<td>Policing: Racial Profiling</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Chapter 8: Police & Constitutional Law  
**Quiz #5:** Complete before class on Wednesday, October 15th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 8)

## Week 7: Policing & Constitutional Law

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10/13</td>
<td>NO CLASSES – COLUMBUS DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/15</td>
<td>Police &amp; Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/16</td>
<td>Police &amp; Constitutional Law</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Chapter 9: Courts & Pretrial Processes  
Chapter 10: Prosecution & Defense  
**Quiz #6:** Complete before class on Monday, October 20th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 9 & 10)

## Week 8: Courts, Prosecution & Defense

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<tr>
<td>Monday 10/20</td>
<td>Courts</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10/22</td>
<td>Pretrial Processes</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/23</td>
<td>Prosecution &amp; Defense</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Chapter 11: Determination of Guilt  
**Quiz #7:** Complete before class on Monday, October 27th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 11)

## Week 9: Determination of Guilt

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10/27</td>
<td>Determination of Guilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/29</td>
<td>Courts: Decision-Making</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/30</td>
<td>Plea Bargaining &amp; Trial Process</td>
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**For next week: No Reading & No Quiz** – Study for Exam (Cole & Smith, Ch. 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11)

## Week 10: Corrections

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/3</td>
<td>EXAMINATION #2 – Cole &amp; Smith, Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, &amp; 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/5</td>
<td>Film - TBD</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/6</td>
<td>Corrections – Guest Speaker</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Chapter 12: Punishment & Sentencing  
**Quiz #8:** Complete before class on Wednesday, November 12th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 12)
### Week 11: Punishment & Sentencing

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/10</td>
<td>Punishment &amp; Sentencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/12</td>
<td>Punishment &amp; Sentencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/13</td>
<td>Sentencing Guidelines</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Chapter 13: Corrections  
**Quiz #9:** Complete before class on Monday, November 18th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 13)

### Week 12: Corrections: Past & Present

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/17</td>
<td>Corrections: Past &amp; Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/19</td>
<td>Community Corrections</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/20</td>
<td>NO CLASS – ASC Annual Meeting</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Ch. 15: Incarceration & Prison Society  
**Quiz #10:** Complete before class on Monday, November 24th (Cole & Smith: Chapter 15)

### Week 13: Incarceration & the Prison Society

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11/24</td>
<td>Film - TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/26</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/27</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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**Reading for next week:** Ch. 16: Reentry into the Community  
**Quiz #11:** Complete before class on Monday, December 1st (Cole & Smith: Chapter 16)

### Week 14: Reentry into the Community

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12/1</td>
<td>Prison Populations</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12/3</td>
<td>Prisoner Reentry: 21st Century</td>
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**Finals Week:** EXAMINATION #3 – Cole & Smith Chapters 12, 13, 15, & 16