Introduction to Criminal Justice  
CRIM1100-32670  
Forsyth Building 129  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:00-9:05 AM

Instructor: Sema A. Taheri  
Office: Churchill Hall 407  
Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30-11:00 AM  
Office: 617.373.7457  
Email: s.taheri@neu.edu

Course Description:  
This course provides an introduction to the criminal justice (CJ) system in the United States. The class pays particular attention to the key characteristics and key actors (police, judges, prosecutors, etc.) of each component of the system, with emphasis on the role that research evidence may play. We will cover the phases of the CJ process beginning with the detection of crimes by the police, the handling of the cases through the courts, and the disposition and sentencing of offenders. This course also introduces students to the prison system, and the potential alternatives to its use.

Learning Objectives:  
- To teach students about the basic elements of the CJ system, including police organization and processes, court organization and sentencing, and corrections.  
- To provide students with an understanding of the complex nature of information sharing across CJ agencies.  
- To familiarize students with the current developments in CJ policies and processes.  
- To help students apply criminal justice theory and research on what works to addressing real-life crime and CJ system problems.  
- To further develop students’ sense of responsibility as citizens and future figures in the CJ system.

Required Text:  
Students are expected to read the required works prior to class. There is one book and a few journal articles. Supplemental readings will be posted to Blackboard. All of the articles are available through the library’s e-journals service, unless otherwise noted. It is your responsibility to keep up with these readings.


Grading Criteria:  
Students are expected to think critically and comparatively, and to link concepts covered in the course to current events. Course activities will include class lecture, student participation, reading quizzes, and the use of news articles and video for the visualization of the criminal justice system at work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News articles</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day assigned. Late assignments are not accepted more than one week after the due date, and will be subject to a deduction of 1 point per day late. Reading quizzes will cover material from the readings assigned for that week’s class. Students will complete two News Article Summary assignments. Expectations for these assignments will be posted to Blackboard and discussed at the end of class on Thursday, January 14th. The midterm and final exams will be composed of multiple choice questions and a few short answer questions. The final exam will not be cumulative.

There will be NO MAKE-UPS for reading quizzes. In the event of extraordinary hardship, you must notify the professor BEFORE the assignment/exam and document it in writing as soon as possible afterwards. If a serious problem is not foreseeable and you miss the midterm or final exam, possible alternative arrangements may be made.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Although attendance is not mandatory, lectures may include material from more sources than the assigned texts, and the exams will be based on both readings and class lecture. Also, please remember that your active participation and effort in class will be taken into account (10%). It is difficult to participate if you are not in class.

**Grading Scale:**

Grades are assigned using an objective criterion and are non-negotiable. Your running course average will be available on Blackboard from the beginning of the semester. Final grades are NOT rounded. If your final score is an 89.97%, your final grade will be a B+.

<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>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Course Policies:**

Participation in the course 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 should expect to be treated with respect and must show respect to and for each other.

No eating is allowed in class. You may, however, bring a drink. Please make sure all cellular phones and other non-essential electronic devices are switched off during class time. Laptop computers are allowed for note-taking purposes, but anyone using a laptop is asked to sit in the back of class to avoid distracting the other students. Should the use of computers become disruptive to the class, this privilege will be revoked.

**Academic Integrity:**

Do not cheat; do not plagiarize. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in a failing grade for the assignment or test, and may result in a failing grade for the course. For detailed explanations on what constitutes academic cheating and plagiarism and how such cases are handled by Northeastern University, see the Student Handbook (pp. 69-71 or [http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/pdfs/UndergradHandbook.pdf](http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/pdfs/UndergradHandbook.pdf)).

**Accommodations:**

Students in need of special accommodations should register with the Student Disability Resource Center (20 Dodge Hall, 617-373-2675, [www.northeastern.edu/drc](http://www.northeastern.edu/drc)) and provide appropriate documentation. Please be sure to discuss accommodations with me during the first week of class.
Course Schedule and Readings:

The following is a tentative schedule, and the professor reserves the right to make changes as necessary. Due dates and Reading quizzes are indicated. Readings are to be completed prior to class. Changes to the course schedule will be announced in advance in class, on Blackboard, and through email. It is your responsibility to be aware of any such changes.

Jan. 11: Class Introduction, Outline of Course and Topics, What is Criminal Justice

Jan. 13 & 14: Overview of the CJ System, Crime Patterns and Classifications

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 3 (pp. 86 – 108) and Chapter 4 (pp. 128-145).

Jan. 18th: NO CLASS – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Jan. 20 & 21: Defining and Measuring Crime, Role of Research/Evaluation

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 1 (pp. 18 – 43).


Jan. 25 - 28: Police – Purposes and Organizations

DUE 1/28: News article summary, Crime Mapping or Crime rates

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 5 (pp. 173 – 202) and Chapter 6 (pp. 218 – 232).


Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 5 (pp. 208 – 215) and Chapter 6 (pp. 233 - 257).


Feb. 8 – 11: Police – Challenges, Accountability

DUE 2/11: News article summary, Police discretion/accountability

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 6 (pp. 247-259) and Chapter 7 (pp. 295 – 307).


Feb. 15: NO CLASS – PRESIDENT’S DAY

Feb. 17: Midterm Exam

Feb. 18: Courts – Functions, Jurisdiction

DUE 2/18: News article summary, Court processing

Feb. 22 - 25:  Courts - Key Processes, Characters, Working Groups [QUIZ]


Feb. 29-Mar. 4: Courts – Process, Sentencing
DUE 3/4:  News article summary, Sentencing

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 11 (pp. 432 – 458) and Chapter 12 (pp. 489 – 501).

Supplemental readings - Sentencing (Research article TBD)

Mar 7 – 10:  NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Mar 14 - 17: Corrections – Purposes and Structures [QUIZ]

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 12 (pp. 462 – 488) and Chapter 13 (pp. 505 – 529).

Mar. 21 - 24: Corrections – Probation and Community Corrections
DUE 3/24:  News article summary, Alternatives to incarceration


Mar. 28 – 31: Corrections – Prison and Jails [QUIZ]

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 13 (pp. 529 – 545) and Chapter 15 (pp. 592-599, 603-611, 624-638).

Apr. 4 - 7: Corrections – Parole, Re-entry, Effects
DUE 4/7:  News article summary, Prison programming or Re-entry

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 16 (pp. 642 – 673).


Apr. 11 - 14: Role of Victims, Future of CJ organizations [QUIZ]
DUE 4/14:  News article summary, Victims

Cole et al. (2015). Chapter 2 (pp. 49 – 65) and Chapter 13 (pp. 545 – 555).


Apr. 18:  NO CLASS – PATRIOT’S DAY

Apr. 20: Course wrap-up

TBD: Final Exam