

CRJS 1500 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 41947,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Tammy A. King, Ph.D.

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Public Instructor Information

QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D., Criminology

- Bachelor's and Master's, Criminal Justice
- 20+ years experience in the field of Corrections (Corrections Officer, Supervisor, ACA Compliance Officer, etc...)
- Former Criminal Justice Department Chairperson, Associate Dean, and Interim Dean
- Various Advisory Boards in the field of Corrections at local/state/federal levels

Course Description

1500. Introduction to Criminal Justice. Overview of the American criminal justice process with emphasis on its constituent foundations, its constitutional limits, and the rights of the individual from arrest through sentencing and release. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required			

Criminal Justice: An Introduction, Schmallegger, Frank. (2024). 14t Edition. New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc. ISBN 9780138105358

Course Materials are available in Blackboard:

- Select this course
- Find Books & Tools on the left side of the screen
- Click - View course and institutional tools
- Click - Course Materials
- You will see your textbook (you may Opt In for \$55.12); please decide if this option works best for you

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1 - What is Criminal Justice?		
8/31	Chapter 2 - The Crime Picture	Group Assignments provided - Groups meet with Teaching Assistant	
9/7	Chapter 3 - Criminal Law No Class - Monday, September 7, Labor Day		
9/14	Chapter 4 - Policing: Agencies and Structure Introduction to Chapter 5 - Policing: Purpose and Organization		
9/21	Chapter 5 - Policing: Purpose and Organization	September 21 - Groups Meet with Teaching Assistant last 30 minutes of class Exam I - Wednesday, September 23 (Chapters 1 - 5)	Exam I - possible 150 points
9/28	Chapter 6 - Policing: Legal Aspects		



10/5	Chapter 7 - Policing: Issues and Challenges		
10/12	Chapter 8 - The Courts: Structure and Participants	October 14 - Groups meet with Teaching Assistant last 30 minutes of class	
10/19	Chapter 9 - Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial Introduction to Chapter 10 - Sentencing		
10/26	Chapter 10 - Sentencing	Exam II - Wednesday, October 28 (Chapters 6 - 10)	Exam II - possible 150 points
11/2	Chapter 11 - Probation, Parole, and Reentry	November 4 - Groups meet with Teaching Assistant last 30 minutes of class	
11/9	Chapter 12 - Prisons and Jails No Class - Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day		
11/16	Chapter 13 - Prison Life Introduction to Chapter 14 - Justice-Involved Youth		
11/23	Chapter 14 - Justice-Involved Youth No Class - Wednesday, November 25, University Open	November 23 - Groups meet with Teaching Assistant last 30 minutes of class	
11/30		Presentations - Current Events, Groups Projects	Current Events, Group Projects possible 150 points
12/7		Exam III - Monday, December 7, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm (Chapters 11 - 14)	Exam III - possible 150 points

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.