

CRJS 1500 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 42042,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Irene Denney

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Youngstown State University ('23)

- Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security

Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Criminal Justice, Youngstown State University ('21)

-Certificate in Forensic Science

Instructor Office Location: N/A

Instructor Office Phone: N/A

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. 14th Edition. 2024.	Schmallegger, Frank	978-0-13-810535-8

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

Day	Date	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25	Intro to the Course	
Thu	8/27	Chapter 1: "Crime and Justice in America"	
Tue	9/1	Chapter 1: "Crime and Justice in America"	
Thu	9/3	Chapter 2: "Victimization and Criminal Behavior"	
Tue	9/8	Chapter 2: "Victimization and Criminal Behavior"	Homework 1 due on Blackboard by 11:59 PM
Thu	9/10	Chapter 3: "The Criminal Justice System"	
Tue	9/15	Chapter 3: "The Criminal Justice System"	
Thu	9/17	Chapter 4: "Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law"	
Tue	9/22	Chapter 4: "Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law"	
Thu	9/24	Review for Exam #1	



Tue	9/29	Exam 1	
Thu	10/1	Chapter 5: Police	
Tue	10/6	Chapter 5: Police	
Thu	10/8	Chapter 6: "Police Officers and Law Enforcement Operations"	
Tue	10/13	Chapter 7: "Policing: Contemporary Issues and Challenges"	Homework 2 due on Blackboard by 11:59 PM
Thu	10/15	Chapter 8: "Police and Constitutional Law"	
Tue	10/20	Chapter 8: "Police and Constitutional Law"	
Thu	10/22	Review for Exam 2	
Tue	10/27	Exam 2	
Thu	10/29	Chapter 9: "Courts and Pretrial Processes"	
Tue	11/3	Chapter 10: "Prosecution and Defense"	
Thu	11/5	Chapter 11: "Determination of Guilt: Plea Bargaining and Trials"	
Tue	11/10	Chapter 11: "Determination of Guilt: Plea Bargaining and Trials"	
Thu	11/12	Chapter 12: "Punishment and Sentencing"	Homework 3 due on Blackboard by 11:59 PM
Tue	11/17	Chapter 13: "Corrections"	
Thu	11/19	Chapter 13: "Corrections"	
Tue	11/24	Chapter 15: "Incarceration and Prison Society"	
Thu	11/26		
Tue	12/1	Chapter 16: "Reentry into the Community"	
Thu	12/3	Review for Final Exam/Exam #3	
Tue	12/8		
Thu	12/10	Exam 3 (1:00 to 3:00 PM)	

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.