

CRJS 1500 - Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 41948,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Latricia Kyle

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Latricia Kyle

Instructor Professional Qualifications: PhD, Public Policy & Administration, Specialization in Criminal Justice, Walden University; Master's in Criminal Justice, University of Phoenix, Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, University of Louisiana at Monroe; Associate in Criminal Justice, Northeast Louisiana University

Instructor Office Location: Virtual

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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)	Frank Schmalleger	9780138105358

Read Chapter 1: What is Criminal Justice?

Read Chapter 2: The Crime Picture

Read Chapter 3: Criminal Law

Read Chapter 4: Policing: Agencies and Structure

Read Chapter 5: Policies: Purpose and Organization

Read Chapter 6: Policing: Legal Aspects

Read Chapter 7: Policing: Issues and Challenges

Read Chapter 8: The Courts: Structure and Participants

Read Chapter 9: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial

Read Chapter 10: Sentencing

Read Chapter 11: Probation, Parole, and Reentry

Read Chapter 12: Prisons and Jails

Read Chapter 13: Prison Life

Read Chapter 14: Justice-Involved Youth

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	Read Chapter 1: What Is Criminal Justice? Read Chapter 2: The Crime Picture	The Role of the Criminal Justice System in Maintaining Social Order	Chapter 2 Discussion Initial response due by Thursday and 2 responses to peers by Saturday. DQ closes on 08/31/2026 Quiz 1 due 08/31/2026 Quiz 2 due 08/31/2026
8/31	Read Chapter 3: Criminal Law Read Chapter 4: Policing: Agencies and Structure	The Difference Between Felonies and Misdemeanors and Why It Matters	Chapter 3 Discussion: Initial response due by Thursday and 2 responses to peers by Saturday. Do not submit a file to the discussion forum closes on 09/06/2026 Quiz 3 due 09/06/2026 Quiz 4 due 09/06/2026
9/7	Read Chapter 5: Policing: Purpose and Organization Read Chapter 6: Policing: Legal Aspects	Police Authority, Citizen Rights, and Legal Limitations	Chapter 6 Discussion: Initial response due by Thursday and 2 responses to peers by Saturday. Do not submit a file to the discussion forum closes on 09/14/2026 Quiz 5 due 09/14/2026 Quiz 6 due 09/14/2026
9/14	Read Chapter 7: Policing: Issues and Challenges Read Chapter 8: The Courts: Structure and Participants	Contemporary Challenges in Policing and Community Trust	Quiz 7 due 09/21/2026 Quiz 8 due 09/21/2026 Midterm: 09/21/2026
9/21	Read Chapter 9: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial Read Chapter 10: Sentencing	The Criminal Process from Arrest to Verdict	Week 5: Chapter 9 Assignment – 40 points Closes on 09/28/2026 Quiz 9 due 09/28/2026 Quiz 10 due 09/28/2026
9/28	Read Chapter 11: Probation, Parole, and Reentry Read Chapter 12: Prisons and Jails	Purposes and Operations of Correctional Institutions	Chapter 12 discussion Initial response due by Thursday and 2 responses to peers by Saturday. Do not submit a file to the discussion forum Closes on 10/05/2026 Quiz 11 due 10/05/2026 Quiz 12 due 10/05/2026
10/5	Read Chapter 13: Prison Life Read Chapter 14: Justice-Involved Youth	Impact of Institutional Life on Inmate Behavior and Rehabilitation	Quiz 13 due 10/11/2026 Quiz 14 due 10/11/2026 Final Exam 10/11/2026

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.