

**CCJ 3023: Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**The University of North Florida**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice**

**Professor:** Daniel Pontzer, PhD    **Office:** Building 51 Room 2124    **Phone:** (904) 620-2820

**Email:** [d.pontzer@unf.edu](mailto:d.pontzer@unf.edu)    **When:** 12:00 pm-01:15 pm    **Where:** 39-J. Brooks Brown Hall 1026

**Office Hours:** 12:00 to 1:15 and 4:15 to 5:00 on Monday and Wednesday. Other times may be available upon advanced notification. The best way to contact me is via email.

**Required Texts:** Bohm, Robert and Haley, Keith (2008) Introduction to Criminal Justice 5<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw Hill; ISBN 978-0-07-337993-7

**Catalog Description of Course:** This course explores the historical, philosophical, legal and contemporary operation of the American criminal justice system. Particular emphasis is placed on research examining the primary institutions and actors of the criminal justice system in policing, courts, and corrections. The course also explores crime measurements, a profile of crime rates and victims, and an examination of offender and inmate populations.

**Course objectives are to develop your understanding of:**

- The structure and role of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and how it's different components relate to each other
- What a crime is, and the different types of crime
- The role that victims play
- The interdisciplinary nature of CJS
- Substantive and Procedural law
- The history and practice of policing
- The structure and workings of the court system
- The process from arrest to punishment to rehabilitation
- The organization and workings of the correctional system
- The organization and workings of the juvenile justice system

**Grading Scale:**

3 exams @ 50 pts each	150pts	90% or above = A
Crime News Journal	80pts	89-80%= B
Careers in Criminal Justice Essay	25pts	79 to 70%= C
Careers in Criminal Justice Presentation	10 pts	69 to 60% = D
Attendance/Participation	50pts	59% or below = F
Pop Quizzes	?	

\*This grading scale does not include additional assignments that may be included in this course

**Exams: (3 @ 50 pts each for total of 150 pts).** Three examinations will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will be given approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way through the semester, the second exam will be given 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the way through the semester, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be given during final week. Exams may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Exams will be based on the lectures, text, class discussions, and possibly guest speakers. There will be no make-ups without prior approval or an excused absence from the college. Make sure to bring a Scantron with you on exam day.

**Weekly Crime News (10 weeks @ 8pts each for 80 pts):** Locate and collect **two** news stories per week about some crime or criminal justice issue that interests you. These articles may come from the local, regional, national newspaper, or international newspaper; an online source such as MSN news, AOL news, Yahoo news; or a news magazine like Time or Newsweek. In reaction to **one** of your weekly news articles, type a personal reaction that is ½ of a page long. Bind your news articles and reactions into a journal. The reaction should be located right under or next to the news article you are writing about. You may be creative in how you format your journal, as long as it is neat, clear, and professional. This is intended to be an ongoing project that is to be done each week. **Include the source and the date of each article.** Do not do all ten entries the night before this assignment is due. Make sure to bring your journal to class with you. You will be asked at the beginning of class to share what you found in the news with the rest of the class; and may be asked to turn in your journal for progress assessment and grading.

**Careers in Criminal Justice exercise (1 essay for 25 pts and presentation 10 pts):** Pick a career in criminal justice that interests you and/or that you would possibly like to pursue. Write an essay describing:

- Why this career interests you?
- What responsibilities and duties are involved?
- What qualifications are required to obtain such a career?
- What types of experiences are valued for people pursuing that career?
- Projected job market, salary range, and benefits?
- How promotions are evaluated and obtained?
- The difficulties/hardships associated with such a career?
- Application process?

This essay should be approximately two pages in length, typed, and double spaced. A point will be deducted for each word spelled incorrectly. After you submit your essay to me, you will be asked to come before the class and explain which criminal justice career you decided to explore, why, and what you found out about it. The website below may be a good place to start with this assignment.

<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/criminal.htm>.

**Class Participation: (50 pts)** You will be given fifty points to start out with for your class participation grade. Since we only meet twice per week, you are only allowed to miss two classes. For every class that you miss beyond two, ten points will be subtracted from this portion of your grade. Thus, if you miss four classes, you will earn 30/50 points on this portion of your grade.

**Random Assignments/Pop Quizzes: (?)** Pop quizzes may be given on occasion to make sure that you are keeping up with your studies. I like to spring pop quizzes on low attendance days to reward those who show up, when I feel that the students have failed to prepare for class by reading the material, or when students are not adequately participating in classroom discussion or activities.

**Civility Policy:** All students will treat each other with respect and dignity. Criminology and Criminal Justice is a discipline in which sensitive material is often covered and it is important that everyone feels comfortable discussing this material. Differing opinions will emerge during this class and it is important that we respect each other even if we do not necessarily agree.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** You are expected to have read and understood the current issue or the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

**Students with Disabilities:** If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Physical Location: Building 10/Room 1201; Telephone: (904) 620-2769; TTY: (904) 620-2969; Fax: (904) 620-3874.

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The professor reserves the right to change, add, delete, and/or amend any portion of the syllabus at any time during the semester. It is up to you to come to class and be aware of changes that arise, and announcements, such as when your exam will be. The days that we will be meeting are listed below.

- Wk 1 Jan, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> **Class Begins**
  - Wk 2 Jan, 12-15<sup>th</sup>  
Jan, Mon, 19<sup>th</sup> **Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday**
  - Wk 3 Jan, 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Wk 4 Jan, 26-28<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 5 Feb, 2-4<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 6 Feb, 9-11<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 7 Feb, 16-18<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 8 Feb, 23-25<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 9 Mar, 2-4<sup>th</sup>
  - Wk 10 Mar, 9-11<sup>th</sup>  
Mon, 16<sup>th</sup> **Spring Break (16th - 21st)**
  - Wk 11 Mar, 23-25<sup>th</sup> **Journals due Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>**
  - Wk 12 Mar, 30<sup>th</sup>-Apr, 1<sup>st</sup> **Careers in Criminal Justice Essay due (Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>)/Student Presentations**
  - Wk 13 Apr, 6-8<sup>th</sup> **Student Presentations**
  - Wk 14 Apr, 15-17<sup>th</sup>
- Apr, 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Final Exams