

**The University of Texas at Austin
Steve Hicks School of Social Work**

Course No.:	SW 311	Instructor:	Michael Lauderdale, PhD
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Semester:	Spring 2019	Office Phone:	471-9246
Meeting Time	Tues./Thurs. 9:30 -	Office:	SWB 3.113J
and Place:	11:00 a.m. SSW 2.130	Office Hours:	Friday 9 to 11 a.m. and by Appointment

INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

America is unique among countries with its emphasis on the role and independence of the citizen. Many of the core philosophies of the country's founders stressed breaking free from the class and religious structures of Europe and placing a great emphasis on the freedom of the individual. Among the exceptional characteristics of the founding were the belief in status achieved by effort-merit, religious freedom, freedom of the press and assembly, suffrage and careful consideration of the authority and role of government. The Constitution restricts the power of the central government relative to states and communities and this is reflected in the criminal justice system.

These philosophies of our history teach that our government derives its authority from the consent of the governed and this unique characteristic is evident in the study of the criminal justice system. The system only comes into being on rare occasions as opposed to being a visible and enduring presence in our lives. In proceedings against the individual the state bears the burden of "proving" the crime and at a very high standard, beyond a reasonable doubt.

During the last few years no part of American life has generated more concern than the perception of rising rates of crime, particularly violent crime and crimes by adolescents and children. This course examines these perceptions, responses to crime and the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States, its various components and current challenges to the system today. Attention is paid to the evolution of the system and comparison of problems and approaches, both historically and cross-culturally. Particular emphasis is placed upon aspects of the system under change including various approaches to policing, victim assistance, sentencing and incarceration alternatives, organized crime including cartels and the expanding role of community in protection, policing, and corrections.

The course will stress efforts at prevention, community involvement, and alternatives in corrections. The educational experience provides students with the opportunity to be aware of personal values and analyze ethical dilemmas and the ways in which these affect victims, offenders and all citizens. The course includes theories and knowledge of biological, sociological, cultural, psychological, and legal domains across the life span; the range of social systems in which people live (individual, family, group, organizational, and

community); and the ways in which social systems promote or deter people in involvement with the criminal justice system. Guest speakers will be drawn from various components of the system including the police, the courts, and the correctional institutions. Class material will include an overview of the professions in the field and information about career opportunities.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester the student should be able to:

1. Examine the role of the citizen in issues of civil conduct and responsibilities.
2. Identify and describe the major components of the criminal justice system.
3. Explain the functions of each component and identify the professional roles of persons working in the system.
4. Discuss the various challenges to the general system, identify problems in each component, and be able to relate these challenges to broader social and economic issues.
5. Discuss issues in the distribution of justice and the role of the criminal justice system in American society.
6. Be able to identify the differential impact of the criminal justice system in terms of gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic class.
7. Identify areas of responsibility for individuals in criminal justice both in terms of employment and each person's role in lessening the rate and severity of crime.

III. TEACHING METHODS

Class Format: Initial topic coverage will be by lecture. It will be necessary to have read assigned material before class. Grades will be based upon all aspects and assignments in the class. Always be prepared for the class with reading and homework assignments completed before the class. The Instructor reserves the right to change dates of examinations and conditions for earning volunteer and participation credit as assessment of class progress is made and opportunities for student participation are secured. However, no examination will occur at a date earlier than that listed in this syllabus.

IV. REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

Cole, George F. and Smith, Christopher E. (2018). *The American System of Criminal Justice* (Eleventh Edition) Belmont, CA: Thomson-Wadsworth Publishing Co.

If you can find older editions back to 2004 or so, buy it and save the money. It should be sufficient.

<https://www.cengage.com/c/the-american-system-of-criminal-justice-16e-cole>

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance will be taken via a daily sign-up sheet. It is each student's responsibility to sign the sheet. Your signature on the sheet is your declaration that you were in the class and did not leave until the class ended. Students may be excused early when they notify the instructor prior to the start of the class. All students must secure access to the Canvas internet site and complete each of the required exercises. Any assigned homework or extra participation must be turned in at the time scheduled or no credit will be permitted. There will be three exams: First, Midterm, and Final. The exams will cover reading assignments and lecture material. Material in each exam will be cumulative. No makeup or skipped exams will be permitted unless there is an official excused absence and with prior permission from the Instructor. Schedules and coverage of material may be changed at the discretion of the instructor based upon course progress; however, no exam shall be moved to an earlier than scheduled date.

Requirements, important dates, and grade components are summarized as follows.

EXAM	DATE	PERCENTAGE
First Exam	Feb 14	20
Mid-term Exam	Mar 28	25
Final Exam	May 7	45
Participation		5
Attendance		5

Grading of Exams and any other Assignments: Exams will be objective and multiple choice. Any other assignments are to be turned in at the due time and there will be no allowance for alternatives or time extensions.

Opportunity for Participation: Students are expected to relate class material to current issues of criminal justice in the community and the media. The instructor will regularly call for illustrations of topics from the class and students will be expected to relate topics to current issues. In addition to print and electronic media, the Internet is an important source of such information. The syllabus provides a few illustrative Web sites and the various campus computer laboratories have fast access to such Web sites. Students who have individually funded user accounts from the Computer Center also have such access from personal computers.

VI. GRADES

94.0 and Above	A	74.0 to 76.999	C
90.0 to 93.999	A-	70.0 to 73.999	C-
87.0 to 89.999	B+	67.0 to 69.999	D+
84.0 to 86.999	B	64.0 to 66.999	D
80.0 to 83.999	B-	60.0 to 63.999	D-
77.0 to 79.999	C+	Below 60.0	F

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Specific Student Responsibilities:

1. Attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken and counts toward final grade.
2. During class time, **no telephones or computers or Ipad devices or reading material** are to be used other than text and notes. You will see some material that cannot be copied or photographed. Use of electronic devices in class will result in removal from the class and the course.
3. Hats and caps off during class.
4. No food or drink during class.
5. Check class Canvas site weekly at <http://courses.utexas.edu>
6. Come prepared to class to participate. Instructor will ask questions about material including Canvas postings and you will want to be prepared.
7. Guest speakers may include the Chiefs of Police of UT and APD, counselor from the Gardner-Betts Youth Detention Center, DEA Special Agent, Representative from the FBI, member of the AG's Gang Intelligence Unit, representatives from the District Attorney and State Courts. With these guest speakers I will expect you to be ready with appropriate questions.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas

expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, examination, work assignment, or project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

TITLE IX REPORTING. TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. Faculty, field instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, interpersonal violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator and/or the Title IX Liaison for the SHSSW, Professor Tanya Voss. Students, faculty and staff may contact Professor Voss to report incidents or to obtain information. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <http://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/other/qrg-sexualharassment.pdf>.

CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on concealed fire arms may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>. You also may find this information by accessing the Quick Links menu on the School's website.

CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to

the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS. Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible for keeping the university informed about a change of e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL). If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
January 22	Crime and Justice America Overview of course, assignments, schedules and responsibilities Definitions of Crime and Criminal Justice; Civil Wrongs and Criminal Acts; How Much Crime is There and the Risk of Being a Victim of a Crime.		Chapter 1
January 24	Victimization and Criminal Behavior Conceptual and Empirical Definitions of Crime and Measures and Distributions of Incidence; Official Measures of Crime; Risk of Victimization Trends in Crime		Chapter 2
January 29	Elements in the Criminal Justice System, The Federal, State and Local Structures, How Decisions are made in the System, Careers in Criminal Justice		Chapter 3
January 31	Foundations of Criminal Law, Criminal Law versus Civil Law, Issues of Justice, cont. Equity and Truth, The Impact of Social Class, Age, Ethnicity Theories of Crime Causation, Social Structure, Opportunity and Crime; Differential Distribution of Crime and Justice		Chapter 3
February 5			
February 7	The Basis of Criminal Law, Uses of Criminal Law, The Criminal Defense		
February 12	Review		Chapter 4
February 14		First Exam Lectures and Chapters 1-4	Chapter 5
February 19	Characteristics of the Police, Police and the Rule of the Law		Chapter 5

February 22	Changing Roles and Relationships with the Police		
February 26	Police Operations: Selection and Training		Chapter 6
February 28	Organization of the Police		Chapter 6
March 5	The Courts: Civil and Criminal, Level of Jurisdiction: State and Federal		Chapters 7 and 8
March 7	The Prosecution and The Defense		Chapter 9
March 12	Pretrial Procedures, Indictment,		Chapter 10
March 14	The Concept of Bail Plea Bargaining		Chapter 11
March 19 and 21	Spring Break		
March 26			
March 28		Mid-term Exam	
April 2			
April 4	Sentencing		Chapter 12
April 9	The Corrections Model: Alternative Assumptions about Corrections		Chapter 13
April 11	Community Corrections: Probation and Intermediate Sanctions		Chapter 14
April 16	Prisons: Types and Structure		Chapter 15
April 18	Prison Society		Chapter 16

April 23	Community Treatment and Community Jails		Chapter 16
April 25	Prison Society		Chapter 16
April 30	Parole		Chapter 16
May 2	Review		Chapter 17
May 7		Final Exam	

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cole, George F. and Smith, Christopher E. (2018). The American System of Criminal Justice (Eleventh Edition) Belmont, CA: Thomson-Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Illustrative WEB sites and their relevance for Chapters from the Text:

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/youthviolence/sgsummary/summary.htm>

<https://www.texastribune.org/library/data/texas-prisons/>

<http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/prevention/index.html>

<http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/welcome.html>

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/99cius.htm>

<http://www.ncjrs.org/>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>