

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY
Dual Credit

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CJ 101—Fall 2009

THIS CLASS WILL MEET ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

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MISSION

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY prepares students to make a difference in the world by emphasizing academic and professional excellence, ethical leadership, and social responsibility.

CREED

The CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY community believes in:

- ✧ Seeking knowledge, truth and wisdom;
- ✧ Valuing freedom, honesty, civility, and diversity;
- ✧ Living lives of service and leadership; and
- ✧ Taking responsibility for ourselves and the communities in which we live.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the history, nature and function of the criminal justice system in America. Topics addressed will include crime in America, policing issues, courts and adjudication, the correctional system, and juvenile justice.

REQUIRED TEXT

Cole, George F., and Christopher E. Smith. (2005). Criminal Justice in America (4th ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson Learning, Inc.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or federally defined disability in its recruitment, admission and retention of students.

COURSE GRADING SCALE

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| Below 60% | F |

GRADE DETERMINATIONS

Your grade will be determined by a combination of many factors. There will be four exams, one major paper, and several in-class exercises. You will also be graded for your attendance and participation.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| ✧ Syllabus Quiz | 15 points |
| ✧ Exam #1 | 80 points |
| ✧ Exam #2 (Midterm) | 100 points |
| ✧ Exam #3 | 80 points |
| ✧ Exam #4 (Final) | 100 points |
| ✧ Research Paper | 75 points |
| ✧ In-class activities | 100 points |
| ✧ Attendance and Participation | 100 points |
| Total points possible | 650 points |

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

As you will note, attendance and participation are a key component of the class. It is my goal to socialize students about the expectations of a college course. That being said, short of extremely mitigating circumstances, absences from class will not be excused. It is expected that you will contact me (via phone or email) if you have an absence. ***Not being present will be counted as absent.*** There are no make-ups on in-class activities if you are absent. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. If you are tardy (you were in the bathroom, you forgot your textbook in your locker, you needed to find a pencil, etc), you will still be counted as tardy. If you walk in after I've taken attendance, you will lose points for that day. Please be punctual!

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY believes that honesty throughout life is a significant foundation of character and personal integrity. The University's policy on Academic Honesty applies to all forms of academic work, including but not limited to quizzes and examinations, essays and papers, lab reports, oral presentations, surveys, take-home tests, etc. Every student is responsible for understanding this policy. Academic honesty requires that each person accept the obligation to be truthful in all academic endeavors. To help members of the community understand the implications of academic honesty, the University provides the following explanation of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is any conduct that has either at its intent or its effect (independent of intent) the false representation of a student's academic performance. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Cheating in any form
- 2) Collaborating with others on work to be presented contrary to the stated rules of the course
- 3) Stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials
- 4) Falsifying records, or laboratory or other data
- 5) Submitting work previously presented in another course without the advance consent of the instructor

- 6) Knowingly and intentionally assisting any other student in any act of academic dishonesty (this includes intentionally allowing any other student to use or submit your academic work or performance, or other academic work supplied by you, under a name different from the author of the work), and
- 7) Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and stealing. Plagiarism includes representing as one's own work a paper written in part or in whole by someone else or failing to properly accredit ideas or quotations.

Any student found cheating on an exam or plagiarizing work will receive a failing grade for the assignment and potentially the course itself, at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to adhere to the following behavioral expectations. If it arises there are other distracting behavioral patterns existing within the classroom environment, the instructor retains the right to add to this list.

- ✧ No heads down on desk during class.
- ✧ No laptop use during class.
- ✧ No cell phone use during class. I do not want to see a cell phone once the bell has rung.
- ✧ No reading materials during class that is not relative to this specific course.
- ✧ Students who arrive late or early should be discrete, and preferably notify me beforehand.
- ✧ Students should not be in class under the influence of illegal substances.
- ✧ Students should not eat or drink noisy items while class is in session.
- ✧ Students should be courteous when others are speaking, including the instructor or classmates. ***This means do not talk while others are talking.***
- ✧ Students will be able to select a seat at the beginning of the term. It is expected that each class period thereafter they will seat themselves in that same chair (e.g., you will have assigned seating, but you get to pick your initial seats). If there is disruptive behavior as a result of your seating (e.g., you sit next to your best friend and chat the entire period), I will reassign your seating position.

LATE WORK

Late work will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per day. If you have extremely mitigating circumstances, you need to convey those to me in writing (email, letter, fax) as soon as possible. I am willing to accommodate those, but you must be in communication with me about it.

EXAM POLICIES

The exams will include multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions. You may not use any notes or books for the exam. You will have 50 minutes to take each exam.

WRITTEN WORK EXPECTATIONS

All written work, with the exception of in-class assignments where I note otherwise, needs to be typed. I expect papers to be double-spaced, with 1" margins all around (top, bottom and sides).

You must proof-read your work before submitting it to me. You will lose points for grammatical or typographical errors. If you perceive writing as a weakness, arrange to peer edit with a classmate or seek assistance from the writing lab. Please use complete sentences, and avoid using text-type, slang or clichés.

ETHICS RESEARCH PAPER

You will have one research paper. You will need to research (at length) the content of the textbook on your chosen topic, plus include one other peer-reviewed research source. Your school librarian will help you find peer-reviewed sources. Below is a list of the criminal justice issues which have the most ethical implications. Consider the following questions regarding your topic: What is current U.S. policy? What is the history of the policy? What are the positives of current policy? What are the negatives of current policy? What ethical considerations are there regarding your chosen topic? This should be approximately 5-7 pages in length, with a reference page and using APA citation style.

1. Drugs (drug law harshness, legalization, 3-strikes legislation, etc.)
2. Death penalty (for juveniles, mentally retarded, etc.)
3. Racial profiling (and profiling in general)
4. Law enforcement (corruption, brutality, other issues)
5. Sex offenders (registries, castration, etc.)
6. Juvenile delinquency (waivers to adult court, superpredators, etc.)
7. Homeland security (Patriot Act, civil liberties, etc.)