Santa Monica College

Course Outline for
Introduction to Administration of Justice

Course Title:  Introduction to Administration of Justice  Units:  3.00
Total Instructional Hours (usually 18 per unit):  54

Hours per week (full semester equivalent) in Lecture: 3.00  In-Class Lab: 0  Arranged:

Date Submitted:  
Date Updated:  October 2016
Transferability:  Transfers to UC
Transfers to CSU

IGETC Area: 
CSU GE Area: 
SMC GE Area: 

Degree Applicability:  Credit - Degree Applicable
Prerequisite(s):  None
Pre/Corequisite(s):  None
Corequisite(s):  None
Skills Advisory(s):  None

I.  Catalog Description
This course provides students with an overview of the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States. An emphasis is placed on examining the structure and functions of the police, courts, and corrections. The following additional topics are explored: the origins of criminal law, theories of crime, measurement of crime, the adjudication of a criminal case, the evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system, the social impact of crime, sentencing policies and related subject areas.

II.  Examples of Appropriate Text or Other Required Reading: (include all publication dates; for transferable courses at least one text should have been published within the last five years)
III. Course Objectives
1. Identify various legal theories that justify and provide an understanding of crimes and criminology.
2. Explain the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the development, structure and functions of the court system and corrections.
4. Explain the history, structure and functions of the police. Distinguish between the roles of the courts, corrections and police.
5. Describe how a case is adjudicated through the criminal court system. Identify the stages of a criminal trial.
6. Explain the corrections system and demonstrate an understanding of the roles of probation, parole and community corrections including the functions of prisons and jails.
7. Identify special problems in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency and drugs. Describe the future impact of these issues as well as the projected social impact of crime generally.
8. Analyze and discuss the issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives.
9. Convey the ability to draw on reputable research when taking a stance on a controversial issue in criminal justice.
10. Demonstrate the ability to raise critically relevant questions based on independent reading of criminal justice literature.
11. Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in the social sciences.
12. State the definitions of crime and list the elements of a crime. Distinguish between felonies, misdemeanors and infractions.
13. Explain the magnitude of the crime problem that exists today.

IV. Methods of Presentation:
Lecture and Discussion, PowerPoint Presentations and Case Studies.

V. Course Content
- (10%) The Criminal Justice System: the philosophy and background of the criminal justice system, introduction to the structure and roles of the major components of the criminal justice system (police, courts and corrections) and the interaction among them.
- (20%) Crime and Victimization: definitions of crime, elements and categories of crime, theories used to explain crime; measurement of crime; costs of crime; analysis of victimization.
- (20%) Law Enforcement: the history, structure and role of the police, procedures and constitutional protections, challenges with policing, civil liability and professionalizing law enforcement.
- (20%) Courts and Sentencing: structure and purposes of the courts, the adjudication process, roles of the judge, prosecutor and defense attorney, stages of the criminal trial, rules of evidence and sentencing guidelines.
- (20%) Punishment and Corrections: the history and structure of the corrections system, theories and goals of punishment, the roles of probation, parole and the prisons, the overall conditions of the prison system and inmate rights.
- (3%) Juvenile Justice: the historical development of the juvenile justice system, theories regarding juvenile delinquency and its causes, and the processing of juvenile offenders.
(7%) **The Future of the Criminal Justice System**: the projected social impact of crime, the influence of technology and an examination of special challenges concerning drugs and terrorism.

VI. **Methods of Evaluation**: (Actual point distribution will vary from instructor to instructor but approximate values are shown.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Evaluation Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 %</td>
<td>Exams/Tests - 3 unit examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>5 %</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>Written assignments - includes review of scholarly literature on controversial topics in the criminal justice system. Assignments will be submitted in the proper writing style for the social sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>100 %</td>
<td>Total</td>
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**Additional Assessment Information:**

VII. **Sample Assignments:**

**Writing Assignment**

Students will research problems areas in the criminal justice system. Students will then write a paper which includes an examination of the topic, an identification of the specific problem discussed, a list of relevant questions and a potential solution to the problem. List of potential topic areas include the following: the crowding issue in American prisons, the "three strikes law", the accuracy of crime measurement, among others.

Students will consult scholarly journals in preparing their papers and adhere to the APA writing style.

**Oral Presentation:**

Students will deliver an informative presentation (5 – 6 minutes) on a significant topic in the criminal justice system. The following are examples of topics: a comparison of determinate v. indeterminate sentencing, a survey of inmates' rights or an analysis of which crimes are expected to increase in the future.
VIII. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Distinguish between the responsibilities of the American police, courts and corrections in the criminal justice system.
2. Identify the stages in a criminal jury trial and analyze the roles of the judge, prosecutor and defense attorney in this proceeding
3. Demonstrate a level of engagement in the subject matter that reveals their understanding of the value of the course content beyond the task itself, specifically as it relates to linking the relevance of course content to careers in business and accounting and their personal lives.