

NHTI – Concord’s Community College  
Course Syllabus

Course Description: Intro to Criminal Justice  
Course Term: Spring 16-week course (1/17/21 to 5/8/21)  
Instructor: Ryan D. Howe  
Instructor Telephone: 603-230-3738  
Instructor Email: rhowe@ccsnh.edu

**REQUIRED TEXT:** There is no textbook required to purchase; however, we will be utilizing a free online textbook provided to you in the module’s sections of the course:

SOU-CCJ230 Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System by Alison S. Burke, David Carter, Brian Fedorek, Tiffany Morey, Lore Rutz-Burri, and Shanell Sanchez; Open Oregon Educational Resources.

There will also be additional PDF’s, videos, and other learning modules.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides an introduction to criminal justice in the United States. The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to various elements in criminal justice to include the police, courts, corrections, and examine a number of special issues relevant to criminal justice today.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to understand and discuss criminal justice in America. The aim is to develop a greater understanding of the justice system and to acquire knowledge of terms and concepts related to this system. Additionally, this course should foster an appreciation of the role of professionals involved including law enforcement (e.g., police officers, social workers, and probation officers), judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel in ensuring that constitutional protections of defendants are respected.

**INSTRUCTION FORMAT:** This course of instruction will be administered online using the discussion and module section in Canvas. Class participation, analysis, and informal debate are anticipated and encouraged. Each week students are expected to engage with the instructor and other classmates about the topics discussed. Discussions will be graded accordingly. See discussion rubrics on grading policy.

**REQUIRED READING ASSIGNMENTS:** Students are responsible for reading all assignments and materials, even those assignments and materials not covered in class lectures and discussions. Good notes are a must since students will also be responsible for lecture materials presented from sources outside the required reading assignments and materials.

Grading Policy:

Case Studies	50%
Discussions/Think-Pair-Share/Zoom Meetings	20%
Quizzes	15%
Final Exam	15%

**CASE STUDIES:** Each student will be required to prepare two case studies during the course regarding topics discussed. Each case study will require a minimum of 3-pages. Written assignments must use citations of original works within the body of the paper and follow APA guidelines. Please watch for spelling and grammatical errors. \*\*\*Important\*\*\* Research papers must contain a Title Page, at least 3

pages of text, be no more than double spaced, 12 fonts maximum, and one-inch margins max. See discussion rubrics on grading policy.

**QUIZZES:** Students will be expected to complete several exams during the course. Each exam will contain ten (10) multiple choice questions based on what was discussed in the previous weeks. These exams will be made available on Sunday at the beginning of the week and students must complete them by Saturday at the end of the week. The Final Exam will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions selected from each of the previous weeks.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC(S)
1	What is crime, and what is due process?
2	Data, Elements, and Defenses of Crime
3	Laws in America
4	Police Officers in America / QUIZ
5	4 <sup>th</sup> Amendment
6	The Court Process
7	Sentencing / CASE STUDY #1 DUE
8	The Death Penalty and the 8 <sup>th</sup> Amendment / QUIZ
9	Juvenile Delinquency
10	Community Policing
11	Crime Scene Investigations
12	1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment and Free Speech / QUIZ
13	5 <sup>th</sup> Amendment and Right not to Self- Incriminate
14	Future of Law Enforcement – Computer Crimes CASE STUDY #2 DUE
15	Review / FINAL EXAM