



Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Summary:

In this course, the student will explore law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system. The student will study what crime is, how crime is measured, and theories of crime causation. Issues and challenges within the criminal justice system and its future directions will also be examined. By the end of the course, the student will be able to

- Examine and evaluate the justice system
- Analyze concepts related to criminal law
- Compare theories of crime
- Evaluate the impact history has had on the American justice system
- Examine issues and emerging trends in criminal justice

Course Outline

- 1. The Criminal Justice System (L)**
 - Define key terms related to the justice system
 - Identify the various levels of government that are part of the justice system
- 2. The Criminal Justice Process (L)**
 - Explain the criminal justice process
 - Examine the various levels of government that are part of the justice system
 - Discuss the role of the justice system in responding to crime
- 3. Basic Categories of Crime (L)**
 - Define categories of crime
 - Describe how crimes are measured
- 4. Measuring Crime Issues and Theories of Crime (L)**
 - Identify problems measuring crime
 - Compare and contrast theories of crime
- 5. Criminal Law (L)**
 - Identify sources and types of law
 - Define types of crime
- 6. Crimes and Defenses (L)**
 - Examine elements that must be present for a crime to be said to have occurred
 - Describe features of crime
 - Examine arguments used in defending against a criminal indictment
 - Discuss the impact of previous systems of laws on how laws are currently structured
- 7. Basics of Law Enforcement (L)**
 - Define terms associated with law enforcement
 - Evaluate past and current functions of law enforcement and the impact on the present system of law enforcement
 - Examine the justice system
 - Describe levels of law enforcement
 - Examine the issues of gender and race as related to law enforcement

8. Policing (L)

- Define key terms related to policing
- Examine the fourth amendment
- Describe the different types of force that can be used by police
- Identify challenges to traditional policing
- Discuss symptoms of and solutions to police stress and burnout

9. Organization of Courts (L)

- Define key terms related to the court system
- Trace the history of the courts
- Chart the organization of the courts
- Describe the development of the jury
- Describe the roles of members present in a courtroom

10. Stages of a Trial (L)

- Define key terms related to the justice system
- Describe the steps in the trial process
- Differentiate among the types of plea bargaining arrangements
- Examine rights afforded to defendants in a criminal trial
- Identify issues that arise in most courts

11. Sentencing and Capital Punishment (L)

- Describe the types of sentences that a defendant can receive
- Describe capital punishment
- Define key terms related to corrections and capital punishment
- Compare and contrast the pros and cons of capital punishment

12. History of Corrections (L)

- Define key terms related to the courts and the prison system
- Map the history of control before prisons
- Map the history of prisons in America
- Examine the impact of history on the present prison system in the United States
- Explain the differences between prisons and jails

13. Prison Life and Alternate Sanctions (L)

- Define key terms related to the courts and the prison system
- Describe the relationship between courts and prisons
- Discuss various elements of prison life and the subcultures that exist within prisons
- Identify the goals of the criminal justice system
- Examine alternative programs established for offenders

14. Juveniles in the Justice System (L)

- Define key terms related to the juvenile justice system
- Explain the differences between adult and juvenile justice systems
- Examine the impact that history has had on the American juvenile justice system
- Examine current issues in the juvenile justice system
- Map the historical treatment of children and the juvenile justice system in the United States

15. Drugs and the Criminal Justice System (L)

- Define drug abuse and other crimes
- Discuss how illegal drug use is being addressed in the United States
- Map the history of drug use and drug laws in the United States
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs to address illegal drug use in the United States

16. The Future of Criminal Justice (L)

- Define key terms related to the justice system
- Recognize emerging trends faced by the justice system

- Examine challenges faced by the justice system in addressing crimes related to drugs and terrorism

17. Introduction to Criminal Justice Course Review (L)

- Review lesson objectives and key terms
- Review interactive presentations
- Utilize study guides
- Explore potential careers in the criminal justice field

18. Introduction to Criminal Justice Final Exam (L)