Great Basin College
Course Syllabus

CRJ 104: Introduction to Administration of Justice 3 Semester Credits
Section EK1, ER1, WV1, 3V1, 1V1
Spring 2011

Meeting Time: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 to May 17, 2011; 7:00 to 9:45 pm

Meeting Location: Lundberg 114

Instructor: Leslie Fridal, MS, 775-397-1326 or e-mail via Web Campus or lesliefidal@yahoo.com

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Catalog Description: An overview of the American criminal justice system, its development, components, and processes. Includes consideration of crime and criminal justice as a formal area of study. Corequisites: READ135, Placement Test, or SAT/ACT Score.


Course Description: CRJ104 is an introductory course that provides an overview of the criminal justice system. Students will learn the difference between criminal justice and criminology, be exposed to theories about the causes of crime, and how to define and measure crime. In addition, students will study the various components of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts and corrections) with particular emphasis on how these components function, their role and relationships to one another, how one gains employment in the criminal justice field, and the processes which may affect citizens.

Attendance Policy: Students should attend all classes and be on time. Prior notification of the instructor by calling, leaving a voicemail, and/or sending a message to email is expected for all absences. Each student is entitled to three hours excused absence per the GBC catalog, as noted on page 49, or the instructor may drop a student.

Method of Instruction: Lecture, classroom discussion, videos, guest speakers, reading and writing assignments.
**Course Objectives:**
1. Communicate clearly and effectively in written and oral forms, i.e. discussion, reading, listening.
2. Describe the American style of policing, its history, the arena in which it operates and issues affecting the police and community.
3. Explain the structure of our criminal justice system and its relationship to government.
4. Describe the process from arrest to sentencing and the role of the “players” (the prosecution and defense).
5. Explain the criminal trial process and the legal rights of the accused.
6. Explain the structure of our court systems.
7. Define crime and recognize the instruments used to measure crime.
8. Categorize and apply the varied theories on the causes of crime.

**Learner Outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>· Define the basic terminology used in criminal justice</td>
<td>· Class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Know the differences between the levels of policing, i.e. local, state, federal</td>
<td>· Quizzes and/or exams</td>
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<td>· Recognize the current issues that affect law enforcement</td>
<td>· Class discussion</td>
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<td>· Explain how the system works and how the components function</td>
<td>· Written assignments</td>
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<td>· Understand the roles of the various actors and their responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Know the procedural steps in the criminal justice system</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Compare how agencies report crime</td>
<td>· Quizzes and/or exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Explain how theories affect policy decisions</td>
<td>· Class discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Research criminal justice careers</td>
<td>· Internet research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Written assignments</td>
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Course Requirements: Students are responsible for reading assigned chapters prior to the scheduled class meeting(s). Additionally, students should be prepared to discuss text material during class, as well as relevant newsworthy information when called upon. All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and group activities. Contributions to the class are directly proportional to the quality and quantity of knowledge gained. All class participation will be evaluated and incorporated into the final grade. Participation credit can help a student if he/she is within a point or two of the next highest grade by pushing the student up to the higher grade. Students will earn their participation credit if they contribute to class discussions, share relevant experiences, demonstrate familiarity with the assigned reading, bring news articles to use in class discussions, and actively participate in class activities.

Grading Policy: Grading is based on a point system, as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz/50pts each</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book/Movie Review</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview/Paper</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>560</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative Points</th>
<th>Percentage Grade</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>504-560</td>
<td>90%+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448-503</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392-447</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>336-391</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>335 or less</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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¹Total points may be adjusted based on the total sum of assignments as determined by the instructor.

Current Issues: Each student is encouraged to read newspapers or via the Web for topics of interest and current issues that are related to the study of criminal justice. Students are asked to bring articles to class so that they may be discussed.

Guest Speakers: If possible, guest speakers may be asked to address topics covered in the text. Please show respect for our guests. Each of them has graciously agreed to visit with us on their own time. They are excited about the opportunity to talk about their experiences. Ask questions and be attentive. Some of the information presented may appear on tests so please take notes. You will be advised when guest speakers are scheduled.

Great Basin College General Policies: For information regarding GBC General Policies pertaining to topics on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Sexual Harassment, academic honesty/plagiarism, and conduct within the educational environment, please read the posting on Web Campus under GBC General Policies. Thank you!

General instructions for written assignments: Please check out the section entitled "Writing Samples" on the Web Campus site.
Assignments

A. Written assignment #1—Field Interview

Conduct an interview with a person who works in the criminal justice field, i.e. a police officer, a criminal defense attorney, a prosecutor, a city judge, a justice of the peace, a district court judge, a probation officer, a parole officer, or a corrections officer. The paper should discuss why this individual pursued a career in the criminal justice field, their positive and negative experiences, how they prepared for the hiring process, and any advice they would give someone seeking a career in the criminal justice field. The author must clearly identify the person interviewed, as well as the time and date of the interview. Students who already work in the criminal justice field must interview a person from another area of criminal justice. There is no requirement on the length of the paper, just must cover the above information.

B. Written assignment #2—Book Review/Movie Review

Review a book written about an actual crime. Tell a little about the author. What is his/her background and how did he/she conduct research for the book? Describe the crime, the suspects, and the end-result of the investigation in a concise manner (no more than one page of the three. Then, using what we have learned in class, analyze how the criminal justice system functioned with regard to the investigation of the crime. Determine what theory best explains why the criminal committed the crime and evaluate whether or not the crime could have been prevented. You may be asked to share your review with the class. The instructor can make some suggestions about books you may choose to read. There is no requirement on the length of the paper, just must cover the above information.

C. There may be additional assignments required of students via the Internet or on WebCT such as researching websites, reading articles, participation in discussion boards, etc.

Quizzes and Final Exam

A. Following the end of each section there will be a quiz given, comprised of 25 true/false, multiple choice questions, two points per question.
B. Final exam will be accumulative covering all four sections. Exam will be made up of 12 questions, four from each section, each student will be required to choose six questions to answer in an essay format.

Note: The course content and following schedule may be changed to meet the needs of the class or at the discretion of the instructor.
Course and Reading Schedule:

Jan 25—Feb 22, 2011  
* The Criminal Justice System  
  * Jan 25-Introductions, Course Overview  
  * Feb 1- Chapter 1—Criminal Justice Today  
  * Feb 8- No Class  
  * Feb 15-Chapter 2—Causes of Crime  
  * Feb 22-Chapter 3—Defining and Measuring Crime- Chapter 4- Inside Criminal Law (Section Quiz, Jan 25- Feb 22 material)

March 1- March 15, 2011  
* The Police and Law Enforcement  
  * March 1-Chapter 5—Law Enforcement Today  
  * March 8-Chapter 6—Challenges to Effective Policing (Guest Speaker)  
  * March 15-Chapter 7—Police and the Constitution: The Rules of Law Enforcement (Section Quiz, March 1 - March 15 material)  
  * March 21-25 Spring Break...ENJOY!!!

March 29- April 19, 2011  
* Criminal Courts  
  * March 29-Chapter 8—Courts and the Quest for Justice (Field interview report)  
  * April 5, 2011- No Class  
  * April 12-Chapter 9—Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial (Guest Speaker)  
  * April 19-Chapters 10—Punishment and Sentencing (Section Quiz, March 29- April 19 material)

April 26- May 13, 2011  
* Corrections & Special Issues  
  * April 26-Chapter 11—Probation and Community Corrections (Book/Movie Report)  
  * May 3-Chapter 12—Prisons and Jails- Chapter 13- Behind Bars: The life of an Inmate (Guest Speaker, Via phone)  
  * May 10 Chapter 14—The Juvenile Justice System (Guest Speaker)  
  * May 17, 2011 Final Exam

Exam/Paper Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April 26, 2011</th>
<th>March 29, 2011</th>
<th>May 17, 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book/Movie Report</td>
<td>Submitted via email by midnight</td>
<td>Field interview report Submitted via email by midnight</td>
<td>Final Exam, Submitted via email by midnight</td>
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