SOC 3533 SYLLABUS
The Criminal Justice System

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course discusses the features of the increasingly complicated criminal justice system. It will not teach you how to be a police officer, criminal lawyer or prison corrections officer. It will, hopefully, better enable you to understand the often confusing welter of news and stories concerning crime and punishment seen daily via the local and national media. There are four natural sections in the course: 1) Criminal justice as a system; 2) Policing; 3) Courts; and 4) Corrections/Jails. There are 9 lessons, 2 papers, and 2 exams in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course is designed to help you learn the complexities of the American criminal justice system and will help you to answer the following questions:

1) What is a crime, how much crime is there, and who commits it?
2) How did the criminal justice system come into being?
3) What does it do and how does it do it?
4) Where does law come from?
5) How has the American criminal justice system changed over time?
6) How can and do we study the criminal justice system? And
7) Does the perception of crime meet the actuality of crime?

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS:
There are three required textbooks for this course:


ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENTS:
The written assignments are comprised of two papers addressing knowledge gained from *Beggars & thieves* and *Ultimate punishment*. The papers should be typed in 12-point font (either Times New Roman or Arial), double spaced with one-inch margins, and each be five pages in length. Make sure to carefully read the paper guidelines and assignment located elsewhere before writing or submitting your papers.

Each of the papers is worth 55 points and comprises 20% of your grade. Both papers together are worth 110 points, for a total weight of 40% of your grade.
ABOUT THE EXAMS:
Sixty percent of your grade is based on your performance on two exams, a midterm and a final. The midterm covers the criminal justice system as a process and policing. The final covers the courts and corrections. Self-contained and non-comprehensive, the exams combine multiple-choice, and true-false. Each exam is worth 82 points and comprises 30% of your final grade. Both exams together are worth 164 points and comprise 60% of your grade.

You will be given 2 hours to complete each exam. The exams are closed book and notes and other aids are not allowed. The exception to this is if you are a foreign exchange student and need an English/primary language dictionary. If so, whoever proctors the test should approve the dictionary before the test.

ABOUT GRADING:
Your final grade is based on the 2 papers, comprising 40% of your grade, and the 2 examinations, comprising the other 60% of your grade.

Each written (book) assignment has a maximum possible total of 55 points. The instructor will assign a specific point grade for each paper, but keep in mind that this kind of grading is to some extent subjective. Important issues in each book will be identified for points and the papers will be read with a mind to seeing if they are there or not. This, again, emphasizes the importance of submitting a well-written, concise, and inclusive paper. The mark of a good writer is to be able to say what needs to be said in the space allowed, not more and not less. Good writing is a skill that will benefit you in whatever career path you choose to take in life.

Each test has 82 questions that can be added together to determine how many points were earned from both tests. When the papers and test grades are added together, you will get a simple numeric value which will tell you your grade (see grading scale below). Tests may include extra credit questions, which do not count against you if wrong but do give full credit if correct and you have less than a “perfect” score. There is, therefore, no reason not to answer them. This is so that you have a chance to make up ground in case you need to do so for your final grade. Please, if you are scoring behind what you think you need in the course, do not ask what you can do for extra credit. These questions are it!

There are 274 total possible points in this course. 110 points will be earned from 2 papers (2 x 55 = 110). 164 points will be earned from your two exams: midterm & final (2 x 82 = 164). Below is a breakdown of points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papers (2 @ 55)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 @ 82)</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>274</strong></td>
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Below is a breakdown of grade earned by points scored:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>246-274</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219-245</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192-218</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164-191</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 163</td>
<td>F</td>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

As a student taking a course at the University of Oklahoma you are expected to uphold the academic integrity code. Please visit http://integrity.ou.edu and familiarize yourself with the standards you will be held to while taking your course.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE:

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION POLICY:

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information, please see the Disability Resource Center website http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

TITLE IX RESOURCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on call 24/7. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. For more information, please see http://www.ou.edu/eoo.
Course Plan SOC 3533

Lesson 1
1. View lesson 1 presentation
2. Read Chapter 1 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 2
1. View lesson 2 presentation
2. Read Chapter 2 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 3
1. View lesson 3 presentation
2. Read Chapter 3 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 4
1. View lesson 4 presentation
2. Read Chapter 4 & 5 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 5
1. View lesson 5 presentation
2. Read Chapter 6 in Criminal Justice in America
3. Complete reading of Beggars and Thieves
4. Write Paper
5. Submit Paper on Canvas
6. Schedule Midterm Exam
7. Take Midterm Exam

Lesson 6
1. View lesson 6 presentation
2. Read Chapter 7 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 7
1. View lesson 7 presentation
2. Read Chapters 8, 9 & 14 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 8
1. View lesson 8 presentation
2. Read Chapters 10, 11 & 13 in Criminal Justice in America

Lesson 9
1. View lesson 9 presentation
2. Read Chapters 12 & 15 in Criminal Justice in America
3. Complete reading of Ultimate Punishment
4. Write Paper
5. Submit Paper on Canvas
6. Schedule Final Exam
7. Take Final Exam