

## CRJ 410 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

2014 Summer Term (June 2 – July 26)\*

\* class will begin On June 2, 2014 due to Memorial Day with the last class taking place on July 21st

**Course Number and Title:** CRJ 410 Contemporary Issues in Criminal

**Instructor:** Thomas A. Duden, MA Management, BA Public Administration  
HR Director Design Data-Software Piracy Investigator, Retired Lincoln Police Department

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**Credit Hours:** 3 hrs Date/Time: Mondays 6:00PM – 10:20PM

**Course Description:** This course is an examination of current and emerging issues in the field of criminal justice. Topics included, but are not limited to: Restorative Justice, Domestic Violence; Organized crime; Issues of race and ethnicity; Terrorism, Use of Force, Immigration Issues, Alternative Sentencing, Students will continue the development of critical thinking skills in application to issues that require the balancing of victim, offender, citizen, and community needs and rights. This course has been modified for independent study and incorporates the use of current on-line materials to promote critical thinking and analysis by the student.

Textbook: None-Students will obtain on their own On-Line Sources, Current Events, and use Handout Material provided by the instructor.

Guest Speakers, Field Trips

**Course Learning Outcomes:** By researching and reading the current and associated material to controversial-contemporary criminal justice issues, engaging the written assignments, analyzing, and participating in in-depth discussions concerning strategic enforcement, prevention and socio-economic influences that contribute to the problems and solutions in our criminal justice system.

The students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate developments and dominant paradigms in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and corrections.
2. Assess changes in the structure and functioning of agencies in the criminal justice system.
3. Use reflection and analysis to understand and develop solutions to complex social problems that either directly or indirectly influence criminal behavior.
4. Utilize relevant research findings in the analysis of criminal justice trends.
5. Be conversant with theoretical and conceptual frameworks as they apply to criminal justice systems and community needs.

The outcomes will be measured by assessing the student's ability to articulate their analysis and interpretation verbally and through discussion and by authoring reactionary essays which expresses their research, understanding and critical thinking.

**Content and Instructional Methods:** This course is comprised of reading material, electronic media files and state and federal court cases. Reinforcement of learning is accomplished through the course objectives, readings and the submission of written assignments electronically.

**Late Work Policy** - Students are expected to submit assignments and projects on the due date. At times extenuating circumstances occur, so late work or alternative assignments will be accepted with instructor approval on a limited...case by case basis.

**Topics: Today's Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice**

- 1) Use of Force (Lethal V. Non-Lethal) & Community Expectations

- 2) Federal Law Enforcement Agency , ATF, US Marshalls, FBI,  
<http://www.silverstarcollectables.com/usmshistory.htm>
- 3) Terrorism - Homeland Security - Patriot Act – Local Responsibilities
- 4) School Violence – Bullying – Cyber Stalking within Schools and College Campuses
- 5) Prevention and Intervention for Juvenile Delinquency – Domestic Violence Intervention
- 6) State of Police, Budgets, Community & Media Relations and the strain of Immigration/Homeland Security regulations, policies and enforcement strategies and their effects on the cost of enforcement and incarceration.
- 7) Cyber Crime, Copyright Infringement-Software Piracy, Internet Crimes – New White Collar Crimes
- 8) Careers in Criminal Justice - Student Presentations

**Instructor Expectations:** Participation and professionalism are part of each student's grade. As an educational institution designed to help students acquire and maintain viable employment, we strive to teach professionalism to our students.

Each student is expected to:

- Complete the assigned work on time.
- Remain in contact with the instructor utilizing electronic media format; e-mail, telephone

**Grading: Attendance/Participation 12.5% /Discussion Reaction Papers 50%, Criminal Justice Career Paper or Contemporary Topic Research Paper & Presentation 25%**

Name	Instructor's Guide				Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Date	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8		
Topics	Use of Force	Federal CJ	Terrorism /Borders	School Violence	Juv. Delinq	Budget Training	Cyber Crime	Careers Future		
Assigned Reading	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA			
Participation/Attendance	10	20	20	20	20	20	15			125
Reaction Paper		125	125		125	125				500
Career/Research Paper								250		250
Panel Discussion				125						125
	75	155	300	445	590	735	750			
<b>Total</b>										<b>1000</b>
	week 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 5	wk 6	wk 7	wk 8	Grade	<b>A+</b>

**Reaction Papers:** A Reaction paper to a specific topic suggests that you express your feelings, interpretation and understanding of the topic. In order to formulate your interpretation one must review information from various sources that explains the topic from various perspectives. Writing a reaction paper will necessitate your personal opinion – however, it is important for you to validate your opinion with suitable references. Each paper will have 1” margins, double spaced, using Times New Roman or Arial font and you must cite any source that you might use to formulate your opinion. Each paper will be 2-3 pages in length and are due the following Monday of each term week.

**Panel Discussion –** Students will research a contemporary enforcement/operational policy, punishment, incarceration, probation, parole topic and as a group will make a presentation and respond to questions from the audience-students.

**Reading Assignments: Week#1**, - <http://www.nij.gov/topics/law-enforcement/officer-safety/use-of-force/continuum.htm>

**Watch the Following:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMYMKJHuC3Q>

**Reaction Paper#1**- In our society police are in a very precarious situation when it comes to the amount of force they can apply when dealing with a civilian suspect. Whether it be physical force, persuasion, or coercion; they must use discretion when deciding what course of action best suits the situation. They must take a reasonable course of action based upon facts known to the officer and within the officer's capability and environmental conditions, because if they are too lenient or too forceful, even when dealing with the pettiest things, they can be chastised by superiors and the public, and must endure being reprimanded, suspended or terminated. Their actions may also lead to civil or criminal penalties, right or wrong. Must police use force? If so, under what circumstances and what should define the limits of force they can use? What are the limitations and expectations of Society?

**Reading Assignments: Week#2**- <http://www.silverstarcollectables.com/usmshistory.htm> ,

<http://www.usmarshals.gov/news/chron/2011/030811b.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73aY4YxVcTI>

<http://www.usmarshals.gov/duties/index.html>

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

<http://www.usmarshals.gov/>

<http://www.atf.gov/firearms/enforcement/>

<http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/335912/3/St-Louis-trio-charged-with-murder-in-fatal-ATF-altercation>

**Reaction Paper #2** Define the criminal justice roles of the FBI, ATF and US Marshalls office. Explain how they are similar and why they are different. Who enforces all federal laws relating to firearms, explosives, and arson? What recent scandal did this agency experience that illustrated poor management and leadership? 125 Points  
Be prepared to discuss this scandal further in class.

**Reading Assignments: Week#3**, - <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ll/highlights.htm>

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/debate-on-patriot-act-and-first-amendment-continues>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/12/the-us-already-had-a-conversation-about-guns-and-the-pro-side-won/266335/>

**Panel Discussion Exercise** – The class will be divided into teams Pro and Con on the need for Gun Control in America. Do tighter restrictions threaten the American way of life or should we endorse the goal of control those that are armed with tactical weapons? Do you feel that American law enforcement resources are protecting you? As a group prepare to present your arguments as part of a debate.

**Panel Discussion** – The group researches, analyzes and divides issues collectively but individuals present their findings and explains the relevance of their sub topic. Each student in the group is

required to write a 2-page report on their specific sub-topic. Each group will create and present a presentation (PPT). APA referencing 12 font, Dbl Space, Times or Arial.

Reading Assignments: Week#4 - <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/tempcontent/techpanelreport.cfm>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~safeschl/psv.pdf>

<http://www.nasponline.org/resources/principals/Student%20Counseling%20Violence%20Prevention.pdf>

[http://www.endesastres.org/files/Active\\_Shooter\\_Incident\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.endesastres.org/files/Active_Shooter_Incident_FINAL.pdf)

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/at-school/>

<http://clerycenter.org/summary-jeanne-clery-act>

Reaction Paper #3 – Following the school shooting at Columbine Law Enforcement changed its approach from containment to one of pursuing the suspect right away in an effort to engage the suspect(s) and hopefully save lives. Should we allow teachers the right to arm themselves in schools?

Reading Assignments: Week#5 - <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/boys/FactSheets/jd/report.pdf>

[http://familyimpactseminars.org/s\\_wifis04c03.pdf](http://familyimpactseminars.org/s_wifis04c03.pdf)

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/>

Reaction Paper#4 – With declining resources in many cities for after-school and other prevention programs for at-risk teens, can we expect a rise in juvenile delinquency rates in the years ahead? Or are there other factors that may keep delinquency rates in check?

Reading Assignments: Week#6 - <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/10/23/police.economy/>

<http://w3.epi-data.org/temp2011/BriefingPaper314.pdf>

<http://oaklandlocal.com/blogs/2010/07/how-oakland-police-are-cutting-back-services>

\*Extra Credit Reaction Paper –Can cutting manpower and non-essential police services save money or does this result in an increase in crime? Worth 60 points

Research/Final Assignment - Wk#7 & Wk#8 – Career Opportunities in Criminal Justice – Student will identify a specific criminal justice career position and will write a paper about the agency and the job that interests them the most. They will give a presentation on the history, qualifications, application process and associated training. The student will create and give a presentation on their findings during the last scheduled session of class.

Or

The student will choose a controversial issue or an event that has had a profound influence on the criminal justice system, the operational policies of a given agency, or an issue; cultural or socioeconomic that has contributed to the lawlessness of the community.

**Last Night of Class:** The student will create and give a presentation on their findings during the last scheduled session of class.