

## CRJ 403 COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Syllabus

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### **COURSE CREDIT:**

Three Semester Hours

### **PREREQUISITES:**

SOC 201 The Sociological Imagination, with a grade of C or better

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Required Text:**

Dammer, Harry R., and Fairchild, Erika. (2006). *Comparative criminal justice systems*, (3<sup>rd</sup>ed.). Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.  
ISBN: 0-534-61542-2

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The class will examine issues related to crime throughout the world. The student will identify, analyze, and compare the criminal justice systems in the U.S. with those of other countries. The course will explain the basic worldwide philosophies of law and justice, the arrangements for crime prevention and law enforcement, and the methods of dealing with convicted offenders throughout the world. Prerequisite SOC 201 The Sociological Imagination, with a grade of C or better.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The student should be able to:

- Analyze the international value of comparing systems and issues of criminal justice systems.
- Examine globalization and its effect on crime and criminal justice.
- Identify the primary sources of international crime statistics.
- Compare the unique crime problems and solutions in different countries.
- Define the functions of modern, worldwide, police forces.
- Identify mechanisms to deal with issues of human rights and international crimes and criminals.

- Examine the stages of the criminal process in different countries.
- Compare similarities and differences that occur in court structures and procedures in multiple countries.
- Analyze unique correctional practices in different countries.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Requirement 1 Proctored Exams:**

Three proctored exams are required for this course. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay answer questions. The exams are “closed tests”—no books, study guides, or notes. Each exam is worth 100 points for total exam points: 300.

The first exam is scheduled after the student has completed Part I – Setting the Stage (Chapters 1–4) of the textbook. The student will be tested only over Part I material.

The second exam is scheduled after the student has completed Part II – Criminal Justice Processes (Chapters 5–10). The student will be tested only over Part II material.

The third exam is scheduled after the student has completed Part III – Modern Dilemmas in International Criminal Justice (Chapters 11–14). The student will be tested only over Part III material.

### **Requirement 2 Article Review Essays:**

The required textbook is an excellent resource of knowledge for comparative justice systems, but it is also only one small source of information about comparative justice systems. Libraries, journal articles, the Internet, and criminal justice agencies are just a beginning of discovering other information about the variety of criminal justice systems. In addition, the research component adds another level of depth to the educational process. Research experience is important to all students, but is highlighted for the extended studies student.

**Note: The text provides excellent Website links at the end of each chapter for research possibilities.**

#### **Article Review Essay Description**

To increase the awareness of supplemental material in comparative criminal justice areas, the student will be required to complete 5 article review essays. The topic of each essay will be chosen by the student, and will center on an appropriate comparative justice system topic. Each essay will be 3 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font). The issues may be taken from newspapers, magazines, television, news shows, the Internet, or any other credible academic source. However, scholarly articles or journals are always the better choice over articles written for the mainstream public. (A “scholarly” article is written by an

expert in the area; the article is reviewed by other experts; and the focus of the article is for academic purposes, etc.)

The Article Review Essay should include the following:

- Source information (journal name, title of the article, author, date, Website link, etc.)
- A summary of the article
- Comparisons/contrasts to the textbook material
- And student's opinions and comments

### **Essay Completion Schedule**

The first essay is due before the first exam is taken.  
The second essay is due before the second exam is taken.  
The third essay is due before the third exam is taken.  
The two remaining essays are due before the end of the class.

### **Essay Point Breakdown**

Each essay is worth a total of 20 points for total essay points: 100.

Appropriate Comparative Criminal Justice topic	2 points
Compare/contrast to textbook topics or issues	6 points
Well constructed/defended paper	8 points
Readable/spelling/grammar	<u>4 points</u>
Total	20 points each

### **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

### **Grade Distribution:**

Proctored Exams	300 (100 points each)
Essays	<u>100 (20 points each)</u>
Total Points	400

### **Scale:**

360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
239 and below	F