

**CCJS 498: The Politics of Criminal Justice  
Spring 2019**

Tu. 11:00-1:30

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Introduction**

Welcome to CCJS 498, The Politics of Criminal Justice. Over the course of the semester, we will be discussing a wide variety of topics having to do with the political and social context of policing and criminal justice in the United States of America. Justice does not occur in a vacuum, and without understanding the various pressures exerted upon it by the currents of society, we cannot hope to understand its unique challenges, its failures and successes, and its opportunities for improvement - or collapse.

Grades will be calculated based on two written assignments, a presentation, and class participation. This latter grade will be based on an online component, wherein you will post two one-paragraph reflections (one on in-class material, one on assigned readings) on the course's ELMS site, which will all be also turned in as a single document at the end of the semester.

Two classes may be missed without excuse until grading is affected; afterward, each missed class will result in a full letter grade deduction. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class. All assignments are to be turned in as hard copies, unless arrangements are made otherwise beforehand.

**Disclaimers**

UMD policies relevant to undergraduate courses may be found at <http://ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will be prosecuted.

**Required Texts**

Readings will be required throughout the semester, but will be provided online. There is no required textbook.

## **Grading Breakdown**

Class Participation	25%
Short Paper	25%
Term Paper	50%

## **Syllabus**

### **Weeks 1-2**

The Policymaking Process

### **Week 3**

The Constitution and Criminal Justice

### **Week 4**

Partisan Perspectives on Crime and Justice

### **Week 5**

The Urban Context of Crime

### **Week 6**

Criminal Policing in American Cities

### **Week 7**

First Paper Due

The Police and the Culture

### **Week 8**

SPRING BREAK

### **Week 9**

The Politics of Race and Class

### **Week 10**

The Courts and the Prisons

### **Week 11**

Public Corruption

### **Week 12**

MOVIE: Twelve Angry Men

### **Week 13**

Transnational Issues: Terrorism and Immigration

### **Week 14-15**

PRESENTATIONS

### **Week 16**

Second Paper Due

Conclusions