

CCJS100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FALL 2026

Mon/Weds 10:00am – 10:50am (Sections 0101-0108)

2205 Lefrak Hall (LEF)

PROFESSOR

Dr. Justine Madoo

2220M Lefrak Hall

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Phone: 301-405-0172

Office Hours: Mon 12-2pm and by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS0101-0104 – Dara Doane, dbkdoane@umd.edu, Office Hours: Weds 11-1pm, 2220Z LEF0105-0108 – Alyssa Martinez, amarti52@umd.edu, Office Hours: Mon 12-2pm, 2163 LEF**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of the three major components of the American criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections. Each component will be explored in its development over time as well as various issues surrounding each component. This course will also cover important issues that are relevant to current debates including reentry and juvenile justice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the three subsystems of the American criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories used to explain criminal and delinquent behavior.
- Examine how crime and delinquency are defined and measured in America.
- Identify specific issues of crime including offender reentry and juvenile offending.
- Understand the future direction of the American criminal justice system.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course uses ELMS for the distribution of important course information (syllabus, extra reading material, class announcements, assignments, grades). You are strongly encouraged to access ELMS on a regular basis and enable notifications so you receive all posted information in a timely manner. You can set this up by clicking on the “Account” tab in ELMS. To access ELMS, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact the support desk at 301-405-1500. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. You are also expected to use your UMD email account to communicate with the instructors in this class.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Cole, G. F., Smith, C. E. & DeJong, C. (2022). *Criminal Justice in America*, 10th Edition.
ISBN-13: 9780357456330

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures

This course meets twice a week for lectures and once a week for discussion. Students are expected to attend all three sessions. During the weekly lectures, students are encouraged to take handwritten notes on the course material and keep up with the weekly readings.

Unless you are instructed to use it as part of an in-class activity, **laptops and phones are prohibited** in this class. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, outside of a required in-class activity, you will be given a warning or asked to leave class due to the disruptive behavior. Exceptions to this policy may apply if a student has a documented need and has obtained written approval directly from Dr. Madoo.

Discussion Activities

A weekly discussion will be led by a teaching assistant (TA). Please make sure you attend the registered lecture and discussion section listed on your schedule as no credit will be granted to students who attend a section they are not registered for this semester. Participating in discussion is critical to your success in the course. During your weekly discussions, you will participate in a variety of classroom assignments (this may also include online assignments). Students will not typically need to take notes in discussion. Simply attending discussion will not result in full credit. To receive full credit, students will be expected to attend class on time, stay for the duration of the entire class, and actively participate in the discussion activities. Students who are not actively engaged in class or who engage in disruptive behavior may lose points in discussion.

If you are going to miss discussion due to an excused absence, please communicate via email with **both** Dr. Madoo and your TA (in one email) **before the start of the missed class** so we can discuss a makeup option. Makeup assignments, including quizzes, must be completed within one week of the missed class. Official documentation will be requested/required after you notify us. If you are going to miss discussion due to an unexcused absence, you do not need to notify us as a makeup option will not be provided in these cases. As a note, **two** discussion grades will be dropped for each student at the end of the semester.

Discussion will **not** be held during the first week of class so please start attending discussion in week two. Discussion will also **not** be held during exam weeks. Your TA will provide you with additional information on their discussion expectations. Laptops and phones are also prohibited during discussions, unless instructed to use them as part of an in-class activity.

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes will be given in discussion throughout the semester which will provide opportunities for students to assess their comprehension of the course material. Quizzes may be in the format of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or short answer questions. If you arrive late, after a quiz has been completed, you will not be able to take it. As a note, **two** of the lowest quizzes will be dropped for each student at the end of the semester.

Exams

Exams will be in the format of multiple-choice questions and will feature content from the assigned readings, weekly lectures, and weekly discussions. The first three exams will be held in person and will not be cumulative. The final exam, however, will be cumulative and given online during the final exam week. Please check the course schedule (last page) for the date and time of the final exam. Exam grades will not be curved in the course.

Makeup exams are **only** scheduled for excused absences. If you must miss an exam due to an excused absence, **please contact Dr. Madoo before the start of the exam** so we can discuss a makeup option. Makeup exams must be completed no later than 48 hours after the missed exam. These will be scheduled based on Dr. Madoo's availability. I am only able to accommodate students who inform me of their absence before the start of the exam, not afterwards. After you contact Dr. Madoo, official documentation will be required to verify the excused absence. Since exams are considered major graded assessments, self-signed notes will **not** be accepted.

Excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, traffic/transit problems, miscalculating due dates, etc. do **not** qualify as excused absences.

In the case of makeup exams, the format and questions will be different from the standard multiple-choice version given to the class. Typically, these exams will be in the format of short answer and/or essay questions. The content on the makeup exam, however, will be at the same level of difficulty as the standard version given to the class.

*Please note that if you arrive late for an in-person exam, after the first student has left the lecture hall, you may **not** sit for the exam and will receive a zero.*

GRADING STRUCTURE

Discussion Activities: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Exam #1: 15%

Exam #2: 20%

Exam #3: 20%

Final Exam: 15%

Final Grade Cutoffs								
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%	+	67.00%	+
A	93.00%	B	83.00%	C	73.00%	D	63.00%	F
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%	-	60.00%	-

Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point starting at 0.50%

GRADES

If you have questions or concerns about your grades, please submit a written request over email describing your concerns in detail. If your concern is regarding an exam grade or you wish to review your exam, please contact Dr. Madoo. If your concern is regarding a discussion grade, please contact your TA. All requests must be submitted within **one week** after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted. As a note, late work will **not** be accepted in this class.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Keep up with the readings.** Read the weekly chapter before attending lecture.
- **Regularly attend lectures and weekly discussions.** If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for learning what was missed. If you miss discussion, you will miss assignments and fall behind.
- **Manage your time.** Invest in a planner/calendar and schedule time for your homework, projects, studying, etc.
- **Check your grades often.** Log into ELMS regularly so you stay updated with assignments and grades.
- **Do your own work.** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Referrals will be made to the Office of Student Conduct.
- **Ask questions.** This is how you will learn. Ask away!
- **Ask for help.** We are here to support you.

POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html> for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with Dr. Madoo if you have questions.

COURSE GUIDELINES

This University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering inclusive and equitable classroom environments. If you wish, please inform us how you want to be referred to in this class. Please also treat others with respect, as well as refrain from disruptive behaviors such as entering the classroom late, leaving the classroom early and/or repeatedly, making distracting noises, eating, reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using prohibited technological devices. Please note that cell phones are to be turned off or placed on silent during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the final grade you receive.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, TerpAI, Gemini, Grammarly, etc.) is **prohibited** for any part of the assignment process in this class, including brainstorming, writing, and editing. This policy aims to foster your ability to develop original ideas and a unique voice, both core skills of this class. Any use of AI-generated work to outline, write, create, or edit your assignments will be considered an academic integrity violation and will be subject to a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any questions about this policy, please email Dr. Madoo.

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT

Students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and provide me with ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. After submitting your Accommodations Letter through the ADS portal, you are expected to reach out to Dr. Madoo via email to further discuss your specific accommodations. In some cases, a brief meeting will be scheduled with Dr. Madoo to discuss how accommodations will be applied in the course. Please make sure all ADS documentation is submitted through the portal for me to review and confirm receipt by **September 14, 2026**.

ADS students who request to take their exams this semester at the ADS Testing Office need to provide me with a test request online **at least one week prior to each exam** or will have to take the exam at the same location/time as the rest of the class. When scheduling at ADS, the student is expected to schedule and take the exam at the **same time** as the rest of the class unless other accommodations have been approved by Dr. Madoo.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES & ATHLETIC OBLIGATIONS

If you are unable to attend class or take an exam due to a known religious observance or athletic obligation, you must inform Dr. Madoo by **September 14, 2026**. Documentation will need to be provided prior to the missed class (signed religious letter, university athletic travel schedule, etc.) to excuse your absence. It is your responsibility to arrange an alternative date to complete exams/assignments prior to the missed class.

NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING

Faculty members and TAs are designated as a “Responsible University Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. Please visit the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct’s website at ocrsm.umd.edu for further information.

COURSE EVALUATION

Please submit a course evaluation through Student Feedback on Course Experiences to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning methods. All information submitted to Course Experiences is confidential. Campus will notify you when Student Feedback on Course Experiences is open for you to complete your evaluations at the end of the semester.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Course materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than your personal use in this course without written permission from the course instructor. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Schedule & Reading Assignments (subject to change)
 Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date on the schedule.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignments
1	M 8/31 W 9/2	Course Introduction What is Criminal Justice?	<i>No discussion this week</i>
2	M 9/7 W 9/9	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS The Criminal Justice System	<i>No Monday discussion</i> Chapter 1
3	M 9/14 W 9/16	Crime and Crime Causation	Chapter 2
4	M 9/21 W 9/23	Crime and Crime Causation Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law	Chapter 2 (continued) Chapter 3
5	M 9/28 W 9/30	Police EXAM #1	Chapter 4 <i>No discussion this week</i>
6	M 10/5 W 10/7	Policing: Issues & Challenges Police and Law	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
7	M 10/12 W 10/14	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS Courts and Adjudication	<i>No Monday discussion</i> Chapter 7
8	M 10/19 W 10/21	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & Criminal Trial	Chapter 8
9	M 10/26 W 10/28	Punishment and Sentencing EXAM #2	Chapter 9 <i>No discussion this week</i>
10	M 11/2 W 11/4	Corrections	Chapter 10
11	M 11/9 W 11/11	Incarceration and Prison Society Probation/Intermediate Sanctions	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
12	M 11/16 W 11/18	Reentry ASC CONFERENCE – NO CLASS	Chapter 13 <i>No Wednesday discussion</i>
13	M 11/23 W 11/25	EXAM #3 THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS	<i>No discussion this week</i>
14	M 11/30 W 12/2	Juvenile Justice	Chapter 14
15	M 12/7 W 12/9	Current Challenges in Criminal Justice	Chapter 15 <i>No Wednesday discussion</i>

FINAL EXAM (ONLINE) - MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2026 - 10:30AM

Final exams will not be rescheduled due to travel plans, unexcused absences, etc.