

CCJS 100: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Spring 2026
Sections 0201-0208
MW 10:00-10:50am
LEF 2205

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Morabito

2215 LeFrak Hall

Email: jmorab21@umd.edu

Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 9:00-9:50am and 1:00-1:50pm

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

0201-0204: Dara Doane, dbkdoane@umd.edu, Office Hours: Wed. 11:00am-1:00pm, 2163 LeFrak Hall

0205-0208: Alyssa Martinez, amarti52@umd.edu, Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-2:00pm, 2163 LeFrak Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide 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 will various issues surrounding each component. This course will also cover important issues that are relevant to current discussions 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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

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

COURSE WEBSITE

This class uses Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. The TAs and I will use it to make announcements to the class, post reading material that is not in your textbook, and update your grades. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. You are able to adjust your individual settings to receive email notifications when new content is posted, if you wish; I strongly encourage you to adjust your settings so that you

receive email notifications when announcements are posted. Please be sure to check this site regularly, as you are responsible for knowing the material that I post. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please contact the support desk at itsupport@umd.edu.

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be determined according to the following assignment categories:

Discussion: 25%

Quizzes: 15%

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Important notes about assignments:

1. I do not allow students to resubmit assignments to earn a new grade or return partial credit to a previously graded assignment. All assignments get one chance for a grade, so make sure you understand that what you are turning in is your final product.
2. I do not allow retakes of any exams.
3. I reserve the right to adjust the weighting, points, and/or course requirements if necessitated by an emergency as declared by the University.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+ 96%-93% A 92%-90% A-

89-87% B+ 86%-83% B 82%-80% B-

79%-77% C+ 76%-73% C 72%-70% C-

69%-67% D+ 66%-63% D 62%-60% D-

59% and below F

Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point at the 0.45% threshold. Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course.

COURSE FORMAT

This course meets twice a week for lectures and once a week for discussion. Lectures for this course will be delivered in an in-person format, barring illness or emergencies. There is not an option to Zoom into class and lectures are not recorded for students. Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one peer so that they have someone to solicit lecture notes from if they miss class. Once the student has obtained notes from a classmate, the student is welcome to reach out to me and/or their TA for further clarification. In addition, please note that students are not allowed to take audio and/or video recordings of class unless they have a specific ADS accommodation and students are not allowed to take photographs of slides unless given specific permission.

DISCUSSION

A weekly discussion will be held by one of the teaching assistants (TA) in the course. Please make sure you attend the discussion section you registered for, or no credit will be granted for your participation and/or completion of assignments. Discussion will **not** be held during the first week of class so please start attending discussion in week two. In addition, discussion will not be held during exam weeks.

Participating in discussion is critical to your success in the course. Discussion is not a replacement for attending lecture as course material will be presented in a different format than lecture. Instead, you will be evaluated through a variety of discussion assignments and activities which will enable you to further analyze and process the overall course material. Simply attending discussion this semester will not result in a favorable grade as you will not be graded on attendance alone, per University policy. To receive full credit in discussion, you will be expected to attend class on time, stay for the duration of the entire class, and actively participate in the weekly activities set forth by your TA. Students who are not engaged in class or who engage in disruptive behavior will lose points in discussion, per the discretion of the TA.

Your TA will provide you with additional information on their expectations for discussion. Your lowest two discussion activity grades will be dropped.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given weekly in discussion throughout the semester, starting in the third week of the course. These quizzes will provide opportunities for students to assess their understanding of course material ahead of exams. Quiz question formats may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answers. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each discussion section and you will have 6 minutes to complete each quiz. Students who arrive late will only be given the remaining time to complete their quiz (i.e., if you are 2 minutes late, you will have 4 minutes to complete your quiz); students who arrive more than 6 minutes late will not be allowed to take the quiz. You may not use any course materials while taking the quizzes. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

EXAMS ONE AND TWO

Exams one and two will be given in-person during our regular lecture time in our regular lecture hall. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions, for a total of 50 questions. The exams will be based on lectures and reading assignments. You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, your textbook) while taking the exam. Please bring a pencil, an eraser, and your University ID to the exam. Please be sure to be on time for the exams, as **once the first student has turned in the exam, no other students will be allowed to sit for the exam.** Any questions about the exam material must be emailed by 5:00pm Eastern Time the day before the exam in order to receive a reply.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be given online (via ELMS) on **Monday, May 18, 2026, from 10:30am-12:30pm.** The exam will be in the format of multiple-choice questions, including true/false, and will cover all the course lecture and reading material assigned since the previous exam; it will not be cumulative. It is your responsibility to prepare for each exam by carefully reviewing the textbook, as well as your personal notes. Any questions about the exam material need to be emailed by 5:00pm Eastern Time the day before the exam. While you may refer to your textbook and your own notes during an exam, if needed, I strongly recommend you study prior to taking the exam. You may not work with any other student on the exam as this is considered cheating.

The final exam will be available in the Quizzes section on ELMS at 10:30am Eastern Time on Monday, May 18, 2026, and will close at 12:30pm Eastern Time; this is the standard final exam time for our course as set by the University. Please note that if you begin the exam after 10:30am Eastern Time, the time you have remaining will be reduced as you near 12:30pm Eastern Time as no exam can be submitted after this time. You will only get one attempt to complete the exam. It is highly recommended you complete the exam with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection as exceptions cannot be made for technological issues. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a zero.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit will be offered at my discretion. Any opportunities will be given on a class-wide basis.

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have a concern about a grade on an exam or assignment and believe that I should review it, you must submit a written request over email to me and your TA that describes your concern in detail. Upon receiving your email, I may ask you to meet with me in person to further discuss your concern. You have **one week** after the assignment/exam grade is posted to submit a grade dispute.

MISSED CLASSES/MAKEUP POLICY/MISSED EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. 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, technical/internet problems, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify **both** Professor Morabito and their TA in writing **prior** to missing an exam and/or discussion section for a makeup to be scheduled. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify us at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to take the exam or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

Lectures: Students may miss lectures without notifying me, as attendance is not taken. However, repeatedly missing lectures is not advised. If you miss a class, you must obtain the lecture notes from a classmate. The TAs and I do not provide our lecture notes to students regardless of circumstances. Once you have obtained the lecture notes, I am happy to go over any questions you have during my office hours.

Exams: Makeup exams will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior written notice to the start of the exam and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam and notify me after the start of the exam, you will not be able to reschedule the exam. Please contact both your TA and me immediately (before the start of the exam) to let me know if you will not make the exam so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather documentation. All makeup exams must be completed as soon as you are able to return but no later than one week of the missed exam. Failure to adhere to these policies will

result in a grade of zero for the exam. Makeup exams will be a different format (e.g., short-answers and essay questions) and contain different questions than the original exam.

Discussion: If you are going to miss discussion due to an excused absence, you are required to notify your TA in writing prior to the start of your registered discussion section so a makeup option can be discussed. Official documentation will be required after you notify us. If you are going to miss discussion due to an unexcused absence, you do not need to notify your TA as a makeup option will not be provided in such cases. If you contact your TA after the start of your registered discussion section, you will not be able to schedule a makeup assignment. Please provide us with a copy of your documentation to keep in our records. All makeup assignments for a missed discussion section, due to an excused absence, must be completed within one week of the missed assignment and/or discussion section *regardless of whether discussion is held the week after the missed discussion*. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment.

Students may, once per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of a medically necessitated absence from a single discussion section. Students must still provide prior written notice of their absence before the start of class.

We reserve the right to verify all documentation of absences. If you are found to have fabricated documentation, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On occasion, the University may cancel classes due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on a day that a graded assignment is scheduled to be due or an exam is scheduled to be given, the graded assignment or exam will be rescheduled for the next class day that the University is open. If the University opens late and the opening time is after the start time of our class, we will not hold class that day. Please note that the course schedule, including reading assignments, may need to be adjusted as a result of inclement weather-related class cancellations. I will keep you updated via ELMS of any such changes.

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SERVICES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service office (ADS) and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS form which has been updated for Spring 2026. You must provide me with this form **by February 9, 2026**, in person so that we can discuss how I may best help you. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by ADS. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS testing office in Shoemaker Hall need to make arrangements to do so through the ADS website and must provide me with a testing form online **at least one week prior to the exam**; failure to do so will mean that the student must take the exam with the rest of the class. Any student taking an exam at the ADS office is expected to take the exam **on the same day and at the same starting time** as the rest of the class; if you feel that you are unable to take the exam at the same day due to a scheduling conflict (i.e., another class), you must discuss this with me prior to submitting your request to the ADS testing office and submit documentation of your conflict.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS & ATHLETICS

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss class, a quiz, or an exam, please let your TA and me know **by February 9, 2026**. If you will be missing an exam or quiz, you will be expected to take it prior to the exam/quiz date. If you will be missing an assignment due date, you will be expected to turn it in prior to the due date. When you contact me, please let me know which specific course responsibilities you will be missing due to your absence; you are responsible for looking through the syllabus to see which due dates/exam dates/etc. occur on a day you will be absent and to make necessary arrangements.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONDUCT

The success of this class is dependent on our ability as a class to maintain an environment conducive to everyone's learning. As a department and a university, we expect both faculty and students to be prepared for class. We also expect students to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated in my classroom. Disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, using cell phones or prohibited technological devices, leaving class early, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting other students while they are speaking. Disruptive behaviors may result in being asked to leave the class and forfeiting any activity points for the day. In addition, this class will cover subjects that may personally affect you, someone you know, or other students; some of the material presented may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable in the classroom. Students must treat each other, their TA, and me with respect, particularly when discussing these topics. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or to attack another member of this class. I have zero tolerance for disrespect directed at the TAs. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave class and will be subject to referral to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

I am committed to making this class a positive experience for all students. You can expect that I will start class on time and not keep you past our end time, that I will be prepared for class with class, that I will make every effort to provide feedback on course assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline, and that I will stick to the syllabus unless there is an emergency.

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions. All campus-wide policies will be enforced.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

I will allow the use of laptops or tablets in class for notetaking and class activities. Your TA will set their own policy for technology use in discussion sections and you are expected to follow their instructions. I do not allow the use of cell phones in my classroom. If inappropriate use of technology becomes a repeated infraction, you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day. I reserve the option to rescind laptop/tablet privileges for the remainder of the course if these problems continue to occur.

EMAIL POLICY

Email is the University's official form of communication. As such, I expect that you will check your email daily to ensure that you receive important announcements relating to this class. In addition, I expect your emails to me to be professional. Please do not use chat-speak in your emails to me. You must email me from your University email address, not a personal email. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please be sure to include CCJS100 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in. Please do not email me through ELMS.

It is important to me to provide timely responses to your emails. I will make an effort to provide a same-day email response to emails received during business hours, Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I do not respond to emails over the weekend or on holidays and will respond to any emails by 5:00pm the next business day. Keeping these guidelines in mind, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email. Before you email me, please check the syllabus and ELMS announcements to see if your question can be answered there (e.g., "what day is the exam?" is answered in the syllabus).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I take academic integrity very seriously. The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page; Turnitin is an originality checker that helps me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#).

Unless I give explicit permission otherwise, please be advised that you are not permitted to use AI generated content or generative AI tools in this course and doing so will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> for further information about the Code of Academic Integrity, what constitutes academic dishonesty, and the Office of Student Conduct. If you are ever unclear about acceptable levels of collaboration, when and/or how to cite, or what actions I consider a breach of academic integrity, please ask me!

NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING

As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible University Employee," and I 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. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of UMD's confidential resources, such as [CARE to Stop Violence](#) (located on the Ground Floor of the Health Center) at 301-741-3442 or the [Counseling Center](#) (located at the Shoemaker Building) at 301-314-7651. You may also seek assistance or supportive measures from UMD's Title IX

Coordinator by calling 301-405-1142, or emailing titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu. To view further information on the above, please visit the [Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's](#) website.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of the semester, you are encouraged to 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.

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The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. You are permitted to take notes on lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. **You may NOT record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. You may NOT take pictures of my lectures/notes for your own personal use or for any commercial purpose without my written consent.** Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments	Discussion This Week?
1	M 1/26 W 1/28	No Class – Snow		No
2	M 2/2 W 2/4	Course Introduction; The Criminal Justice System The Criminal Justice System	Syllabus; Chapter 1 Chapter 1	Yes
3	M 2/9 W 2/11	Crime and Crime Causation Crime and Crime Causation	Chapter 2 Chapter 2	Yes
4	M 2/16 W 2/18	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law	Chapter 3 Chapter 3	Yes
5	M 2/23 W 2/25	Police Police	Chapter 4 Chapter 4	Yes
6	M 3/2 W 3/4	Exam 1 (in-class) Policing: Issues and Challenges	Chapter 5	No
7	M 3/9 W 3/11	Police and Law Police and Law	Chapter 6 Chapter 6	Yes
8	M 3/16 W 3/18	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS!		No
9	M 3/23 W 3/25	Courts and Adjudication Courts and Adjudication	Chapter 7 Chapter 7	Yes
10	M 3/30 W 4/1	Pretrial, Plea Bargaining, and Trial Pretrial, Plea Bargaining, and Trial	Chapter 8 Chapter 8	Yes
11	M 4/6 W 4/8	Punishment and Sentencing Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 9 Chapter 9	Yes
12	M 4/13 W 4/15	Exam 2 (in-class) Corrections	Chapter 10	No
13	M 4/20 W 4/22	Incarceration and Prison Society Probation/Intermediate Sanctions	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Yes
14	M 4/27 W 4/29	Reentry Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Yes
15	M 5/4 W 5/6	Current Challenges in Criminal Justice Catch-Up Day	Chapter 15	Yes

FINAL EXAM (online): Monday, May 18, 2026 10:30am-12:30pm Eastern Time