

CCJS 100
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Freshman Connection
Fall 2024

Instructor:	Cortney Fisher, JD, PhD (she/her)	Course Time:	Mo/We 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Office:	2217 Lefrak Hall (CP) Bldg. III – 5101 (SG)	Course Location:	KEY 0103
Zoom:	357 163 5269	Office hours:	SG: Wed 9:30 a – 10:45 am CP: Tue 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Email:	cfisher3@umd.edu	Slack:	@cfisher3
TA:	Gabby Coleman (she/her)		

Communication in this course is to be conducted via Slack. Each student in the course will be invited into a Course Channel. Do not email me with questions, concerns, or comments. Slack me! I cannot promise that I will be responsive to email, but I will be responsive to Slack

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:

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

Content Alert

This course is, by its definition, a course about crime and the people who commit crime. By the nature of this course, we are discussing trauma and traumatic events. It is impossible for me to identify when any particular topic is going to bring up difficult feelings and emotions for any one person in the class. However, I do expect that many people in the class have experienced trauma caused by crime or the criminal justice system and I anticipate that some of the material may be difficult.

Always take care of yourself first. If you need to stop reading a book or an article, put it aside until you feel that you are better able to focus on it and talk to me about it. If you need to talk more at length, I am always available during office hours but University policy requires that I report certain information if certain crimes have happened on campus. There are confidential resources for you to access:

UMD CARE Office
301.314.2222

UMD Counseling Center
301.314.7651

UMD Mental Health Service
301.314.8106

If you feel like you are going to hurt yourself or someone else, or if you feel like you are having a mental health emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Notice of Mandatory Reporting

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking: 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.

To view further information on the above, please visit the [Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's](https://ocrsm.umd.edu) website at ocrsm.umd.edu.

Basic Needs Security

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or lack a safe and stable place to live, please visit [UMD's Division of Student Affairs website](#) for information about resources the campus offers.

Veteran Resources

UMD provides some additional supports to our student veterans. You can access those resources at the office of [Veteran Student life](#) and the [Counseling Center](#). Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.

Masking Requirements

Students in this class are expected to comply with any University directive that is operational during the semester with regard to masking. If masks are deemed to be mandatory, appropriate masks must be worn at all times in the class over the nose and mouth.

There are no exceptions.

Students who are not in compliance with University directives regarding masking will be given a warning and asked to wear one, or will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. After the first documented warning, students will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for failure to comply with a directive of a University official.

Required Texts

1. *Criminal Justice in America*, 10th Edition
Cole, G.F, Smith, C.E., & DeJong, C. (2022)
ISBN-13: 978-0357456330

Additional materials for the course are uploaded into the ELMS course.

Course Requirements

Students in CCJS 100 FC will receive 4 grades in this course.

- 20% - Exam 1
- 25% - Exam 2
- 30% - Exam 3
- 25% - Engagement and In-Class Activities

Exam 1 **100 points x 2 = 200 points**

(To calculate your total points for Exam 1, multiply the score you earned on Exam 1 by 2. That number is your total out of 100. Once you have your total out of 100, multiply that number by 2. That is the total number of points that you've earned on Exam 1.)

If you have an excused absence: I will excuse absences for medical necessity, family emergencies, religious observances, interviews with proper documentation, university-sanctioned events, or court appearances. All excused absences must have a note from the appropriate authority, e.g. doctor, court, university official, interviewer. If your absence is excused, you will have the opportunity to make-up the exam **within one week of the absence. There will be no exams made up by the student after one week.** It is **solely the student's responsibility to learn whether an exam was given on the day the student was absent and to arrange with professor to complete the exam.**

Exam 2 **100 points x 2.5 = 250 points**

(To calculate your total points for Exam 2, multiply the score you earned on Exam 2 by 2. That number is your total out of 100. Once you have your total out of 100, multiply that number by 2.5. That is the total number of points that you've earned on Exam 2.)

If you have an excused absence: I will excuse absences for medical necessity, family emergencies, religious observances, interviews with proper documentation, university-sanctioned events, or court appearances. All excused absences must have a note from the appropriate authority, e.g. doctor, court, university official, interviewer. If your absence is excused, you will have the opportunity to make-up the exam **within one week of the absence. There will be no exams made up by the student after one week.** It is **solely the student's responsibility to learn whether an exam was given on the day the student was absent and to arrange with professor to complete the exam.**

Exam 3 **100 points x 3 = 300 points**

(To calculate your total points for Exam 3, multiply the score you earned on Exam 3 by 3. That number is your total out of 100. Once you have your total out of 100, multiply that number by 3. That is the total number of points that you've earned on Exam 3.)

If you have an excused absence: I will excuse absences for medical necessity, family emergencies, religious observances, interviews with proper documentation, university-sanctioned events, or court appearances. All excused absences must have a note from the appropriate authority, e.g. doctor, court, university official, interviewer. If your absence is excused, you will have the opportunity to make-up the exam **within one week of the absence. There will be no exams made up by the student after one week.** It is **solely the student's responsibility to learn whether an exam was given on the day the student was absent and to arrange with professor to complete the exam.**

Engagement **100 points x 2.5 = 250 points**

(To calculate your engagement grade, multiple the score you earned on engagement by 2.5. Once you have that number, you have the number of total points that you earned for engagement.)

Engagement in the course is worth 25% of your grade, and refers to your relationship as a student to the course. An engaged student is one who is fully absorbed by and enthusiastic about the course and so takes positive and consistent action to further their understanding of the material.

Engagement may be reflected by consistent (and meaningful) participation in class, completion of optional assignments, ongoing discussion with me as to the content of the course, ongoing discussion with the TA as to the content of the course, consistent, on-time completion of the out-of-class assignments, answering Discussion questions and participating in class discussions via ELMS, and other proactive engagement. Attendance may be a factor that goes into a student's overall Engagement grade, but it is not going to be dispositive of the student's Engagement grade. In other words, students will not earn a 100 for an Engagement grade just because they come to class every class period. Alternatively, students will not earn a 0 for their Engagement grade simply because they have missed several classes. However, it is VERY difficult to engage in a course if you are not present in class and/or if you attend class but are disengaged when present.

The grade given for engagement is at the discretion of the Instructor based on the factors above. Points in this category may be earned or may be lost. You may lose points for engagement if you are actively disengaged during the class period, e.g. texting, chatting online, chatting with other classmates, etc., or if you have a pattern of not attending class and engaging otherwise. Because these classes are large, it is up to YOU to ensure that the Instructor and the TA know who you are and are noting your engagement. **We HIGHLY RECOMMEND bringing a name tag to class and using it throughout every class period and stating your name clearly when you are asking or answering a question.**

Engagement Grading Scheme: Each student begins the class with between a 70-75 in the Engagement Grade. Whether the grade is a 70, 72, or 75 depends on the overall participation of the class at large. If the class (as a whole) is very participatory, the class, as a whole, will receive a 75 as a baseline for Engagement. If the class (as a whole) is not very participatory or engaged, the class as a whole will receive a 70 as a baseline for Engagement.

From that number, you can increase your Engagement grade by answering questions in class, asking questions in class, participating in the class poll and surveys, reading and taking note of criminal law-related issues in the news and bringing them to me (or the class), participating in the Discussion posts on ELMS, or being present *and engaged* in class on a consistent and regular basis. This is not an exclusive list, but it is a list that can guide you in increasing your Engagement grade.

From the baseline Engagement grade, you can decrease your Engagement grade by routinely not attending class (and not engaging otherwise), being disrespectful to the class (and me) when in class, texting, snapchatting, looking at your phone or computer for reasons not associated with class, or being offensive in your comments. This is not an exclusive list, but it is a list that can warn you about what behavior is not acceptable in my class.

NOTE: Attendance in this class is not mandatory, but it is very difficult to get an A or a B for Engagement if you do not regularly attend class. I do not need to see an excuse when you're absent, nor do you need to tell me if you're not going to be in class. However, at random times throughout the semester, the TA will take attendance. This attendance does not "give you" points, nor does the attendance "take points away." Attendance is meant as an objective gauge of who is attending (and therefore more engaged in) the class. If you miss a day of class when attendance is taken, you do not need to show me an excuse; **it will not change your status as absent.** The purpose of taking attendance is not to count days of you showing up – it is to give me one of many gauges of engagement. Simply be mindful to attend class on a more regular basis and/or engage outside of class. If you actively participate in class, we likely won't even look at your attendance when determining the Engagement grade.

0-55: Your experience with this course was very poor. Your classroom behavior was rude and disruptive, OR you never (or very rarely) attended class, and you never attended any optional events or completed optional assignments. You submitted late assignments or missed assignments.

60-65: You did something to indicate to me that you were not engaged in the course. Your classroom behavior may have been poor or disruptive, your attendance may be poor, you may have missed a lot of quizzes, and/or you made no effort to make up work through extra credit.

70-75: This is the baseline grade at which each student begins the course. If you do nothing more and nothing less, this will be your grade at the end of the course.

80-85: You distinguished yourself somehow. I received some Engagement from you. Your attendance was acceptable when taken in class.

90-95: Your Engagement was good. You made sure that I knew that you were engaged with the material, either through spoken, in-class engagement, Slack engagement, ELMS-based Discussion engagement, or after-class/before-class conversations.

100: Your Engagement was exceptional.

Total points 1000 points

Extra Credit Points to be added to the END of your point total, as calculated above

At times during the course of the semester, extra credit opportunities will be offered to students. These will depend on events that are occurring on or near campus. Students are able to earn up to fifty (50) points in extra credit during the course of the semester. Extra credit can be ad hoc events, as offered during the semester, or case briefs, as described below.

A+ = 985-1000	B+ = 875-894	C+ = 775-794	D+ = 675-694	F = below 595
A = 935-984	B = 825-874	C = 725- 774	D = 625-674	
A- = 895-934	B- = 795-824	C- = 695-724	D- = 595-624	

University Policies

Unless otherwise stated explicitly in this Syllabus, all University policies pertaining to Undergraduate education apply to this course. <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Classroom Behavior and Class Expectations

Class discussion, questions, expression of viewpoints, concerns, and opinions are encouraged. This classroom and my style are very informal. However, I require that all students speak in a non-offensive manner to other students, to the TA (if there is one), and to me. Using language that is offensive, being disruptive or disrespectful, or failing to treat other students and me with respect will result in a reduction of the Engagement grade.

Expectations of this class will reflect some of the expectations of the criminal justice system. Failure to abide by the expectations of this class will negatively impact your course grade.

Time. The criminal justice system requires you to be on time and remain at work for the entirety of your work day. So do I. Class runs from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm and you are required to be present for the entirety of the class. If you arrive late, are disruptive, are disrespectful, or leave early, you may lose any attendance for that day. If the behavior is chronic, it will impact your Engagement grade.

Respect. When you are in class, the expectation is that you are present in the class and not on your phone or having a side conversation with another student. You should not be talking to or engaging with anyone else

except me and the other students in class about the material that we are discussing during the entirety of the class. You should raise your hand if you wish to participate. Speak when you are called on and not otherwise.

Fairness. Fairness dictates that we all have the same rules. Every student in this class will be held to the same standards.

Professionalism. Come to this class and engage with me as if you are going to a job or an internship in the criminal justice system. Please refer to me as Professor or Dr. Fisher.

Prepare to learn, grow, and be uncomfortable. This class will challenge traditional notions of age, sex, gender, ethnicity, modesty, social norms, and relationships. Be open to questioning what you know (or think you know) about the world. Learning to think in new ways can sometimes be uncomfortable – an expectation of this class is that you embrace the discomfort.

Use humor and compassion. The topics that we will be discussing in this class can be difficult. As with many professionals in the criminal justice system, I use humor to deflect from trauma, sadness, and tension. I encourage you to do the same – with compassion.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. This course is designed to explicitly address the issue of identity and how different identities interact with the criminal justice system. We will discuss internal and external biases, hate speech and behavior, and bias-motivated incidents. It is the philosophy of the University of Maryland, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and me that all students at the University feel that their identity as a person is included in our conversation and that they feel a sense of belonging in this classroom. Disrespectful comments and conversation will not be tolerated. Expressing viewpoints as fact that are cultivated from disreputable news sources will not be tolerated. Students who wish to participate in class may do so only if they are willing to engage in a respectful and open discussion of ideas that are based on facts, evidence, and science.

- We **will** acknowledge that we all hold implicit biases that are shaped by our families, cultures, and communities.
- We **will** acknowledge that our implicit biases have an impact on how we interact with people and how we will do our jobs as criminal justice professionals.
- We **will** acknowledge that racism, ethno-centrism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and sexism exist in our culture and influence the ways in which the criminal justice system is structured and operates.
- We **will** acknowledge that the biases and structural “isms” of our society impact our classmates and colleagues in a very real way on a daily basis.
- We **will** try, during this class, to identify when these “isms” influence our opinions and critically analyze our thoughts and behaviors.
- We **will** speak and act with respect, kindness, openness, and compassion at all times during this semester.

Failure to acknowledge these expectations and parameters will result in a reduction of your Engagement grade and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Special Guest Speakers. At various times during the semester, there may be special guest speakers who are relevant to the subject that we are discussing. Behavior and attendance during a special guest speaker is extremely important. I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior during a special guest speaker, and I will remove up to 25 points from your Engagement grade for inappropriate behavior. Inappropriate behavior includes texting from your cell phone, chatting or using Facebook on your laptop, or talking to other students while the guest

speaker is speaking. Further, attendance at special guest speaker appointments is mandatory. The information provided by the guest speakers will be quizzed and tested heavily.

Use of Personal Technology

The use of personal technology, e.g. personal laptop computers, tablets, SmartPhones, is required for this class to facilitate lectures, assignments, interaction with the professor and TA, quizzes, readings for the course, exams, and efficient notetaking. Course notes and outlines will often be made available to students prior to each class period. Students are encouraged to download those materials and to use them during class time. If students are found to be using personal technology devices in any way that is not specifically related to the day's class discussion, then I may deduct up to 10 points from the student's engagement grade for the first offense. On the second and subsequent offenses, students will be referred to the Departmental Director of Undergraduate Programs and/or the Office of Student Conduct for violating course policy on the use of technology during the course.

Office Hours

Sometimes the material is understood better by talking it through. Students who wish to discuss the material can attend my office hours to ask questions and talk through the material. Coming to my office hours are first-come, first-served. I will speak to each student individually and privately as they enter my physical office in College Park, my physical office in Shady Grove, or my Zoom meeting room. All of my office spaces are listed at the top of this syllabus.

Office hours for this semester are:

Tuesday: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm via Zoom or in-person at the College Park campus

Wednesday: 9:30 am – 10:45 pm via Zoom or in-person at the Shady Grove campus

Major Scheduled Grading Events and Prolonged Absences. All Major Scheduled Grading Events are indicated on the attached schedule. Exams are considered Major Scheduled Grading Events. Students who miss a Major Scheduled Grading Event due to illness or who have a prolonged absence due to illness (multiple consecutive absences due to the same illness) shall be required to provide his or her instructor with written documentation of the illness from the University Health Center or from his or her own health care provider. The University Health Center or health care provider shall verify dates of treatment and indicate the dates the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities.

Students with Disabilities

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the ADS and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by ADS.

Disability accommodations are the student's responsibility. **If the student has a disability or an accommodation that the student wants me to acknowledge, the student is required to have at least one 1:1 meeting with me in which the student discusses the accommodation and makes a plan for the accommodation. I cannot accommodate an issue that I don't know exists or that is unclear. If a student has a request for an accommodation that requires an extension of deadlines, students are required to notify me of the request for an extension at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline.**

Lecture Material

The lecture I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to insure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my 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. 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).

Academic Integrity

For this course, some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help 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](#)

The University's Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. In accordance with this code, the University of Maryland does not tolerate academic dishonesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this code and its implications because all acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this code. All students are expected to adhere to this Code. It is your responsibility to read it and know what it says, so you can start your professional life on the right path. **As future professionals, your commitment to high ethical standards and honesty begins with your time at the University of Maryland.**

It is important to note that course assistance websites, such as CourseHero, or AI generated content are not permitted sources. Material taken or copied from these sites can be deemed unauthorized material and a violation of academic integrity. These sites offer information that might be inaccurate or biased and most importantly, relying on restricted sources will hamper your learning process, particularly the critical thinking steps necessary for college-level assignments.

Additionally, students may naturally choose to use online forums for course-wide discussions (e.g., Group lists or chats) to discuss concepts in the course. **However, collaboration on graded assignments is strictly prohibited.** Examples of prohibited collaboration include: asking classmates for answers on quizzes or exams, asking for access codes to clicker polls, etc. Please visit the [Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies](#) and reach out if you have questions.

Finally, on each exam or assignment you must write out and sign the following pledge: *I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.* If you ever feel pressured to comply with someone else's academic integrity violation, please reach out to me straight away. Also, *if you are ever unclear* about acceptable levels of collaboration, *please ask!* To help you avoid unintentional violations, *the following table* lists levels of collaboration that are acceptable for each graded exercise. Each assignment will contain more specific information regarding acceptable levels of collaboration.

	 OPEN NOTES	 USE BOOK	 LEARN ONLINE	 GATHER CONTENT With AI	 ASK FRIENDS	 WORK IN GROUPS
Exams	✓	✓	---	---	---	---

To reiterate, the prohibition on academic dishonesty extends to the use of any and all tools that use artificial intelligence to generate material. It also extends to using another's work without proper citation or "collaborating" on assignments that aren't intended for collaboration. We will use the Turnitin score on your written assignments, as well as other methods of detecting whether your material has been significantly "borrowed" from another source. Students who are found to be in violation of this classroom policy **OR** any other UMD campus policy regarding academic integrity will:

- Receive a 0 for the assignment; and
- Be referred to the Student Honor Council and the Office of Judicial Programs

CCJS 100FC: Introduction to Criminal Justice		
Class Date	Topic	Readings & Assignment Due
Monday, August 26	Course Introduction	
Wednesday, August 28	The Criminal Justice System	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 1
Monday, September 2	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY	
Wednesday, September 4	The Criminal Justice System; Crime and Crime Causation	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 2
Monday, September 9	Crime and Crime Causation	
Wednesday, September 11	Crime and Crime Causation	
Monday, September 16	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law (Asynchronous)	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 3
Wednesday, September 18		
Monday, September 23	Police	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 4
Wednesday, September 25	Police; Policing: Issues & Challenges	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 5
Monday, September 30	Policing: Issues & Challenges	
Wednesday, October 2	EXAM #1	
Monday, October 7	Police and Law	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 6
Wednesday, October 9	Police and Law; Courts and Adjudication	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 7
Monday, October 14	Courts and Adjudication	
Wednesday, October 16	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, & Criminal Trial	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 8
Monday, October 21	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, & Criminal Trial; Punishment and Sentencing	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 9
Wednesday, October 23	Punishment and Sentencing	
Monday, October 28	EXAM #2	
Wednesday, October 30	Corrections	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 10
Monday, November 4	Incarceration and Prison Society	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 11
Wednesday, November 6	Incarceration and Prison Society	
Monday, November 11	Probation/Intermediate Sanctions	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 12
Wednesday, November 13	Probation/Intermediate Sanctions	
Monday, November 18	Reentry	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 13
Wednesday, November 20	Juvenile Justice (Asynchronous)	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 14
Monday, November 25		
Wednesday, November 27	Thanksgiving Break	
Monday, December 2	Current Challenges in Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice in America , Chapter 15
Wednesday, December 4	Current Challenges in Criminal Justice	
Monday, December 9	EXAM #3	