

CCJS 100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**University of Maryland, College Park****Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

TERM: Fall 2026	OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only (virtual)
INSTRUCTOR: Tashawn Reagon	CREDITS: 3
EMAIL: treagon@umd.edu	CLASS TIME: MW 6:00 – 7:15 pm

PART I: COURSE GUIDELINES

COURSE MEETING TIME

This class will be held face to face and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 pm (EST) to 7:15 pm (EST) in room 1117 of Susquehanna Hall.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the three major components of the criminal justice system in America: police, courts, and corrections. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of (1) policing in America, (2) court organization and processes, and (3) corrections, incarceration, and community supervision. We will also cover other issues pertaining to the criminal justice system as they arise. At the completion of this course, students should have a strong understanding of how the criminal justice system operates in the United States.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you 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 crime issues, including offender reentry, technology, and crime.
- Understand the future direction of the American criminal justice system.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course utilizes Canvas (ELMS) to distribute important course information, including lectures, assignments, and grades. You can access Canvas/ELMS by going to <http://elms.umd.edu>. You must be registered for the class to access the course website.

To log in, you will be required to enter your university credentials. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact the support desk at (301) 405-1500.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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

PART II: COURSE STRUCTURE

LECTURES

This course meets **twice** a week for lectures. Students are expected to attend both class 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 a part of an in-class activity, **laptops and phones are prohibited in this class**. If these devices are seen and/or used in 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 the Instructor.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Email

- If you need to reach out and communicate with me, please email me at treagon@umd.edu. I will do my best to respond to emails as soon as possible, but if I have yet to respond to you within 24 hours, please resend your email.
- The University of Maryland policy requires that instructors only respond to emails from addresses affiliated with the University of Maryland. ***Please email me from your university-assigned account.***

ELMS

- I will send important announcements via Canvas/ELMS messaging.
- You must make sure that your email & announcement notifications (including changes in assignments and due dates) are enabled in ELMS, so you get all the messages.
- You are responsible for regularly checking your email and Canvas/ELMS inbox.

PART III: COURSE GRADING

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams (three exams, 65% total)

Exams in this class will be in the format of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer and will feature content from the assigned reading and weekly lectures. Exams will be completed without the use of notes, textbooks, computers, or additional aides. Exams will **not** be cumulative, nor will they be curved in this course.

If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, please contact Tashawn before the start of the exam so we can discuss a makeup option. After you contact Tashawn, 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 than what is given to the class on test day. While the format will be similar in types of questions (e.g., multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer), the content on the makeup exam will be at the same difficulty level as the standard version given to the class. Any questions about exam material must be emailed to Tashawn by 5:00pm the day before the exam.

NOTE: If you arrive late for an exam after the first person has completed and exited the classroom, you may not sit for the exam and will receive a zero.

Exam	Coverage	Due Date
Exam 1	Chapters 1-5	Monday, October 5, 2026
Exam 2	Chapter 6-9	Monday, November 9, 2026
Exam 3	Chapters 10-15	TBD

Participation & Discussion (20%)

Along with lecture, students will participate in various in-class activities (solo, paired, or group) to help gain a deeper understanding of the topics covered in lecture, learn about different points of view, and critically think about the real-world impact of these topics. It is my expectation that you are fully engaging during these activities with your classmates.

To earn full participation, you must show up on time, stay for the duration of the class, refrain from using technology (unless used for a class activity), complete the assignment given, and be engaged in the lecture and in-class activities. Engagement includes participation and/or active listening. Points will be taken away if a student shows up late, leaves early, uses technology for non-classroom activities, or is disruptive. If, for some reason, you are expecting a call of importance or need to have your phone easily accessible, please speak to me before class.

Quizzes (15%)

Quizzes will be given weekly during lecture throughout the semester which will provide opportunities for students to assess comprehension of the course material. Quizzes may be in the format of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or short answer questions. As a note, **two** of the lowest quizzes will be dropped for each student at the end of the semester.

GRADING STRUCTURE

Your grade will be broken down as follows:

Assignment	Percentage
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	25%
Quizzes	15%
Participation & Discussion	20%
Total	100%

If you have questions or concerns about your grades or assignments, please submit a written request over email describing your concerns in detail. All requests must be submitted within 3 days after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

GRADING SCALE

Final Grade Cutoffs									
A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	<60%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest half-point. All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Keep up with the readings.** Read the weekly chapter before attending lecture.
- **Regularly attend lectures.** If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for learning what was missed.
- **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.** I am here to support you.

PART IV: COURSE-RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

POLICES 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 Tashawn if you have questions.

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

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.

Faculty and students are expected to be actively engaged and to treat one another with respect during class activities. At a minimum, students are required to (1) participate in a professional and respectful manner during all academic interactions, and (2) adhere to the expectations of an inclusive and respectful academic environment. Students who violate these policies may be referred to the **Office of Student Conduct**.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, Claude, TerpAI, Copilot, Dall-E, 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 [me](#).

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT

Students registered with the **Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS)** who provide the required documentation will be accommodated. After submitting your Accommodations Letter through the ADS portal, you are expected to reach out to Tashawn via email to further discuss your specific accommodations. In some cases, a brief meeting will be scheduled with Tashawn to discuss how accommodations will be applied in this course. Please make sure all ADS documentation is submitted through the portal for me to review and confirm receipt by **September 16, 2026**, to discuss specific needs.

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 Tashawn.

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 Tashawn by **September 16, 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 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 <https://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 AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All course materials, including lectures, are copyrighted and intended solely for your personal use in this course. Do not reproduce, sell, post, photograph, or record materials without documented permission. Violations of copyright policies may result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

PART IV: COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced via ELMS.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment
1	M 8/31 W 9/2	Course Introduction The Criminal Justice System	Chapter 1
2	M 9/7 W 9/9	The Criminal Justice System Crime and Crime Causation	Chapter 1 (continued) Chapter 2
3	M 9/14 W 9/16	Crime and Crime Causation Crime and Crime Causation	Chapter 2 (continued) Chapter 2 (continued)
4	M 9/21 W 9/23	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Police	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
5	M 9/28 W 9/30	Police Policing: Issues & Challenges	Chapter 4 (continued) Chapter 5
6	M 10/5 W 10/7	EXAM #1 Police and Law	Exam only Chapter 6
7	M 10/12 W 10/14	Fall Break – NO CLASS Instructor Conflict – NO CLASS	No Monday Lecture No Wednesday Lecture
8	M 10/19 W 10/21	Court and Adjudication Courts and Adjudication	Chapter 7
9	M 10/26 W 10/28	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & Criminal Trial Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & Criminal Trial	Chapter 8
10	M 11/2 W 11/4	Punishment and Sentencing Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 9
11	M 11/9 W 11/11	EXAM #2 Corrections	Exam only Chapter 10
12	M 11/16 W 11/18	Incarceration and Prison Society ASC Conference – NO CLASS	Chapter 11 No Wednesday Lecture
13	M 11/23 W 11/25	Probation/Intermediate Sanctions Thanksgiving – NO CLASS	Chapter 12 No Wednesday Lecture
14	M 11/30 W 12/2	Reentry Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
15	M 12/7 W 12/9	Juvenile Justice Current Challenges in Criminal Justice	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
16	TBD	EXAM #3	Exam only