

**CCJS 301
FUNDAMENTALS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Fall 2023**

Instructor:	Cortney Fisher, JD, PhD	Course Time:	Online/Asynchronous
Office:	2217 Lefrak Hall (CP) Bldg. III – 5101 (SG)	Course Location:	Online/Asynchronous
Zoom:	357 163 5269	Office hours:	SG: Mon 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm CP: Thu 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Email:	cfisher3@umd.edu	Slack:	@cfisher3

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 Objective

This course is designed to provide an advanced overview of the three major components of the American criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections. Each component will be discussed in terms of its evolution over time, current issues facing each component, and an exploration of how race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and ethnicity impact the way each component has evolved and how they operate for different identities. The course will address issues of race, reentry, technology, juvenile justice, and future directions for criminal justice.

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 criminal victimization 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.

Required Texts

1. *Criminal Justice*
Scott H. Belshaw and Lee H. DeBoer
ISBN: 978-1-5249-4540-4 (text) OR 978-1-5249-4538-1 (e-book)
2. *A Rip in Heaven*
Jeanine Cummins, 2004
ISBN: 0451210530

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

Course Requirements

Students in CCJS 301 will receive 4 grades in this course.

- 25% - Quiz grade
- 25% - Reflection Assignment
- 25% - Mid-Term Exam
- 25% - Final Exam

This is the formula that you need to use to calculate your grade. Do NOT use ELMS to calculate your grade. Plug your grades into the formula below.

Quizzes: 100 points x 2.5 = 250 points
~10 points per quiz x ~10 quizzes = ~100 points

(To calculate your quiz grade, add all your quizzes together. Once you've added all your quizzes together, multiply that number by 2. If you have more than 10 quizzes and/or more than 10 questions per quiz, it is possible that the number you are multiplying by 2 is more than 100. That is ok! You can earn over 100 points on your quizzes if you are offered and take all quizzes available to you and/or you earn more than 10 points per quiz.)

There will be at least 10 quizzes throughout the session. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Each quiz will be taken on ELMS. The quizzes are announced on ELMS and there is about one quiz per module. Students will have until 11:59 pm on the date that the quiz is due to complete the quiz. Quizzes are open note and open book.

There are no excuses for missed quizzes. Students who miss a quiz can take the quiz for 50% credit for 48 hours after the quiz closes.

Students are responsible for all material posted on ELMS – Canvas and all notices posted on Slack. Taking the quiz certifies that you have read the full syllabus and are certifying that you will be responsible for all material posted on ELMS – Canvas and on Slack.

The first quiz is due to be completed on ELMS on September 12 at 11:59 pm. Students who miss this quiz can take the quiz for 50% credit for 48 hours after the quiz closes.

Reflection Assignments: 100 points x 2.5 = 250 points

25 points per assignment x 4 assignments = 100 points

(To calculate your reflection assignment grade, add both grades of your Reflection Assignments. Once you have a total number of points out of 100, multiply that number by 3. That number is the total number of points you've earned for your Reflection Assignments.)

Students are required to complete four reflection assignments during the course of the semester. Each reflection assignment is worth a total of 25 points. ***Each reflection assignment will be completed on ELMS by typing the text directly into the Assignment tool. Assignments that are not submitted in this manner will receive a 0 on the assignment.***

Each module during the course will have at least one reflection assignment. A reflection assignment is a response to a prompt from the Professor. Sometimes the prompt will be a media clip. Sometimes the prompt will be an article from the news, or a required article from your book. I may use Panopto to create a recording outlining the prompt and the question. Regardless of the method by which the assignment is delivered, all materials for the reflection assignment will be located in the module of the course to which the material pertains. **Students are asked to write a 2-3 page essay on their reflection of the prompt by typing their response directly into the Assignment tool on ELMS – Canvas. Students may not upload a .doc or .pdf into the tool so that it circumvents the Turnitin tool.**

Reflections must demonstrate that the student has read the article, is using classroom material, and has considered the prompt in light of the classroom material. What do you, as the student, believe about the prompt given your understanding of the material and your life experiences? While this is your reflection of the prompt, the prompt must be based on facts. It is not your opinion, necessarily, but your reasoned reflection and conclusion based on the facts and material that we learned in class.

Grading Rubric for Reflection Assignments:

Reflection Assignments will be graded according to the following rubric:

- 20% (5 pts) - Answer demonstrates an understanding of the material
- 20% (5 pts) - Answer is based on facts, research, and class material
- 15% (3.75 pts) - Answer demonstrates adequate development of each point used in the answer
- 15% (3.75 pts) - Answer demonstrates responsiveness to the question(s)
- 15% (3.75 pts) - Answer demonstrates advanced writing skills: grammar, spelling, and organization
- 10% (2.5 pts) - Assignment is appropriately cited
- 5% (1.25 points) – Assignment contains the University Honor Pledge at the top of the assignment.

Students are entitled to choose any four reflection assignments that they want to do during the course of the semester, but **two assignments must be completed before the Mid-Term Exam and two assignments need to be completed after the Mid-Term Exam**. The first four reflection assignments will be the four reflection assignments graded, provided that you do not do more than two prior to the Mid-Term. Any additional assignments will be given a 0.

Assignments for any one module are due before the start of the next module, as written on the Course Schedule. Students who miss a deadline for a Reflection Assignment may complete the assignment for 50% credit up to 24 hours after the Reflection Assignment is due.

Mid-Term Exam 100 points x 2.5 = 250 points

The Mid-Term Exam is scheduled for the week of **Monday, October 16**. **No exams may be rescheduled for any reason unless there is a University-approved absence as described below. Students who fail to take the exam by the time that the exam closes will receive a 0 on the exam.**

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.

Final Exam 100 points x 2.5 = 250 points

Every student is required to take the final exam. The final exam will be scheduled at the time proscribed by the University. I do not allow any final exam to be rescheduled except for medical necessity (documentation is required), religious observances, university-sanctioned events, or court appearance. **No exams may be rescheduled for any reason unless there is a reason described above. The Final Exam will be scheduled by the University at a date to be determined. Students are responsible for taking the exam when the University directs you to take the exam. Students who fail to take the exam by the time that the exam closes will receive a 0 on the exam.**

Total points 1000 points

A+ = 975-1000	B+ = 865-894	C+ = 765-794	D+ = 665-694	F = below 595
A = 935-974	B = 825-864	C = 725- 764	D = 625-664	
A- = 895-934	B- = 795-824	C- = 695-724	D- = 595-624	

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:

Monday: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm via Zoom or in-person at the Shady Grove campus
Thursday: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom or in-person at the College Park campus

University Policies

All University policies apply to this course. <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Expectations of this class will reflect some of the expectations of the criminal justice system.

Time. The criminal justice system 9:30 am to 12:00 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.

Medically Necessitated Absences from Class

The University shall excuse class absences that result from a student's illness, provided the student complies with the procedures below. Procedures vary depending on the length and frequency of the absence and whether the absence occurs during a Major Scheduled Grading Event.

Major Scheduled Grading Events and Prolonged Absences. All Major Scheduled Grading Events are indicated on the attached schedule. 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.

Excused Absences from Class. Except during a Major Scheduled Grading Event, students may be excused from a single lecture, recitation or laboratory session one time per course per semester for a medically necessitated reason. The student should make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class, and present his or her instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of his or her illness. This note must include an acknowledgement: (a) that the information provided is true and correct, and (b) that the student understands that providing false information to University officials is a violation of Part 9(h) of the Code of Student Conduct.

For this course, all quizzes *are not* considered to be Major Scheduled Grading Events. When the student does not meet the quiz time limits or misses a quiz, the student will forfeit the opportunity to take the quiz and will receive a zero.

Because attendance is not recorded for lectures, there is no need for a student to provide a self-signed note or advanced notification for missing a lecture.

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
Quizzes	✓	✓	---	---	---	---
Mid-Term Exam	✓	✓	---	---	---	---
Reflection Assignments	✓	✓	✓	---	---	---
Final Exam	✓	✓	---	---	---	---

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 301: Fundamentals of Criminal Justice, Fall 2023		
Week	Topic	Assignments and Readings Due
August 28, 2023		Course Introduction - No Reading or Assignments Due
September 4, 2023	Overview of the Criminal Justice System	READ: Chapter 1 and <i>An Unjust Burden: Disparate Treatment of Black Americans in the Criminal Justice System (Vera Institute)</i> and <i>A Rip in Heaven (Chapters Prologue - Chapter 7)</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 1; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 1
September 11, 2023	Overview of the Criminal Justice System	READ: Chapter 2 and <i>Criminal Victimization, 2019 (BJS)</i> <i>A Rip in Heaven (Chapters Chapter 8 - Afterward)</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 2; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 2
September 18, 2023	Law Enforcement	READ: Chapter 3; LISTEN: <i>Policing in America (NPR)</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 3; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 3
September 25, 2023	Law Enforcement	READ: Chapter 4; LISTEN: TedTalk: Melvin Russell; TAKE: Quiz 4; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 4
October 2, 2023	Courts	READ: Chapter 5; LISTEN: <i>On Our Watch: In Good Faith (NPR)</i> TAKE: Quiz 5; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 5
October 9, 2023		CATCH UP - No Reading or Assignments Due
October 16, 2023		MID-TERM EXAM
October 23, 2023	Sentencing	READ: Chapter 6 and <i>Facts About the Death Penalty (Death Penalty Information Center)</i> and <i>United States Sentencing Commission Reports: Mandatory Minimum Penalties, Women in the Federal Offender Population, and Federal Offenders in Prison</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 6; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 6
October 30, 2023	Corrections	READ: Chapter 7; WATCH: <i>13th</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 7; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 7
November 6, 2023	Corrections	READ: Chapter 8 (<i>Up to page 353</i>) and <i>Working Behind the Wall: Mental Health of Correctional-Based Staff</i> and <i>This Is My Jail: Where gang members and their female guards set the rules</i> ; LISTEN: <i>Suicide and Correctional Officers (NPR)</i> TAKE: Quiz 8; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 8
November 13, 2023	Reentry	READ: Chapter 9; TAKE: Quiz 9; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 9
November 20, 2023 (You have two weeks to complete these assignments due to Thanksgiving Break)	Juvenile Justice	READ: Chapter 10; WATCH: <i>TedTalk: Nadine Burke Harris</i> and <i>TedTalk: Sue Klebold</i> ; TAKE: Quiz 10; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 10
December 4, 2023	Victimology and Victims' Rights	READ: Articles in ELMS Module; WATCH: Victim Impact Statements (Panopto Recording); TAKE: Quiz 11; WRITE: Reflection Assignment 11
December 13, 2023		FINAL EXAM