

University of California Berkeley
Legal Studies Department
LS170, Crime and Criminal Justice, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Elizabeth Tejada

Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 5:00-6:30PM

Course Description

Introduction to the etiology of crime and criminal justice administration. What is crime? What are the main features and problems of the process by which suspected criminals are apprehended, tried, sentenced, punished? Past and current trends and policy issues will be discussed.

In this course, you will:

1. Examine the characteristics, structure, and processes of justice system operations in the United States.
2. Analyze the main components of the federal and state criminal justice systems by exploring the law and court process.
3. Describe and discuss the purpose, functions, critical issues, and societal interactions of the major components of the justice system, which includes the victims, police, courts, and corrections.
4. Explore the historical development, present status, and suggested reforms of the criminal justice system.

From this course, you will achieve the ability to:

1. Explain and apply competing theories of crime and criminal behavior.
2. Apply legal discourse to analyze social problems, policies, and practices involved in the criminal justice system.
3. Apply the characteristics, structure, and processes of justice system across factual scenarios.
4. Prepare analyses and recite criminal case law.
5. Define and understand the differences between criminal and non-criminal behaviors.
6. Analyze the implications of constructions of crime for individuals labeled in this way and for society.
7. Develop policies to help solve problems and inequities caused by concepts of crime.
8. Recognize the diverse attitudes and values of participants in the criminal justice system.
9. Apply and exhibit the behavioral competencies for effective interpersonal and inter-group interactions involved in the criminal justice system.
10. Analyze criminal justice topics and convey the information verbally and in writing at a skilled and capable level.
11. Utilize the substantive and legal knowledge gained in this course towards serving as an ethically responsible member of the legal culture and community.

Grading Information

Course Grade	Weighted value of possible points
Participation	7.5%
Brief Answer Assignment Choices	7.5%
Module Analysis	30%
Mid-Term Exam – take home (due 11/25)	20%
Final Exam	
- Final Exam - 12/20 7:00-10:00PM	25%
- Final Court Analysis Report - due uploaded by 12/13 10PM	10%
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Total	100 %

• **Grading Scale**

Your final grade is based on these percentages of your final points earned from a point scale TBD that will correspond to these percentages of the total scores.

	A 100– 94	A- 93 – 90
B+ 89 – 87	B 86 – 83	B- 82 – 80
C+ 79 – 77	C 76 – 73	C- 72 – 70
D+ 69 – 67	D 66 – 63	D- 62 – 59
F 58 or below		

❖ **Final (in-class exam)**

These in-person exams could be multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and/or fill in the blank. They test your comprehension of the fundamental ideas, key terms, legal elements, and important concepts. The exams are cumulative; they will cover all significant class readings, discussions, and activities. So take careful notes on the course materials and class lessons.

Review sessions will occur. The expectations and parameters for the exam will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

❖ **Take Home Midterm: Brief Essay**

There are two parts to the midterm. The first part consists of the in-person exam described above. The second part of the midterm grade is an open book, open note take-home analysis paper. It consists of brief essays. You may be presented with a hypothetical fact pattern that poses a problem you must prepare an explanatory advice by using your course materials as your support.

You are graded on your analysis and use of the course materials. It tests your comprehension of the fundamental ideas, key terms, and important concepts from the course. The topic will involve criminal law and procedure examined in the course. The clarity of your answer and the examples you use will reveal your understanding the course concepts and their relationship to one another. Irrelevant, inaccurate, and/or loosely-related excerpts will result reduced or no points.

❖ **Criminal Justice Analysis Report**

To truly understand these concepts, students must see the criminal justice system in action. Towards the end of the course, you will submit one (1) analysis report. The report serves as the capstone to your lessons. It measures your comprehension of the course concepts by applying them to real-world examples.

The assignments ask you to think critically about the topics and controversies examined in the course. You have a choice to conduct brief research or conduct observations of the criminal justice system. You will show the depth of your understanding of course materials by specifically connecting your research/observation to the topics you learned in this course. You prepare a report summarizing what you learned from the real-world example and explaining how it affected your view of the criminal justice system.

Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the course so you can gather your notes throughout the semester.

❖ **Assignment Choice/Brief Answer**

For each course topic, you will test your knowledge of the lesson by submitting low-stakes brief assignments. This means, the assignments allow you to test your understanding and does not penalize you for not having the “correct” (meaning memorized) answer.

Your grade, instead, includes your ability to: show you read the material, explain your opinion on the topic, and your use of specifically cited examples from your reading and classmates’ recitations to support your position.

The assignments allow you to assess honestly whether you understood the lesson material and to identify questions you have. A variety of opportunities exist; each has different point values based on its difficulty.