

## CJUS 101 – Understanding the Criminal Justice System Course Syllabus

Ron Bradbury, Instructor / e-mail: [rbradbur@ghc.ctc.edu](mailto:rbradbur@ghc.ctc.edu)  
Office Hours: 12:30 to 2:00 PM  
Room 2122 / Phone: 538-4143

### Course Outcomes

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“*Understanding the Criminal Justice System*” will provide each student with an overview and understanding of the processes and interactions that occur between the police, courts, and correctional services, and the impact they have on our lives. The Justice process will be followed from commission of a crime until final release or execution of the accused. Each and every component of the criminal justice system will be explored: the police – their power, its use and abuse; the courts – do they really look for guilt or innocence; corrections – providing for the safety of inmates and safety of the public; and finally, the community – what is the public’s reaction to justice in America today?

### Recommended Preparation

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ENGL 095 or placement in ENGL101; READ 090 or placement in college level reading, or instructor permission.

### Learning Outcomes

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Learning outcomes for this course are to develop skills in critical thinking and to improve student performance and understanding of the concepts of crime and criminology.

### Course Material

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**Textbook:** “*Elements of Criminal Justice*” by James Inciardi  
hand-outs / guest speaker / field trip

### Course Outline

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Mon, 9/19	<b>Introduction and review of course requirements</b>
Tue, 9/20	The Rediscovery of Criminal Justice in America
Wed, 9/21	<b>Chapter 1: <i>Crime and the Nature of Law</i></b>
Thu, 9/22	The Classification of Crime
Mon, 9/26	<b>Chapter 2: <i>The Legal and Behavioral Aspects of Crime</i></b>
Tue, 9/27	Crimes against Person
Wed, 9/28	Crimes against Property
Thu, 9/29	<b>Test No. 1</b>
Mon, 10/3	<b>Chapter 3: <i>Criminal Statistics and the Measurement of Crime</i></b>
Tue, 10/4	Gender and Racial Statistics
Wed, 10/5	Crime in Washington State
Thu, 10/6	Crime in Grays Harbor County
Mon, 10/10	<b>Chapter 4: <i>Criminal Justice and Procedures – An Overview</i></b>
Tue, 10/11	Criminal Justice as a System
Wed, 10/12	Enforcing the law and Keeping the Peace
Thu, 10/13	<b>Test No. 2</b>
Mon, 10/17	<b>Chapter 5: <i>Police and Policing</i></b>
Tue, 10/18	The Organization of Policing
Wed, 10/19	<b>Chapter 6: <i>Police and the Constitution</i></b>
Thu, 10/20	The Continuum of Force
Mon, 10/24	<b>Chapter 7: <i>Police Misconduct</i></b>
Tue, 10/25	<b>“War on the Streets”</b>
Wed, 10/26	Police Theft and Brutality

Thu,	10/27	<b>Test No. 3</b>
Mon,	10/31	<b>Chapter 8: <i>The American Courts and the Right to Counsel</i></b>
Tue,	11/1	Judges, Prosecutors, and Others at the Bar of Justice
Wed,	11/2	<b>Chapter 9: <i>The Court Process: From First Appearance through Trial</i></b>
Thu,	11/3	Jury Trial versus Bench Trial
Mon,	11/7	<b>Chapter 10: <i>Sentencing, Appellate Review, and the Penalty of Death</i></b>
Tue,	11/8	Appeals Process
Wed,	11/9	Methods of Execution
Thu,	11/10	<b>Test No. 4</b>
Mon,	11/14	<b>Chapter 11: <i>The American Prison Experience</i></b>
Tue,	11/15	Prison Populations
Wed,	11/16	Prison History
Thu,	11/17	<b>Chapter 12: <i>Behind the Walls – A Look Inside the American Penitentiary</i></b>
Mon,	11/21	<b>Chapter 13: <i>The Conditions of Incarceration and the Constitutional Rights of Prisoners</i></b>
Tue,	11/22	Rehabilitation
Wed,	11/23	Legal Services in Prison
Thu,	11/24	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
Mon,	11/28	<b>Chapter 14: <i>Community-Based Corrections</i></b>
Tue,	11/29	Parole, Probation, and Diversion
Wed,	11/30	<b>Chapter 15: <i>The Juvenile Justice System</i></b>
Thu,	12/1	Increasing Crime Rates for Juveniles
Mon,	12/5	<b>Test No. 5</b>

### Course Requirements

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<b>Testing</b>	- 5 multiple choice exams will be given consisting of 60 questions worth 2 points each; Students will select any 50 questions to answer. The lowest test score of the <b>first 4</b> will be Discarded.	<b>400 points</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	- students will receive 2 pts. per class session for attendance.	<b>100 points</b>

\* a student who leaves class without prior approval will lose their points for the day

\*\* a student will lose 5 points if: cell phone goes off / seen text messaging / sleeping in class (head on desk)

\*\*\* There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS**: if you miss a test it will be the one test that you can discard

### Grading

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A+	485 – 500	B+	434 – 450	C+	381 – 400	D+	316 - 340
A	468 – 484	B	416 – 433	C	361 – 380	D	291 – 315
A-	451 – 467	B-	401 – 415	C-	341 – 360		