COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 201 – CRITICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Prepared by: Lisa E. Colbert
JUST 201 – Critical Issues in Criminal Justice

A. **TITLE:** Critical Issues in Criminal Justice

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 201

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall, Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course is a study of the economic, political, ethical, and emotional issues relating to the justice system. Topics covered in this course include: current trends in the criminal justice system, understanding prejudices and functioning in a culturally diverse society, plea bargaining, the death penalty, juveniles in the justice system, victimology, and current events related to the field.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** Pre-requisite: JUST 101, Introduction to Criminal Justice or permission of instructor

J. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Examine the criminal justice system, crime, plea bargaining, the court, the death penalty, and their impact on society.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>2. Describe the impact crime from the point of view of the victim.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>3. Explain the issues related to punishments and corrections on those within the system.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>4. Compare the juvenile justice system to the adult system in the United States.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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5. Examine the effects terrorism on policing and civil rights in the United States since 9/11.

6. Explain how diversity and minority issues have impacted the criminal justice system.

K. **TEXTS:** *Annual Edition: Criminal Justice, 38th Ed. Fall/Spring 14/15.* Created for SUNY Canton, Edited by Naughton, J. McGraw Hill.

L. **REFERENCES:**

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

   - Assessments
   - Weekly Writing Assignments
   - Research Paper
   - Class Participation

P. **DEAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

I. Crime
   A. Causes and non-reporting
   B. Uniform Crime Reports
   C. National Crime Victimization Survey

II. Death Penalty
   A. Positive and Negative aspects
   B. 8th Amendment

III. Three Strikes and Plea Bargaining
   A. War on Drugs
   B. Prison Overcrowding

IV. Victims
   A. Statistics
   B. Treatment/Referrals/Advocacy

V. Punishment and Corrections
   A. Prison conditions
B. Prisoner Rights
C. Overcrowding
D. Private Prisons

VI. Juvenile Justice
   A. Juvenile compared to adults

VII. Issues facing CJ Professionals
   A. Stress and Officer Suicide
   B. Health issues
   C. Liability

VIII. Terrorism
   A. History
   B. Defining Terrorism
   C. Impact of 9/11
   D. U.S.A. Patriot Act

IX. Diversity and Minority Issues
   A. Professionals
   B. History/Important events
   C. Changes in hiring practices

X. Ethics and Moral Issues
   A. Awareness
   B. Education

* Please note that topics may change from one semester to the next depending on current events