

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

JUST 201 – CRITICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CIP- 43.0107

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**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
Fall 2025**

- A. **TITLE:** Critical Issues in Criminal Justice
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 201
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 credits/3 contact hours per week for 15 weeks.
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** n/a
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
This course provides a study of the economic, political, ethical and emotional issues in policing, courts and corrections. Issues covered may include use of force by law enforcement, juvenile justice, drugs, gender-related violence, racial issues, the media, forensics, mental health and disability, immigration, the death penalty, or other current and emerging topics in criminal justice.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
a. Pre-requisite(s): None
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>PSLO (LEL)</u>	<u>GER</u>	<u>ISLO</u>
a. Explore the impact of current and emerging issues in Criminal Justice fields of law enforcement, sentencing and courts, corrections and correctional alternatives.	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles		2. Critical Thinking [IA]
b. Explain the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the interaction of the CJ system with individuals and groups involving race, class, and gender.	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles	DEISJ 1	2. Critical Thinking [IA]
c. Interpret the role that complex networks of social structures and the Criminal Justice system play in the perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles	DEISJ 2	2. Critical Thinking [IA]

d. Interpret the application of the principles of right, access, equity and autonomous participation in social justice action (past, present, and future) as it relates to the Criminal Justice field.	PSLO1-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles and how they impact agency operations.	DEISJ3	4.Social Responsibility
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KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes _____ No X

K. **TEXTS:**

Free materials from the open web or from library resources.

L. **REFERENCES:** n/a

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Standard technology-enhanced classroom

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

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Assignments; Exams; Research Paper

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduction and vocabulary
 - A. The Criminal Justice System
 - B. DEISJ
- II. Critical Issues in the U.S. Justice System
 - A. Identifying current and emerging issues

- B. The media, bias, and interpreting information
- III. Social Structures of Power and Privilege
 - A. Identifying emerging issues of importance in Criminal Justice
 - B. Suggested topic: Use of force, police brutality
 - C. Suggested topic: Immigration enforcement
- IV. Social Structures of Oppression and Opportunity
 - A. Identifying emerging issues as related to Criminal Justice
 - B. Suggested topic: School to Jail pipeline
 - C. Suggested topic: Access to resources and the impact of CJ outcomes
- V. Social Justice Action
 - A. Identifying emerging issues as related to Criminal Justice
 - B. Suggested topic: Black Lives Matter
 - C. Suggested topic: Death Penalty
- VI. Communicating About the Issues
 - A. Writing and Speaking about Critical Issues
 - B. Research and Argument on a Critical-Issue Topic

<u><i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i></u>	<u><i>GER</i></u>	<u><i>Formative Assessments</i></u>	<u><i>Summative Assessments</i></u>
a. Explore the impact of current and emerging issues in Criminal Justice fields of law enforcement, sentencing and courts, corrections and correctional alternatives.		Practice vocab tests Discussions in class Peer feedback on use of terms in discussion CJ or DEISJ game to determine if passages are from CJ literature or DEISJ literature Optional draft submission of essay	Graded vocab tests Essay comparing and contrasting media and peer reviewed journal articles on a specific topic
b. Explain the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the interaction of the CJ system with individuals and groups involving race, class, and gender.	DEISJ 1	Peer feedback on oral summaries Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries
c. Interpret the role that complex networks of social structures and the Criminal Justice system play in the perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.	DEISJ 2	Peer feedback on oral summaries and presentations Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries

d. Interpret the application of the principles of right, access, equity and autonomous participation in social justice action (past, present, and future) as it relates to the Criminal Justice field.	DEISJ 3	Peer feedback on oral summaries and presentations Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries
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Unit/Module Topic:	Goal(s)/Objective(s) ¹	Module Activities	Formative Assessment(s)	Summative (Graded) Assessment(s)
Module 1: Intro to CJ and DEISJ vocabulary	Define vocabulary used in DEISJ and CJ literature	Lectures Classroom discussions Reading assignments	Practice vocab tests Discussions in class Peer feedback on use of terms in discussion CJ or DEISJ game to determine if passages are from CJ literature or DEISJ literature	Graded vocab tests
Module 2: Systems of power/privilege: Suggested topic is police brutality	Identify historic development of the issue and the current expression of the issues. Recognize what powers are at play and how are issues playing out?	Lectures Classroom discussions Reading assignments Introduction to article summaries Coding to see if we are getting the right info from the articles	Peer feedback on oral summaries Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries
Module 3: Systems of oppression/opportunity: Suggested topic access to resources and impact on CJ outcomes Potential topic million dollar	Identify historic development of the issue and the current expression of the issues. Recognize what privileges are available to those with resources and what happens to those without access to said resources?	Lectures Classroom discussions Reading assignments Coding to see if we are getting the right info from the articles	Peer feedback on oral summaries Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries

¹ At least one goal/objective needs to be related to DEISJ content.

defense teams in court				
Module 4: Social Justice: Suggested topic Black Lives Matter	Identify the issues of social justice (rights, access, autonomous action) as it relates to CJ.	Guest speaker Classroom discussions Reading assignments Coding to see if we are getting the right info from the articles	Peer feedback on oral summaries Practice Vocab tests Optional draft submission of article summaries	Graded vocab tests Article summaries
Module 5: Writing and speaking on the issues	Use the terminology correctly when discussing the issues covered in class (DEISJ terms AND CJ terms)	Learner led discussions Learner offered presentations	Peer feedback on presentations done by other learners Practice vocab tests	Graded vocab tests Article summaries
Module 6: Media coverage of the issues discussed	Identify and relate the differences between media coverage of a topic and peer reviewed research and literature about a topic.	Classroom discussions Coding to see the difference between media and peer reviewed coverage	Practice vocab tests Optional draft submission of essay	Graded vocab tests Essay comparing and contrasting media and peer reviewed journal articles on a specific topic