

Bergen Community College  
Division of Social Science, Business and Public Service  
Department of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

**Course Designation, Number, and Title**

Date of Most Recent Syllabus Revision: September 21, 2010  
Course Typically Offered: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Every Semester \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Syllabus last reviewed by: BCC General Education Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Most courses need review Ad Hoc Committee on Learning Assessment \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
by only one of the following) Curriculum Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A syllabus for this course must include as much of the following information as is applicable. It is understood that syllabi will vary considerably from department to department, program to program, and discipline to discipline, contingent upon departmental, program, and discipline policies and practices. In adopting these guidelines, there is no intention to impose a "one size fits all" syllabus or course outline format on departments, programs, and disciplines.**

**Basic Information About Course and Instructor**

Semester and Year:  
Course and Section Number: **CRJ 107**  
Meeting Times and Locations:  
  
Instructor:  
Office Location: Paramus  
Phone: (201) 493-4095  
Departmental Secretary: Marguerite MacDonald  
Office Hours: 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM  
Email Address:

**Course Description:**

**Criminology** explores the criminal justice system with an emphasis on the structure and operation of its components and on the modes of societal responses to crime and criminals it reviews the development, philosophy, and concepts of criminal law and analyzes the leading theoretical perspectives on criminal behavior and criminal topologies.

**Student Learning Objectives:** As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to

1. Examine the extent and the fundamental aspects of crime.
2. Provide an understanding of the fundamental dimensions of crime as behavior and crime as a social problem.
3. Examine the explanation for criminal behavior.
4. Examine the crime related deviations and major forms of crime.
5. Explore the modes of social responses to crime with emphasis on the criminal justice systems and the discretion exercised within the sub-systems.
6. Examine the methods of confinement and treatment including community based programs.
7. Explore the ramifications of reform and the reintegration of the offender in the community.

## **OUTCOMES:**

1. Define a crime.
2. Explain the concept of crime and criminal law.
3. Describe the development and purposes of criminal law.
4. Explain the extent and nature of crime.
5. Describe the causal aspects of criminal behavior.
6. Identify and explain the typologies of crime.
7. Examine the criminal justice system.
8. Explain the constitutional rights of defendants.
9. Examine the police role in a free society.
10. Describe the court system and pretrial processes.
11. Analyze the prison system and community corrections.

## **Means of Assessment:**

List means of assessment of student learning in pursuit of goals/objectives/outcomes (e.g., graded class discussions, objective tests and examinations, essay tests and examinations, student presentations in class (individual or group), writing assignments [papers, short essays, book reports, etc.]

## **Course Content:**

- I. The Study of Crime
  - A. Criminology
  - B. Methods of Criminological Research
  - C. The History of Criminology
  - D. Critical Criminology
  - E. Conservative Criminology
- II. The Nature Of Crime
  - A. The Social Origins of the Criminal Law
  - B. The Normative System of Law
  - C. The Concept Of Crime
  - D. The Concept Of Law
- III. The Measurement Of Crime And Its Impact
  - A. The Perception Of Crime
  - B. The Measurement Of Crime
  - C. Sources Of Crime Data
  - D. Uncovering "Hidden Crime": Self-Report Survey
  - E. Measuring the "Dark Figure Of Crime": Victimization Surveys
  - F. Characteristics Of Offenders
  - G. Crime Victims
- IV. The Causes Of Criminal Behavior
  - A. Early Explanations and Their Modern Counterparts
    1. Nineteenth Century Explanation
      - a. Classical, Nonclassical and Positive Schools

- b. Philosophy of Punishment
        - 2. Modern Punishment Philosophies
    - B. Biological and Psychological Theories
      - 1. Biological Factors and Crime
      - 2. Psychological Explanation and Criminal Behavior
      - 3. Implications of Biological and Psychological Research
    - C. Sociological Theories – Social Structural – Theories
      - 1. Ecological Theories
      - 2. Durkheim's Contribution
      - 3. Merton's Theory of Anomie
      - 4. Subculture Theories
      - 5. Recent Developments
    - D. Sociological Theories: Social-Process Theories
      - 1. Differential Association Theory
      - 2. Social Control Theory
      - 3. Labeling Theory
- V. Topologies of Crime
  - A. Crimes of Violence
  - B. Property Crime
  - C. White-Collar Crime
  - D. Organized Crime
  - E. Political Crime
- VI. The Criminal Justice System
  - A. The American System of Criminal Justice
    - 1. Stages in the Criminal Justice System
    - 2. Special Characteristics of the Criminal Justice System
    - 3. Concepts of American Criminal Justice
    - 4. The Funneling Effect
    - 5. Constitutional Rights of Defendants
    - 6. Victims Rights
  - B. Police
    - 1. The History of the Police
    - 2. Policing in the U.S.
    - 3. The Nature and Role of the Police
    - 4. Police Discretion
    - 5. Control of the Police
    - 6. The Police Subcultures
    - 7. Private Police
  - C. The Court System
    - 1. An Overview
    - 2. Prosecutors
    - 3. Defense Attorneys
    - 4. Judges
    - 5. Juries
    - 6. Pretrial Process
    - 7. Sentencing

- D. The Prison
  - 1. History of Prisons
  - 2. American Contribution to the Emergence of Prison
  - 3. Types of Institutions
  - 4. Prison Crowding
  - 5. Prison Violence
  - 6. Role of Guards
  - 7. Prisoner's Legal Rights
- VII. Corrections In The Community
  - A. Diversion
  - B. Community Corrections
  - C. Probation and Parole
- VIII. Deterrence And Incapacitation
  - A. The Deterrence Model
  - B. Deterrence and the Criminal Act
  - C. Deterrence and the Sanctioning Process
  - D. Deterrence and the Criminal Justice System
  - E. Incapacitation
- IX. Retribution
  - A. The Retribution Model
  - B. A System of Just Deserts
  - C. Retribution and the Criminal Justice System
- X. Rehabilitation
  - A. The Rehabilitation Model
  - B. Rehabilitation and the Criminal Justice System
  - C. Effectiveness of Rehabilitation
- XI. Solving The Crime Problem
  - A. Ideological Approaches
  - B. The Politics of Crime
  - C. Situational Crime Prevention

**Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials:**

Crime and Criminology, Reid.

**Suggested Texts:**

Criminology, Sykes and Cullen.  
Criminology, Conklin  
Criminology, Beirne and Messerschmidt.

**Research, Writing, and/or Examination Requirement(s)**

List/describe/comment on course research/writing/presentation/examination requirements.

State departmental policies on research, writing, presentation,  
and/or examination assignments [optional].

Include policy statements on student group work (if relevant).

**Grading Policy:**

1. Comprehensive objectives and/or essay examinations.
2. Individual project competency performance.

**Attendance Policy:**

**BCC Attendance Policy:**

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Criminal Thought,  
Law and Control in Society,  
White Collar Crime,  
Dealing with Violence,  
Street Gangs,  
Violence,  
Sister in Crime,  
Order, Law and Crime,  
Thinking About Crime,  
Corrections in America,  
Probation and Parole,  
Convicted,  
The Courts,  
Before and the Law,  
The Justice Imperative,  
Criminology,

Martin, Mutchick and Austin  
Akers and Hawkins  
Geis and Meier  
Schonborn  
Davis  
Soady  
Adlers  
Michalowski  
Wilson  
Allen and Simonsen  
Berlin  
Colson  
Rubin  
Bonsignore, Katsh, D'Errico, Pipkin and Arrons  
Bonsignore, Katsh, D'Errico, Pipkin and Arrons  
Siegel