GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 110 – INTRODUCTION TO ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 110 Introduction to 3 3 hours lecture 48-54 hours

Administration of Justice 96-108 outside of class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course introduces students to the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the United States. Focus is placed on examining crime measurement, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to crime, components of the system, and current challenges to the system. The course examines the evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system and the evolving forces which have shaped those principals and approaches. Although justice structure and process is examined in a cross cultural context, emphasis is placed on the US justice system, particularly the structure and function of US police, courts, and corrections. Students are introduced to the origins and development of criminal law, legal process, and sentencing and incarceration policies.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Analyze and describecriminological theories used to explain crime and criminality.
2. Examine and assess the methods, theories, and concepts associated with the sources of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity, and the costs of crime.
3. Describe the history, development, and structure, and function of American police, courts, and corrections.
4. Explainthe process of adjudication.
5. Demonstrate knowledgeof corrections including the roles of probation, parole, and community corrections; as well as the functions of prisons and jails.
6. Analyze and identify special issues in the criminal justice system involving juvenile delinquency, drugs, and the future development.
7. Critically analyze and discuss issues of crime and justice from varying perspectives.
8. Utilize conclusions from scholarly research in creating informed positions on controversial issues in criminal justice.
9. Demonstrate the ability to raise critically relevant questions based on independent reading of criminal justice literature.
10. Effectively follow the appropriate writing style practiced in Administration of Justice.
11. Explain the definitions of crime.
12. Critically assessthe extent of the crime problem in America;
13. Identify the major components of the criminal justice system;

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Course Objectives Continued

1. Trace the evaluation of the criminal justice system in terms of its sub-systems and in relation to the social, political, economic, and legal institutions which define society;
2. Explain how professionalism, leadership, ethics, and moral standards relate to the pursuit of a career in public safety;
3. Explore career streams in criminal justice and public safety;
4. Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in a group setting;
5. Conduct research appropriate to the discipline.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer with Internet capability.

7. Course Content

1. The criminal justice system.
2. Crime and victimization.
3. Law enforcement.
4. Courts and sentencing.
5. Punishment and corrections.
6. The future of the criminal justice system.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Group projects
4. Audio visual/DVD materials
5. Web based curriculum as appropriate.
6. Qualified guest speakers may be invited to lecture on their respective fields of specialization.
7. Field trips to local public safety agencies may be arranged.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes that measure student’s ability to apply principles related to crime theories and justice.
2. Research assignments that demonstrate student’s ability to evaluate methods, theories and concepts of criminal justice practices.
3. Class presentations which measure student’s ability to demonstrate an understanding of criminological theories.
4. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure student’s ability to apply principles of crime and justice from varying perspectives.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Required reading in text and supplementary materials.

b. Critical-thinking and problem-solving writtenassignments which apply the analysis of crime theories, the process of adjudication, and special issues in the criminal justice system.

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11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) Rennison, C.M. and Dodge, M. *Introduction to Criminal Justice Systems, Diversity, and Change* (5th ed.) Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publishing, 2020.

(2) Peak, K.M. and Madensen T.D*. Introduction to Criminal Justice* (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publishing, 2019.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Identify the major components of the criminal justice system.
2. Describe the differences between federal and state courts.
3. Identify the major theories which attempt to explain crime causation.
4. Identify the processes by which a criminal case progresses from investigation to appeal.
5. Identify the Bill of Rights Amendments that have the greatest impact on the criminal justice system.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019