

Minnesota State University Moorhead

CJ 200: Introduction to Criminal Justice

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 4

Lecture Hours/Week: 4

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Overview of the criminal justice field focusing on the history and description of the contemporary United States system. The overview will include both the adult and the juvenile justice system.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Nature and extent of crime and victimization in the United States. The basic components of the criminal justice system will be briefly examined as will criminal law. In addition, philosophical models of justice and processing will be explored.
2. The earliest stages of criminal justice processing by examining the police. Specific topics will include the historical development of policing, police responsibilities and activities, and explanations for police behavior.
3. Operations of the court system including the courtroom work group, stages of processing, and the way in which cases progress through court systems. Additional topics will include the philosophical purposes of sentencing.
4. The historical development of corrections in the United States, ideological models of corrections, and the use of institutional and community based responses to crime. This section will also introduce the unique goals and features of the juvenile justice system.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will develop an understanding of the society of the United States and its ideals through the lens of the criminal justice system.
2. Students will obtain an understanding of the main components of the criminal justice system.
3. Students will become familiarized with current criminal justice issues, policies, and court cases.
4. Students will understand the functions of the components of the criminal justice system and their interrelationship.
5. Students will understand the history and development of the criminal justice system.
6. Students will be able to explain the need for a system of order maintenance and detail the role of law within that system.
7. Students will be able to describe the nature of due process and the specific constitutional amendments on which due process guarantees are based.
8. Students will understand the goals and philosophies of modern sentencing.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted