



Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Faculty Information: Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Course Description:

In this course, students explore the process of policy making in the justice system, including an examination of the ways policy decisions impact criminal justice organizations. Students will learn the fundamentals of the policy process, including agenda setting, implementation, and evaluation. Students will also explore the impact of media and other external forces on setting the policy agenda at the local, state, and federal levels. This course will prepare the student for further inquiry into policy making and the policy process, providing a solid foundation for students to understand the role of policy in justice system practices.

Course Overview:

In this course, we will explore the process of policy making in the criminal justice system and the ways policy decisions impact criminal justice organizations. We will begin by learning about evidence informed criminal justice policy, evaluation and assessment, and what makes a bad policy. We will then explore, and critically evaluate, the literature on a range of topics within criminal justice. You will also examine crime and violence in the context of communities, schools, employment, drugs, and other factors, as well as how the justice system treats adult and juvenile offenders. Finally, we will examine policymaking more generally and discuss how empirical information can and does get (mis)used in the current U.S. crime policy debates.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the roles that the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government play respectively in shaping crime policy.
2. Discuss how the media and interest groups influence policy process through public opinions.
3. Evaluate the human and financial resource issues inherent in crime policy formulation.
4. Determine the important role of scientific research in informing and influencing crime policy.
5. Analyze the policy processes that help shape the system of justice in the United States.
6. Assess how the development, implementation, and outcomes of intervention policies have impacted crime and the criminal justice system through case study.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Blomberg, T. (2016). *Advancing criminology and criminal justice policy* (1st ed.). New York, NY: Routledge. Print ISBN: 9781138829220, eText ISBN: 9781317571995

NOTE: All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and Peer Responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Module 1

Readings

- Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Module 2

Readings

- Chapters 5, 6, & 24 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking: Juvenile Crime Policy (110 points)

Option #1

You have been hired by the governor to write a policy memo discussing whether there is any evidence that “get tough on crime” policies regarding juveniles are effective. Answer the question:

- Is there any scientific evidence to suggest that tougher penalties and treatment by the courts are effective in reducing juvenile crime?

If you conclude no, identify what kinds of policies might be more effective in addressing juvenile crime and provide rationale for your recommendation based on existing research. Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Option #2

You have been hired by the governor to write a policy memo discussing whether there is any evidence that policies focusing on family factors are effective at predicting juvenile offending. Answer the question:

- Is there any scientific evidence to suggest that family factors are effective at predicting juvenile delinquency?

If you conclude yes, identify what kinds of policies might be effective in addressing juvenile crime and provide rationale for your recommendation based on existing research. Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Module 3

Readings

- Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Portfolio Milestone (10 points)

Please provide a summary of the policy you are considering for your portfolio project. In your summary, please provide the name of the policy, as well as a two-paragraph summary of the policy, including a brief summary of the empirical findings for the policy.

Module 4

Readings

- Chapters 12, 13, 14, & 15 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking: Overly Punitive Policies? (110 points)

Option #1

Criminal justice policies have been criticized as being overly punitive compared to other nations. Critics believe that our system focuses too heavily on incarceration rather than on prevention. Prepare a paper that supports a system that shifts from punitive to prevention. In your paper, provide a rationale for a prevention-based approach; discuss how prevention-based policies would differ from the state's current policies which are based on punishment. Please refer to scholarly research and policy studies to support your approach.

Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Option #2

The prison population has more than doubled over the last decade. Supporters of incarceration believe these policies have succeeded in lowering crime rates. Opponents of incarceration state that the only achievements of these policies is that we have the highest rates of incarceration in the world and offenders have longer sentences. Which argument do you support and why?

Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Module 5

Readings

- Chapters 17, 18, 19, & 20 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking: Correction and Rehabilitation (110 points)

Option #1

Community corrections provide several alternatives to incarceration. Looking to the "what works" literature in community corrections, pick a policy, practice, or program that has been shown to have a positive effect. In your discussion, provide a description of the policy, practice, or program, and provide insight into ways this could be further improved. You can incorporate aspects of other programs that have been shown to be effective.

Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Option #2

You are a probation administrator in a large metropolitan county. You have been increasingly concerned over the past decade about the trend toward surveillance and monitoring of probationers, and the lack of support for rehabilitation programs such as substance abuse prevention and vocational training. There are more rules being passed down for urine tests for drug use and a "zero tolerance" once someone tests positive. Probation revocation rates are going up dramatically. How can you move toward a more balanced approach to supervising probationers? How would you do this? What empirical information would you use to advance your arguments?

Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least three credible resources for support.

Module 6

Readings

- Chapters 21, 22, & 23 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Portfolio Milestone (40 points)

As part of your Portfolio Project due in Module 8, this week you will need to submit an outline of your Portfolio Project and provide an annotated bibliography that includes at least ten to twelve academic sources according to CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Identify how your selected sources are relevant to the major components of your paper.

You will be required to account for the instructor's feedback in your final version of the project.

Module 7

Readings

- Chapters 25, 26, 27, & 28 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

CDC Assignment – Networking (120 points)

Option 1

Many disciplines have professional organizations. The field of criminal justice has many professional organizations, including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), International Association of Women Police (IAWP), American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), and the American Correctional Association (ACA). Regional Associations exist as well.

Please research a professional organization of your choice that is relevant to your career focus (i.e., juvenile justice, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and respond to the following prompts:

- Briefly explain the organization you have chosen;
- Why have you chosen this organization;
- What networking opportunities does this organization provide to its members; and
- How do you foresee these networking opportunities helping you in your career aspirations?

Your paper should be well-written, 3-4 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Option 2

Many disciplines have professional organizations. The field of criminal justice has many professional organizations, including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), International Association of

Women Police (IAWP), American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), and the American Correctional Association (ACA). Regional Associations exist as well.

Please research a professional organization of your choice that is relevant to your career focus (i.e., juvenile justice, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and, in a 12- to 15-slide PowerPoint presentation with detailed notes and a References slide, respond to the following prompts:

- Briefly explain the organization you have chosen;
- Why have you chosen this organization;
- What networking opportunities does this organization provide to its members; and
- How do you foresee these networking opportunities helping you in your career aspirations?

Include the notes you would use to guide your presentation if you were delivering it to an audience.

Module 8

Readings

- Chapters 29, 30, 31, & 33 in *Advancing Criminology & Criminal Justice Policy*

Discussion (25 points)

Portfolio Project (300 points)

Option #1

Identify a promising approach to crime control in an area of your choosing. By using material from the textbook and your own research on “what works” please address the following:

- Identify a specific policy program (theoretical basis, program components, name);
- The target population for the policy you chose (age, risk factors, etc.);
- What is known about the policy area;
- Was there a media role in the perpetuation of the problem (in what way);
- Expected findings based on literature/theory;
- Discussion about the anticipated political response to the policy option;
- Write a conclusion – discuss whether or not the goal of the policy was ultimately accomplished with the passage of the law; and
- Provide at least one or more recommendations you have to improve the policy.

Your paper should be well-written, 10-12 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least 10-12 credible resources for support.

Option #2

Blacks are arrested more often than whites, are more likely to be sent to prison, and represent a disproportionately large percentage of the prison population in the United States. Does this mean that the criminal justice system discriminates? In your paper, please address factors that might explain the disproportionate representation of blacks in the criminal justice system. These factors should include but are not limited to:

- Crime policies;
- The justice system; and

- The community and the larger society.

Given the analysis you provide of the sources of the problem, what might we do about it? Please refer to prior evidence-based research to support your response.

Your paper should be well-written, 10-12 pages in length, and formatted per CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements. Your paper should utilize at least 10-12 credible resources for support.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation
45% Critical Thinking Assignments
35% Final Portfolio Project

IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /re-purposing your own work (see *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement

CSU–Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.