

**CRIM 105**  
**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
ONLINE  
Winter Term

**Instructor:** Prof. Charlie Domahidi

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will cover the basic principles of the criminal justice system. Students will be introduced to policing, corrections, the criminal court process, and legal procedures, among other fundamentals of the criminology discipline. Students will understand the nature of crime, policing, parole, probation, the criminal court system, corrections, and legalities. Furthermore, students will gain a broader understanding about how criminal justice systems present major issues for social understanding, including the role of diverse persons, and understand the role of ethics and morality in policing, courts, and corrections.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will...

- Understand the legal and procedural requirements for policing, parole, probation, the criminal court system, and corrections.
- Understand the role of ethics and morality in policing, courts, and corrections.
- Gain a broader understanding about how criminal justice systems present major issues for social understanding, including the role of diverse persons.

**CAPITAL DESIGNATED COURSE**

**Integrated Knowledge Pillar: Integrity**

This course addresses the third objective of the integrity pillar, “Define what it means to practice justice, truthfulness, reliability, and/or resilience from a variety of perspectives.” The course not only presents technical information on the three branches of the criminal justice system, but it also addresses some of the issues regarding disparities in the execution of justice within the system. Students will be exposed to information about constitutional protections and fairness within the court process and problems with how these protections are being applied. Students will be able to critically examine the intended goals of the criminal justice system and compare them against the realities of injustice within the system.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Rennison, C. M. & Dodge, M. (2020) Introduction to Criminal Justice: Systems, Diversity, and Change, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. SAGE. ISBN: 9781544330723

Additional readings and/or links may be posted on Brightspace.

**ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

This course is being delivered asynchronously (not at a set time) and is fully online. Students are expected to understand how to access Brightspace, as well as how to locate all necessary assignments and readings on the course Brightspace page. An introductory video is available on the Brightspace page to help guide you on navigating the various sections of the Brightspace page. It is expected that you have access to the textbook, either a physical or digital copy. It is also expected that you have access to a computer and a reliable internet connection.

*If you anticipate you may have issues with internet access, please contact me and we can figure out how to proceed.*

**Communication**

I often send notices and announcements by email and Brightspace, so you will need to check your student email and Brightspace daily (if not more often). If you ever need to contact me, I am best reached by email and will make every effort to respond within 48 hours.

**Email Etiquette**

In email correspondences, please include the class title and section in the “Subject” line of the email. I teach several classes, so this allows me to better assess students’ concerns. Emails should be professional in nature as this is a professional relationship. Avoid using colloquial language. Always use your official Coker email address; I will not respond to emails from other sources to protect your confidentiality.

**COURSE STRUCTURE & GRADING:**

This course is 100% online meaning course material and submissions will be on Brightspace. You will need to know your Coker login information to access the course. It is absolutely critical to check Brightspace for course updates as things are subject to change as the semester progresses. Set aside adequate time to complete assignments which vary by depth and difficulty.

**Grades:**

All grades will be posted on Brightspace so that students can monitor their progress throughout the semester. If you have any questions about a grade or feel an error has been made, schedule an appointment within **ONE WEEK** of receiving the grade and we will discuss it.

To calculate your present grade divide the number of points you’ve earned so far from the amount of possible points. You can use the table below to see how many points each assignment is worth. The subsequent percentage is your grade. Your final grade is calculated using the standard university scale shown below.

90 -100% = A	80 - 89% = B	70 - 79% = C	60 - 69% = D	> 59% = F
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Below is a breakdown of all graded assignments for this course and how many points they are worth.

	# POINTS
<b>Exams (3 X 150)</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>In-Class Activities (100 X 8)</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Participation Prompts (8 X 30)</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Participation Journaling Prompts (160 points):**

Each week you will be assigned a journaling prompt. The prompt could relate to material in the textbook, an outside reading or video, or both. The journaling prompt is a more informal submission, but the instructions for each prompt will be different so read the instructions for each submission carefully. There will be **EIGHT** prompts scheduled throughout the term and each prompt is worth **THIRTY** points.

### **Online Activities (800 pts):**

Each week you will also be responsible for completing an activity. Each activity deals with the practical application of content learned each week. Throughout the term there will be **EIGHT** activities and each activity is worth **ONE HUNDRED** points. These activities will vary in their format and may contain multiple parts. They are worth a lot of points because they may be complex and require outside research to complete. Each activity will contain complete instructions, but you can always email if you need clarification.

### **Exams (450 points):**

You will complete 3 comprehensive exams, during the semester. The exams will be available for one week, and you may take them at any time during that window. However, once you begin the exam, you must finish it all in one sitting. Be sure you give yourself enough time to complete it.

The exam will be made up of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each exam is worth **150 POINTS**. **You are to take the exam ALONE!** Any cheating on the exam will result in an immediate zero on the exam as well as other potential disciplinary action.

\*\*\*Computer malfunctions are never acceptable excuses for not completing exams. Therefore, you should not wait until the last minute to submit your work or complete exams.

## **CLASS POLICIES:**

### **Late Assignments**

All assignments are due by the specified time on Brightspace. *Any assignment turned in after the deadline is considered late and will receive a deduction of 10% of the assignment value each day it is late.* There will be no deduction of points with appropriate documentation.

### **Correct Pronouns, Names, and Inclusion:**

I hope to create a space where students have the opportunity to bring all aspects of their selves into the classroom in order to fully engage in this course. I support people of all gender expressions and gender identities and encourage students to use the name and set of pronouns which best reflect who they are. In this spirit, I welcome and expect all students to also use the correct name and pronouns of their classmates. I will do my best to respect and use the language you use to refer to yourself and will encourage other members of our online classroom community to do the same. Please inform me if my documentation reflects a name or set of pronouns different from what you use, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

### **Title IX and Reporting of Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:**

As a recipient of Federal Funds, Coker University is required to comply with Title IX legislation, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, admission, and employment.

Coker's Commitment to Equality Equal access to educational experiences is an important part of the Coker experience. If you feel you have been discriminated against based on your sex, gender, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation, or if you have experienced sexual harassment, misconduct, or violence, we encourage you to report this to a member of the Coker Community.

***What is Sexual Harassment?*** Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and sexual exploitation.

***Who Can I Talk to?*** While faculty and staff are happy to listen to your concerns, please be mindful of how much you wish to disclose since all Coker faculty and staff members are 'mandatory reporters.' This means that if they are made aware of potential discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or violence that has occurred involving any Coker student, staff, or faculty member, they are required by law to report it to Coker's Title IX Officer. This includes incidents that occur on campus or at an off-campus Coker-sponsored event or activity in the recent present or in the past. Of course, you may also contact Coker University's Title IX Coordinator, Michael Williamson Student Center, 2nd floor, mwilliamson@coker.edu, 843-383-8194 directly. At any time that you fear for your immediate safety, contact Campus Safety (843-383-8140) or dial 911.

***Confidential Reporting:*** If you wish to talk with someone who is better able to keep your information confidential, please visit or call Coker’s Center for Health and Wellness (843-917-4044).

Additional information is located under the Title IX section on the Coker website:  
<https://www.coker.edu/about-coker/offices-services/campus-safety/title-ix/>.

**Accommodation:**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented physical, sensory, learning or psychiatric disabilities that require assistance to fully participate in this class. If a student has a disability that will likely need some accommodation by the instructor, the student should contact Robin Richardson in the Learning Support Services Office (ext. 8021, [rrichardson@coker.edu](mailto:rrichardson@coker.edu)) or Jennifer Rhodes ([jrhodes@coker.edu](mailto:jrhodes@coker.edu)) to provide the necessary documentation.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

From the Coker College Student Handbook:

“Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, or failing to appropriately cite sources. Any form of academic dishonesty is wholly incompatible with the Coker University Student Covenant, the Mission of the University, and generally understood standards of ethical academic behavior. Academic dishonesty is among the most serious of violations that might be committed at the University; for that reason, penalties for academic dishonesty may include:

- Penalties assessed to the assignment, or
- Penalties assessed to the course grade, or
- Suspension or expulsion from the University

In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor may elect to take direct action or refer the matter to the Office of the Provost to arrange review by an academic hearing panel composed of members serving on the Student Development Committee of the Faculty Senate. Should an instructor choose to take direct action, they should inform both the student and the Office of the Provost. The Office of the Provost maintains a record of all reported academic dishonesty cases and multiple offenses may result in additional penalties. A student who believes a penalty has been unduly or unfairly assessed may appeal by way of the grade appeal process articulated in this section.

**Cheating:** A student is guilty of cheating when they wrongfully give, takes, or receive unauthorized assistance or information in the preparation of academic work to be submitted for course credit, or in fulfillment of a University requirement, including repurposing material from another assignment or course without providing proper attribution by citing the original content.

Plagiarism: A student is guilty of plagiarism when they submit work purporting to be their own, but which in fact, borrows ideas, organization, wording, or anything else from other sources — a published article, a chapter of a book, a friend's paper, etc. — without appropriate source acknowledgement. Plagiarism, as a form of cheating, also includes employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the academic work the student submits as their own. Students may generally discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but the actual work must be done by the student alone. When an assignment involves research with outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what they are, and where and how they have employed them.

Source Acknowledgement: All members of the Coker University community are expected to adhere to the strictest standards regarding acknowledgement of the use of another person's words, ideas, opinions or theories. Individual instructors and disciplines may employ different methods of citation and acceptable sources (e.g., Sources taken from the Internet may not be acceptable in some classes). It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the guidelines for citation in their various courses.

Students should contact their instructors for the specific standards and methods that might apply to individual academic assignments or courses. The information above should serve only as a general guideline for acknowledgment of sources at the University.”

**Basic Needs Statement:**

We learn as whole people. To learn effectively you must have basic security: a roof over your head, a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat. If you're having trouble with any of those things, please talk with me or with the Dean of Students. Together we can work to help you find solutions.

If you find yourself struggling with course materials, concepts, or assignments at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or visit me during my office hours. I would be happy to help any and all students in their journey to academic success and will do my best to offer assistance when it is needed. However, please do not wait until the end of the semester to contact me for help.

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSINGMENTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Crime and the Criminal Justice System Chapter 2: The Nature and Extent of Crime	Prompt 1 Activity 1
<b>2</b>	Chapter 3: Criminal Justice and The Law Chapter 7: The Courts and Judiciary	Prompt 2 Activity 2
<b>3</b>	Chapter 8: The Prosecution, Defense, and Pretrial Activities Chapter 9: The Criminal Trial and Sentencing	Prompt 3 Activity 3 <b>Exam 1- Chapters 7-9</b>
<b>4</b>	Chapter 4: The History of Policing Chapter 5: On the Streets: Organization, Responsibilities, and Challenges	Prompt 4 Activity 4
<b>5</b>	Chapter 6: Police and the Rule of Law Race and Criminal Justice Readings	Prompt 5 Activity 5 <b>Exam 2- Chapters 4-6</b>
<b>6</b>	Chapter 10: Correctional Responses in the Community Chapter 11: Institutional Corrections	Prompt 6 Activity 6
<b>7</b>	Chapter 12: Prison Life and Life After Prison	Prompt 7 Activity 7 <b>Exam 3- Chapters 10-12</b>
<b>8</b>	Chapter 14: Exploring Specialized and Topical Issues	Prompt 8 Activity 8