

## **JUS110 - Introduction to Criminal Justice**

**(3 credit hours)**

### **Course Syllabus**

---

#### **Course Description**

A survey of the Criminal Justice System and of its major subsystems: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Emphasis will be not only on structure and functions of the various components, but also their interactions. The course will also introduce the student to the basics of criminal justice research through the use of the collection of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and other professional sources of information.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the major agencies, procedures, personnel, and decision-making points which comprise the criminal justice system.
2. Define fundamental terms and concepts in the law and criminal justice.
3. Describe and evaluate the use of discretion by practitioners in law enforcement, court services, corrections, and juvenile justice.
4. Discuss significant problems and issues found in each subsystem of criminal justice.
5. Recognize the relationships and interdependencies among criminal justice and other social service agencies and their personnel in the fight against crime.
6. Recognize the career opportunities in criminal justice service.
7. Evaluate the difficulty in arriving at a consensus on criminal justice policy issues and in maintaining an ordered liberty in American society.
8. Distinguish the electronic data and other resources which store timely and useful criminal justice information in order to locate and investigate research data.

#### **Required Textbook(s) and Resources**

This course requires no textbook. Instead, you'll follow links in the weekly **Explore** sections for required library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](https://tiffin.edu/library). You might consider registering for one of the library's

webinars on library research, source evaluation, and other topics, at the [Library Events - Upcoming Events](#) web page. For further assistance email a librarian, at: [library@tiffin.edu](mailto:library@tiffin.edu).

## Time Commitment

Effective time management is a critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses require you to dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour for activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

## Learning Activities

Assessments for this course consist of four forum discussions, two library research papers, three essays, three scenarios (to include a policy brief), a resume (for possible employment), and a final project.

## Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

| Activity         | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 | Total |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Discussions      | 25     | 25     | --     | 25     | --     | --     | 25     | 100   |
| Resume           | --     | --     | --     | 50     | --     | --     | --     | 50    |
| Library Research | 50     | --     | 50     | --     | --     | --     | --     | 100   |
| Paper/Essay      | --     | 100    | 100    | --     | 100    | --     | --     | 300   |

|                       |           |            |            |           |            |            |            |             |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Scenario/Policy Brief | --        | --         | --         | --        | 75         | 100        | 75         | 250         |
| Project               | --        | --         | --         | --        | --         | --         | 200        | 200         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>75</b> | <b>125</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>175</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>1000</b> |

### Grading Scale

| Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|
| A     | 90-100%    |
| B     | 80-89%     |
| C     | 70-79%     |
| D     | 60-69%     |
| F     | < 0%       |

Please see the [Academic Bulletin](#) for grade appeal information.

### Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

| Topic   | Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)  |
|---|---|
| Start Here  | <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.1: Meet Your Peers (required to continue to Week 1)  |
| Week 1:<br>Background:<br>Criminal Justice<br>Organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.2: Law Enforcement Agency Components<br><input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Forum Discussion Responses (Activity 1.1 and 1.2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 1.3: Research on Criminal Justice Subsystems |
| Week 2:<br>Crime Research                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 2.1: Crime Research<br><input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Forum Discussion Responses<br><input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 2.2: COMPSTAT  |
| Week 3:   | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 3.1: Federal and State Court Systems   |

| Topic  | Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)   |
|--|--|
| Courts and Law Enforcement                   | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 3.2: Social Service Agencies, Courts, and Mental Health Calls   |
| Week 4:<br>Tools for Law Enforcement         | <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 4.1: Social Media<br><input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Forum Discussion Responses<br><input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 4.2: Resume   |
| Week 5:<br>Policing Strategies               | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.1: COP Paper<br><input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.2: Memorandum on POP   |
| Week 6:<br>Sentencing the Convicted Offender | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 6.1: You Be the Judge (Scenario)  |
| Week 7:<br>Training and Policy Issues        | <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 7.1: Training Needs<br><input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Forum Discussion Responses<br><input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Activity 7.2: Policy Brief on Reform<br><input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 7.3: Final Project (Scenario) |

## Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

## Your Instructor Will Expect You to:

- Thoroughly review orientation materials (Start Here) within the first 48 hours of the term.
- Monitor your TU email account **daily** for important updates and announcements.
- Take ownership of your learning experience and act in a proactive, self-directed manner. That means:
  - Fully participate in all learning activities.

- Complete assignments as described in rubrics or other instructions.
- Submit all work on time and in the specified format (e.g. APA format for citations).
- Utilize and incorporate instructor provided feedback to improve your work.
- Ask questions so you can better understand course material or assignments.
- Use the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity. For more information, see the TU Library guide: [Digital Literacy: Netiquette and Internet Safety](#).
- Treat others respectfully and demonstrate "netiquette" (online politeness and respectfulness) at all times. TU celebrates cultural uniqueness and expects all students to be considerate and thoughtful throughout their learning experiences.

### **You Should Expect Your Instructors to:**

- Post an introductory announcement/email at the beginning of each week to provide updates and help you prepare for the week's activities.
- Maintain an active and engaged presence in all course activities and throughout the course.
- Respond to your emailed questions within 48 hours, if not sooner.
- Clearly communicate any absences or expected non-participation due to extenuating circumstances. For example, "I will be traveling to attend a funeral this week and may not be able to respond to questions or participate in forums for a couple of days."
- When grading your work:
  - clearly indicate their grading approach (what they like to see in submitted work as well as what types of errors they tend to penalize more harshly),
  - thoroughly review and evaluate your submissions in a timely manner (in less than 5 days for most assignments), and
  - provide constructive feedback that indicates the strengths and weaknesses of your work and provides suggestions on how you can improve your performance on future assignments.
- Advocate for your success as a learner and help guide you toward successful completion of the course activities and most importantly, attainment of the course learning outcomes.

### **Accommodations (Disability Services)**

The Office of Disability Services supports the institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you need reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability, contact the Office for Equity, Access, & Opportunity via email at [disabilityservices@tiffin.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@tiffin.edu) or by calling 419-448-3021.

## Technical Support

For Moodle support, either email [moodlesupport@tiffin.edu](mailto:moodlesupport@tiffin.edu) or call the 24/7 Technical Support Call Center at 855-664-1200 (3430, Option 2, from on-campus). For non-Moodle support, contact the Tiffin University ITS helpdesk at the number above or submit a [support ticket](#).

## Veterans

The Veteran and Military Resource Center assists veterans, active Military, and spouses of current service members in utilizing their education benefits. VMRC provides information regarding benefit processes and procedures, as well as support in navigating the transition from military to academic life by facilitating connections with the appropriate support services on campus. More information can be found on the Veteran and Military Resource Center website, at <http://www.tiffin.edu/va>.

## Additional Support

If you need to consult an academic advisor refer to TU's [Meet the Team](#) page. For information about TU's peer tutoring program see the Murphy Center's [Tutoring Policies and Procedures](#) page.

## Comments or Concerns

TU's online programs are designed to be student *driven*: to empower you with a voice and stake in your learning. Our courses feature multiple and varied ways that you can share feedback, and we invite you to become an active voice and help drive our improvement efforts. In addition to providing in-course feedback, we encourage you to submit questions or comments directly to the online team at [online@tiffin.edu](mailto:online@tiffin.edu).