



# Dunlap-Stone University

## Course Syllabus

# CJ-150

## Introduction to Criminal Justice

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**Credit Hours** 3

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**Course Length** 6 weeks

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**Course Description** This course is a foundational undergraduate course that provides students with an overview of the American criminal justice system. Through exploration of its historical development, structure, functions, and contemporary issues, students will gain a fundamental understanding of the components and processes that make up the criminal justice system. Emphasis will be placed on critical analysis, ethical considerations, and the relationship between theory and practice in criminal justice.

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**Course Outcomes**

- CJ-150-1 Describe the historical development and evolution of the American criminal justice system.
- CJ-150-2 Identify and explain the roles and functions of key components within the criminal justice system.
- CJ-150-3 Analyze the criminal justice courts process from pretrial to sentencing.
- CJ-150-4 Explain the differences between probation and parole.
- CJ-150-5 Evaluate ethical considerations and challenges within the criminal justice system.
- CJ-150-6 Discuss current issues, debates, and reforms within the field of criminal justice.
- CJ-150-7 Apply critical thinking skills to analyze and assess criminal justice practices and policies.


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**Prerequisites** None.

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**Required Materials** **Purchase Required:** Criminal Justice: An Introduction, 14th edition by Frank Schmalleger. Pearson Publication

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<b>Syllabus Acknowledgement Statement</b>	Students are responsible for reading and understanding the syllabus. Continued participation in the course implies agreement to abide by the expectations, timelines, and academic integrity standards outlined herein.		
<b>Learning Resources</b>	Students should utilize library resources provided at the main level of the classroom to support their learning and to master the course learning objectives.		
	 <a href="#">LIRN Library Resources Portal</a>		
<b>Course Format</b>	Each week in the course begins on Thursday and runs through Wednesday. Each new week's material will open on Wednesday. Please complete all of the required activities within the week. Late submissions may have deductions or may not be accepted.		
<b>Grading Scale</b>	92-100 A	79-81 B-	65-68 D+
	89-91 A-	75-78 C+	62-64 D
	85-88 B+	72-74 C	<62 F
	82-84 B	69-71 C-	
<b>Grading Criteria</b>	<p>Grades in this course are based on the quality, completeness, and clarity of your work in relation to the assignment instructions and stated learning outcomes. Each assignment is evaluated using a grading guide or rubric that outlines expectations for content, analysis, structure, and engagement with course materials. These are posted with each assignment.</p> <p><b>How Your Work Is Evaluated</b></p> <p>In general, you will earn full credit when your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly addresses all parts of the assignment prompt</li> <li>• Demonstrates critical thinking and a clear understanding of course materials</li> <li>• Is well-organized, clearly written, and free of significant grammar or spelling errors</li> <li>• Properly cites sources when appropriate</li> </ul> <p>Points may be deducted for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incomplete or off-topic responses</li> <li>• Failure to apply course concepts or reference materials</li> <li>• Weak organization, unclear writing, or frequent mechanical errors</li> <li>• Missing components, such as citations or required sections</li> </ul> <p>Grades for each assignment are posted in the Moodle gradebook.</p> <p>Review grading rubrics before you begin each assignment and again before submission.</p> <p>Be sure to save a copy of all submissions and review returned feedback carefully.</p>		
<b>Instructor Expectations</b>	Faculty members may post additional materials, requirements or make changes to this syllabus. Please contact your instructor with questions about specific criteria.		
<b>Learning Environment</b>	This course is delivered fully online using distance education best practices. Students are expected to actively engage with their peers and instructor at least five (5) days each week. All courses are offered in English to students who meet the minimum entrance requirements and meet any published prerequisite requirements or program admission.		

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<b>Technical Support</b>	The classroom is accessed through the Moodle platform. <b>Technical support is available during business hours by calling 602.648.5750.</b>
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<b>Discussion and Participation</b>	Active participation is essential to your success in this course and is a core component of Dunlap-Stone University's online learning model. All students are expected to engage meaningfully in weekly discussions to demonstrate their understanding of course concepts, apply critical thinking, and interact respectfully with peers and faculty.
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### **Weekly Discussion Requirements**

To earn full credit each week, you must complete both of the following:

- Direct Response Posts (4 total)
  - Respond directly to the weekly discussion prompts.
  - Submit one discussion question post per day, on at least four separate days of the week.
  - Each response should demonstrate thoughtful engagement and cite assigned readings or relevant external sources as appropriate.
- Participation/Peer Responses (5 total)
  - Reply meaningfully to posts made by classmates or the instructor.
  - Submit one peer response per day, on at least five separate days of the week.
  - Responses should advance the conversation by asking questions, offering new perspectives, or connecting to course materials.

*Minimum total posts per week: 9*

*Minimum days of participation per week: 5*

### **What Counts as a Substantive Post?**

A substantive post should:

- Be at least 100–150 words
- Refer to course readings, lectures, or external resources
- Offer analysis, reflection, or application (not just agreement or summary)
- Use respectful, academic language

### **Participation Tips**

- Spread your posts out throughout the week to meet the minimum day requirement.
- Log in early in the week to read discussion prompts and plan your responses.
- Review your classmates' contributions and refer back to previous posts in your replies.
- If you're unsure what to post, ask a question, connect with your own experience, or cite the lecture or textbook.

### **Late or Incomplete Participation**

- Posts submitted after the weekly deadline may not be eligible for full credit.
- Failure to meet the minimum number of posts or days may result in a deduction.
- If you experience an emergency, contact your instructor or advising team as soon as possible.

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<b>Academic Integrity &amp; Student Identity Verification</b>
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Dunlap-Stone University is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. As a student, you are expected to complete your own work, cite all sources accurately, and maintain honesty in all academic interactions. Academic integrity is not only a core institutional value—it is essential to your credibility and success as a professional. Carefully review the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

### **What Violates Academic Integrity?**

Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

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- Submitting work that is not your own, including assignments generated by AI or purchased from third parties
  - Copying or paraphrasing another source without proper citation
  - Using unauthorized assistance on quizzes or exams
  - Falsifying data, citations, or academic records
  - Submitting the same work in more than one course without prior approval

### Your Responsibilities

By accessing the online classroom using your unique login credentials, you affirm that:

- You are the individual enrolled in the course
- All submitted work is your own, unless collaboration is explicitly permitted
- You will uphold DSU's academic integrity standards throughout your studies

Students are encouraged to review and apply proper citation practices, ask questions if unsure, and seek support early to avoid unintentional violations.

### Consequences

Violations of academic integrity are taken seriously and may result in:

- A reduced grade or zero on the assignment
- Failing the course
- Academic probation or dismissal from the university

All violations are documented and reviewed according to DSU's official policy.

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#### Intellectual Property Notice

Unless otherwise noted, materials within the classroom belong to the noted copyright holder. There is no expectation of privacy or ownership of the posting of the students or faculty members. Please use good judgment when posting within the classroom. In some courses, you may wish to carefully consider what information you choose to disclose about your organization or your organization's activities. Contact your organization's legal representation for more information about your company's intellectual property and disclosure rules. Refer to the catalog for more information about the expectations of student behavior.

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#### Study Suggestions and Estimated Time to Complete Work

Depending on the level of this course and the number of credit hours assigned for this course, the estimated time to complete work varies. Each credit hour assigned in this course has been designed to represent 15 hours of direct engagement with course materials and 30 hours of preparation. This course is three credit hours in length and therefore represents 45 hours of engagement and 90 hours of preparation. **In a six week course, you should spend about 7.5 hours working in the classroom and about 15 hours in preparation.** You may need more or less time to complete this course.

**Preparation** can be classified in a number of ways. Reading assignments are based on the number of pages you are expected to read each week and the level of complexity of those reading materials (whether they contain a large number of technical terms or difficult concepts). Written assignments are generally based upon the number of pages you are expected to produce as noted in the assignment description. Studying for exams is estimated by the number of hours you would be expected to spend reviewing materials.

**Direct engagement** includes reviewing websites, posting and participating in discussion forums, reading materials, listening to audio content, and taking exams.

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#### Student Success Strategies

**Please carefully review the following information. Please reach out to your advisor or faculty member with any questions.**

**Week 1:**

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## General

Under the “General” heading, review this syllabus thoroughly and make sure you understand the course expectations and how to navigate the classroom. Note the course learning outcomes and the link to Library services. Additional supplementary materials may be posted in this section.



Please post your bio here

Post a brief introduction and biographical information introducing yourself to your peers and instructor.



News forum

Review any posts from your instructor or announcements in the News Forum.

### Weekly:

You may wish to review your personal and professional obligations each week and designate what times you can schedule to complete the week’s coursework.



Week 1: Reading Assignment and Lecture

**Review the “Reading Assignment and Lecture” section of the classroom for the week and plan your activities for the week.**

## 1. Week 1 Reading Assignments

## 2. Week 1 Lecture

**Reading the lecture, textbook, and supplemental materials.** Review the required and supplemental readings for the week. This may include a textbook, articles, videos, additional documents, a lecture, etc. Confirm that you have all of the assigned readings and can access any supplemental materials noted.



Week 1 Discussion Forum

**Participate in discussion forums.** To meet the discussion question and participation requirements for this course, you should answer the designated number of questions completely, referencing your reading whenever possible. Be sure to read each of your classmates’ post, commenting meaningfully whenever possible and review your instructor’s posts within the discussion questions as well. This is an opportunity to bring in your experiences and demonstrate your understanding of the course materials.

### Affirming Participation and Discussion Question Completion

Each week, you will affirm your completion of at least 4 direct posts to discussion questions and participation over at least 5 days.

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 Week 1 Discussion Grade

 Week 1 Participation Grade

Click on the corresponding assignment, then attest in the text box your compliance and submit.

**Completing and submitting assignments.** Assignments are submitted through the Moodle assignment description.

 Week 1 Assignment

Before submitting your assignment, carefully review the assignment and any rubrics that are included for grading. Read through your submission carefully, checking for errors in grammar or spelling and to ensure that the content fully addresses the assignment. Give yourself extra time for a thorough review. Most assignments are due no later than midnight on Wednesday at the end of each week.

 End of Course Survey

**Complete the end of course survey in your final week.**

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**Learning  
Outcomes  
Alignment**

CJ-1 Theoretical Understanding and Application: Students will analyze and apply criminological theories, including biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives, to understand criminal behavior and the criminal justice system's response to crime. (3,4)  
CJ-3 Research and Critical Analysis Skills: Students will assess the quality of research in criminology and criminal justice publications and other media. They will utilize scientific methods to make informed decisions and analyze various factors, developments, and trends impacting the field of criminal justice, including systemic inequalities. (3,4)  
CJ-4 Ethical Reasoning and Leadership: Students will evaluate ethical issues related to the criminal justice system and criminology. They will build community relationships by understanding organizational culture, community relations, and behavioral theories, and will examine ethical and legal issues to promote social responsibility and civic engagement. (2, 3)

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**Important  
Policies**

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Student Bill of Rights](#)
- [Student Complaint and Grievance Policy](#)
- [Accessibility and ADA Accommodations Policy](#)
- [Non-Discrimination and Title IX Policy](#)
- [Student Records and Privacy \(FERPA\) Policy](#)

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**DSU Contact  
Information**

Dunlap-Stone University  
16165 N 83rd Ave, Ste 200  
Peoria AZ 85382

602.648.5750  
[info@dunlap-stone.edu](mailto:info@dunlap-stone.edu)  
[www.dunlap-stone.edu](http://www.dunlap-stone.edu)

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## Course Matrix

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<b>Week 1</b>	<p>Review the History of Criminal Justice.</p> <p>Describe the differences the individual rights and the public order perspective</p> <p>Explain the structure of the criminal justice system and its goals</p> <p>Identify and explain the sources of crime statistics</p> <p>Summarize the elements of crime</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (10 points)</p>	19 points
<b>Week 2</b>	<p>Discuss policing models</p> <p>Describe legal aspects of policing</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (10 points)</p>	19 points
<b>Week 3</b>	<p>Describe the culture of policing</p> <p>Discuss racial profiling and biased policing</p> <p>Discuss the American court system.</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (10 points)</p>	19 points
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>Describe and explain the pretrial steps, process, and the purpose of the criminal trial</p> <p>Describe the five goals of contemporary criminal sentencing.</p> <p>Explain the purpose of indeterminate sentencing</p> <p>Review the history of victims' rights and services.</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (10 points)</p>	19 points
<b>Week 5</b>	<p>Describe the history, purpose, and characteristics of probation, parole, and reentry.</p> <p>Identify court cases affecting probation and parole.</p> <p>Describe the history of American prisons</p> <p>Explain the purpose of today's prisons</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (10 points)</p>	19 points
<b>Week 6</b>	<p>Discuss the modern prison system</p> <p>Discuss prison security threat and some causes of prison riots.</p> <p>Explain how the juvenile justice system works.</p>	<p>Read lecture and assigned readings</p> <p>Participation (5 points)</p> <p>Discussion Questions (4 points)</p> <p>Assignments (30 points)</p>	39 points