

“All animals are created equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

[George Orwell](#), *Animal Farm*

“Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heav'n.”

[John Milton](#), *Paradise Lost*

SYLLABUS for CJ 101-001
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Fall, 2007

General Information

Professor:	Dr. Michael B. Blankenship	Class URL:	blackboard.boisestate.edu
Web Site:	cja.boisestate.edu/mblanken	Classroom:	Education 112
Office:	Library 152D	Times:	9:15 AM to 10:30 AM
Office Hours:	T & Th 1:00 – 4:00 PM	Days:	T & Th
Phone:	208-426-2771		
E-mail:	mblanken@boisestate.edu		

Philosophy

The primary goal of attending college is educational attainment. In pursuit of this goal, one of the objectives of this course is to create an atmosphere conducive to critical thinking. My approach is **not** to inundate you with facts and figures (some essential information is a requisite), but to provide you with some fundamental tools that can be used to explore various issues including crime, criminality, and the social response to law breaking. My method also includes challenging students' perceptions (some of which are closely held) and introducing students to a variety of concepts, issues, and ways of constructing reality.

Lectures and discussions: (1) focus on major issues; (2) assist in the synthesis of knowledge; (3) encourage constructive criticism; and (4) interject material not found in the reading assignments. Assignments: (1) assist in the synthesis of knowledge; and (2) reinforce academic competencies. In order to receive the maximum benefit from this course, it is imperative that students attend each class prepared to discuss the assigned material.

My primary concern is your success. Initially, we will measure this construct through the process of evaluating your performance. However, the true measure of success is what you learn and what you carry with you for the remainder of your life. I have structured the class to facilitate the success of each student; While I will be your guide through the course material, you must be willing to dedicate yourself to the goal of learning.

Contacting the Professor

The most efficient (and perhaps effective) means of contacting me is by email. When doing so, please add **CJ 101** in the Subject line along with the purpose of your email. I respond to every email I receive from students, normally within eight hours. If I am traveling or there is some other circumstance, a response may be delayed. If you have not received a response within eight hours, please send a second message. **Never hesitate to send me an email, nor apologize for sending more than one.**

If we are to be successful, it is important that you stay abreast of class events and that you have all of your questions answered. **Never leave class with a question unanswered!** After class may be a good time for a brief conversation or to make an appointment. I suggest that you exchange contact information with other class members. You are also strongly encouraged to logon to the course Web site each day in order to stay informed about class events and updates.

Students can also leave voice mail at 208-426-2771 or stop by my office on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. I suggest that you call or email before hand. Feel free to contact me to schedule a conference when the need arises. Immediately after class is usually a good time for a discussion. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to contact me about a problem. I strongly encourage you to contact me when an issue first arises – we have a better chance of finding a solution the earlier you contact me.

Academic Integrity

The ability to pursue knowledge in an open and candid atmosphere free of intimidation and ad hominem attacks is a bedrock principle of university life. Such an environment affords a degree of freedom not found in any other venue. In order to preserve and benefit from this environment, it is important that we observe two fundamental standards – civility and honesty – that make academic life possible and enjoyable.

Civility

Significant emotional valence is attached to many of the topics in this class. While individuals have a general right to pose questions, to respond to questions, and to make statements, these rights do have limits. Civil discourse is always expected from each member of the class. When anyone is speaking, please be respectful (and quiet) no matter how much you might disagree with the content of the question, statement, or discussion. You will be exposed to a number of ideas, arguments, and discussions that you might not agree with or respect. That is the nature of academic life. However, it is essential that emotions be kept in check and that respect for every individual in the class be maintained at all times. Please feel free to contact me outside of class to voice any political or ideological objections to the content of the course.

Honesty

All forms of academic dishonesty are inimical to the goals of this class. Any student who engages in academic misconduct, or knowingly assists another student in this purpose, is in violation of [university policy](#). While there are many forms of academic dishonesty, the two major forms are cheating on an exam and plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty undermine the to opportunity to learn and bring the institution into disrepute. Therefore, the highest standards of honesty will be observed in this class at all times. Failure to abide by this code of conduct will be dealt with according to university policy.

Attendance Policy

Research has shown that academic performance is positively correlated with class attendance. Therefore, I encourage students to attend every class, with one exception. Please be considerate and **do not** attend class when you have contracted a communicable illness. Otherwise, attendance is mandatory unless an excused absence is granted by the professor.

- Participation in an official [university-recognized activity](#) constitutes an excused absence. Students must request authorization using the attached form for an excused absence due to a university activity prior to the date of the absence. It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed assignments.
- Students may accrue **two** unexcused absences without incurring any penalty (assuming that missed assignments are submitted). Students are encouraged to save these days for times when a genuine illness or a bona fide emergency occurs.
- After the 2nd absence students must request permission for an excused absence using the form attached to the syllabus. A third unexcused absence will result in the reduction of one letter grade for the course. A further reduction of one letter grade for the course will be imposed for the next two unexcused absences. The sixth unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the course.
- Please **DO NOT** call or send email notifying me of an absence.
- Class starts promptly at 9:15 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Once attendance has been taken students not registering with the "clicker" will be counted as absent. Anyone entering the classroom after a quiz has commenced will not be permitted to undertake the quiz.
- In the event that class is cancelled a notice will be placed on our Blackboard site and an email will be sent to your BroncoMail address.

Purpose

This course seeks to:

1. provide an introduction to the study of the making of law, the breaking of law, and the social reaction to the breaking of law in the United States;
2. promote integrative understanding of society and its institutions through the study of crime;
3. reinforce academic competencies;
4. introduce you to social science concepts and applications to the study of crime;
5. begin the socialization process into the discipline.

The course is an *introduction* to:

1. the general characteristics of social science with a significant emphasis on the scientific method and research;
2. the argot of the discipline;
3. various theoretical aspects of crime and criminality;
4. the basic philosophy, history, and functions of the police, courts, and punishment (I do not like the term "corrections") components as well as the functions and substance of law;
5. new ideas, concepts, and opposing viewpoints on crime, criminals, and crime-control policies;
6. the requirements for mastering basic academic competencies.

The subject matter in this class is criminal and deviant behavior. We do not study people who, as one of my professors phrased it, “sing too loud in church!” Please be forewarned that you might find some of the material in this class offensive due to the topic and/or its graphic nature. I will try to warn the class prior to the introduction of any material that might be offensive. In the event that you object to the graphic nature of any material, I request that you refrain from commenting during class and/or that you leave the class and then contact me as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate. In the event that you receive a call while in class, please step outside the classroom to conduct discussions. iPods and mp3 players should also be turned off during class. If you want to record lectures, I request that you notify me before doing so.

Text

Schmallegger, F. (2007) [*Criminal Justice: An introductory text for the 21st century \(9th Edition\)*](#) (ISBN 0-13-171959-5). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

This text is bundled with pass codes for online materials and an [Interwrite PFS Student Response System](#). The pass codes will allow you to access a wider array of study tools while the SRS will allow you to record your presence in class, take pop quizzes, and participate in class discussions. You will need to have the SRS with you every day. I also suggest carrying some spare batteries.

Grading

Grading will be based on the following items:

1. Writing Assignments – 25%
2. Unannounced Quizzes – 30%
3. Examinations – 45%

Nota Bene! No assignment will be accepted late. Any assignment received after the date and time indicated will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

Final grades are based on the following scale:

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 59<
A = 93-96	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments will consist of two categories: (1) a journal; and (2) a directed research assignment.

Journal

Please purchase a spiral-bound notebook, with ruled, standard size pages. Your journal will be a place for you to record your thoughts, draft your questions, make notes, and complete outside assignments. It will contain a mixture of in-class writing and out-of-class assignments. We will write in most every class session, so please be sure to have your journal with you at all times. I will collect and evaluate journals on a random basis, so please make sure that your journal is always up to date and that it has your name and email address on the inside cover.

Directed Research

A selection of journal articles will be available from the Blackboard course site. This assignment will require you to select two (2) articles of your choice and prepare a 2 page (maximum) double spaced with one-inch margins, synopsis of the research. The synopsis should address the following items:

1. Statement of the Problem
What is the research question?
2. Methodology
What is the method of observation employed by the researchers? Survey, archival, participant observation, experimental or quasi-experimental, etc.
3. Results
What did the research reveal?
4. Limitations
What were the limitations of the study? Sample size, type of sample, geographical, a flaw in the research design?
5. Future Research
What research questions might be addressed in the future?

Unannounced Quizzes

Quizzes will be administered in class using the “clicker” technology. Thus you will need to bring your device to class everyday as it will also be used to check attendance. I recommend that you carry replacement batteries with you. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Examinations

This grade is composed of two major exams – a mid-term (20% of final grade) and a comprehensive final (25% of the final grade). Both of these exams will be noted on Blackboard and administered through the [Online Test Center](#). You will need to make a reservation and follow the policies, which includes having proper identification. Missed exams can only be rescheduled in very limited circumstances, which fall into the category of excused absences. The final exam will be administered the week of December 17-20, so please arrange your schedule accordingly.

Course Materials

PowerPoints, handouts, podcasts, and any other material related to the course (including this syllabus) can be found at the Blackboard course site. These items are made available for review purposes (I do **not** provide study guides). Students will find that they are a poor substitute for class preparation, attendance, attentiveness and note taking.

Disclaimers

1. This syllabus does not constitute a contract. Therefore, it is possible that changes may be made to accommodate changing circumstances. Modifications will be posted on Blackboard. In the event of revisions, students are responsible for updated information.
2. Part of the course requirements include various levels of participation in different activities, several of which require public display. Your continued participation in this course constitutes

implied agreement to having some or all of your work available to members of this class, faculty, graduate assistants, and in limited circumstances, the general public. You can control access to your identity and contact information through Blackboard. No performance data will be accessible by anyone other than you, the professor, and his graduate assistant. The only individuals who will have access to personal information, including email addresses, will be the professor and his graduate assistant, unless you elect to reveal this information.

Department Peer Advisor

Vicki James
Department of Criminal Justice
Library 166
208-426-5628
vickijames@boisestate.edu
<http://cja.boisestate.edu/Pages/Advising.htm>

Request for an Excused Absence Form

Instructions: The form must be submitted prior to the event for which you are requesting an excused absence or upon your return to the first class after an absence due to an illness or family emergency. **This form has to be submitted only in the event of a university-sponsored activity or after a second unexcused absence.**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Course: CJ 101-001

Date(s) of Absence: _____

Date of First Class Attended after Absence: _____

Brief explanation of circumstances beyond the control of the student leading to the absence (in the event of an illness, **an explicit diagnosis is not required**; I just need a statement to the effect that you were ill and documentation that you sought medical treatment):

_____/_____
Signature **Date**

Your signature attests to the accuracy of the information provided.

Did you remember to attach relevant documentation?

**Acknowledgement of Understanding of
Course Requirements for
CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
and a Promise to Abide by Same**

I certify that I:

1. have thoroughly read the course syllabus and its accompanying materials;
2. have asked the professor to clarify all course and syllabus items that appeared to be unclear;
3. have become completely satisfied that no item in the syllabus or on Blackboard regarding course performance expectations remains ambiguous;
4. have given particular attention to the syllabus explanation of attendance expectations and requirements;
5. understand that no work can be made up after the passage of its due date without an excused absence;
6. understand that qualification for an excused absence requires me to submit a completed *Request for Excused Absence* form that is included with the syllabus. I also understand that the completed form must be presented (along with documentation) **prior** to the university-recognized event or upon my return to the class immediately following my absence due to illness or emergency **after** the second unexcused absence.

I promise to:

1. abide by the guidelines conveyed in the course syllabus;
2. refrain from requesting an exception to the syllabus guidelines based on anything that is under my control (e.g., requesting to take the final exam early so I may leave on personal vacation);
3. ask for an excused absence prior to the university-recognized event;
4. forfeit any claim for an excused absence or any opportunity to make up work for my failure to provide the professor with a completed *Request for Excused Absence* form within the guidelines contained in the course syllabus.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date of Signature _____

Credit for activity or test scores requires submitting this signed agreement to the professor by the end of the first week of classes. I suggest that you retain a copy for your records and that the completed form can be faxed (208-426-4371), scanned and submitted as an email attachment (mblanken@boisestate.edu), or submitted in person.