



Special Topics in Criminal Justice
CJUS440 [all sections]
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course will include an intensive examination of specialized contemporary topics in criminal justice. Topics may vary from course to course, but will include subjects such as drugs and substance abuse, gangs, race, hate groups, women in the criminal justice system, domestic violence, and serial crime and criminals.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

This course will not utilize textbooks.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Differentiate contemporary issues in criminal justice pertaining to criminal justice leadership, communication, ethics, critical thinking and career preparation.
2. Compare best practices for effective relationships between law enforcement and the community.
3. Evaluate ethical, use of force and discretionary practice concerns in criminal justice.
4. Examine criminal justice management principles and concepts related to the overall efficiency of the law enforcement function.
5. Illustrate skills and attributes of a criminal justice practitioner.
6. Develop a department/community written action plan by analyzing a specific criminal justice event addressing issues of leadership, communication, ethics, critical thinking, and career preparation in criminal justice.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies found in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	300	30%
PowerPoint Presentation	1	250	25%
Analysis Essay	1	450	45%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read The Five C's of Law Enforcement Leadership • Read Police Leadership Challenges in a Changing World • Read Toward a Profession of Police Leadership • Read Final Report: The President's Task Force on 21st Century • Listen to COPS Podcast: Constitutional Policing: Ethics and Integrity • Review Race and Policing: An Agenda for Action • Review National Institute of Justice - Developing Effective Police Workforces: The Importance of Staffing Structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Discussion
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Community Policing Defined • Read Community Policing: Looking to Tomorrow • Read Strategic Communication Practices: A Toolkit for Police Executives • View TEDx - The most dangerous weapon in law enforcement • Listen to Building Relationships of Trust: An Interactive video • Listen to COPS Podcast – Building Trust with Communities of Color • Listen to COPS Podcast - Constitutional Policing: Understanding Your Community • Review Key Leadership Strategies to Enhance Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Discussion
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Broken Windows" and Police Discretion • Read Enhancing Police Integrity • Read Community Policing Dispatch: The Exemplary Officer • Listen to Strengthening Police-Community Trust • Listen to COPS Podcast: Use of Force: Philadelphia Police Department • View Law Enforcement Oath of Honor • Review Standards and Guidelines for Internal Affairs: Recommendations from a Community of Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Discussion
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Defining Moments for Police Chief's • Read Perspective: Principles of Effective Law Enforcement Leadership • Read The Culture of Management That Police Departments Need • Read Tucson Police Department Strategic Plan 2013-2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 Discussion

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Law Enforcement Recruitment Toolkit • Read Police Recruitment and Retention for the New Millennium: The State of Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Introduction and Chapter 2 only • View Direct Instruction-Collaborate Recording: The Criminal Justice Hiring Process: Are you Prepared? • Review Discover Policing • Review Police Recruitment and Retention for the New Millennium: The State of Knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion • PowerPoint Presentation
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Implementing a Body Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned • Read ACLU Recommends New Rules for Police Body Cameras • View Police Across the Country Testing New Tool: Body Cameras • Listen to COPS Podcast: Body Worn Cameras – Daytona Beach, Florida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Discussion • Analysis Essay

VII. [Other Policies and Requirements](#)

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.