

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Criminal Justice Program
Revision Date: 08-18-25

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM1010
Course Title: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: Provides an overview of the history, development, and philosophies of the criminal justice system within the United States. Areas covered include crime and the criminal justice system, the police, the courts, corrections, and the juvenile justice system.

Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Identify the basic components of justice processes
- B. Recognize the major sources of crime data, and their uses and limitations
- C. Examine the historical evolution of the role of policing in a modern society
- D. Examine criminal court systems and adversarial concepts
- E. Examine correctional systems and the purposes of punishment
- F. Define the basic differences between juvenile and adult systems
- G. Identify emerging and international forms of justice

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Describe the structure and functions of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
 - 2. Explain the role of criminal law in defining crimes, protecting rights, and guiding the justice process.
 - 3. Identify and discuss key theories related to crime, criminal behavior, and victimization.
 - 4. Analyze the criminal justice process from arrest through corrections, including due process and constitutional protections.
 - 5. Analyze current issues and challenges in policing, the courts, and corrections (e.g., ethics, diversity, technology, public policy).
 - 6. Apply critical thinking skills to analyze the effectiveness and fairness of criminal justice practices.
 - 7. Demonstrate an understanding of career opportunities and professional responsibilities within the field of criminal justice.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):
 - 1. GELO 1: Oral Communication
Outcome 4: Competently communicate messages – both verbally and nonverbally – to a variety of audience types and in a variety of situations.
 - 2. GELO 2: Written Communication
Outcome 5: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.

3. GELO 3: Critical thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome 1: Collect, interpret, and analyze data.
Outcome 2: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
Outcome 4: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impact of actions.
4. GELO 6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome 7: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Criminal Justice Today
- B. Measuring and Explaining Crime
- C. Inside Criminal Law
- D. Law Enforcement Today
- E. Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing
- F. Police and the Constitution
- G. Courts and the Quest for Justice
- H. Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial
- I. Punishment and Sentencing
- J. Probation and Intermediate Sanctions
- K. Prisons and Jails
- L. The Prisoner Experience and Prisoner Reentry
- M. Juvenile Justice System
- N. Today's Challenges in Criminal Justice

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s):
 1. Criminal Justice in Action, Gaines & Miller, Cengage Learning, Latest Edition.
 2. CJ2022, Fagin, Pearson, Current Edition
 3. Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process, Peak & Madensen-Herold, Sage, Current Edition
 4. Open Educational Resources that meet the listed course objectives/competencies and student outcomes, chosen at the instructors' discretion. These resources will be comparable in content to the textbooks listed above.
- B. Other Resources: Vary by instructor

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Electronic Presentation
- C. Demonstrations
- D. Case Studies
- E. Field Trips
- F. Course Books
- G. Group Projects
- H. Hybrid, Blended, Virtual
- I. Online
- J. Subject Matter Experts

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams
- B. Quizzes
- C. Written Assignments
- D. Oral Assignments
- E. Practical Application

F. Discussion

G. Projects

H. SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
		F	Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. See individual instructor's course outline.