

University of Maryland, College Park  
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

CCJS105 FC01: Introduction to Criminal Justice  
Summer 2025

**INSTRUCTOR**

Ms. Romm

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Phone: 301-448-2587

Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE MEETING TIME FOR LECTURES**

This class will be held face to face and will meet on Mondays through Friday from 10:00 am (EST) to 1:00 pm (EST) online.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a general introduction to the study of crime. We will cover correlates of crime, crime measurement, crime trends, criminological theory from the Enlightenment era to modern times, and how theory relates to criminal justice policy and crime prevention.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the American criminal justice system
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories used to explain criminal and delinquent behavior.
3. Examine how crime and delinquency are defined and measured in America.
4. Identify specific issues of crime including offender reentry and technology and crime.
5. Understand the different types of crime

**COURSE WEBSITE**

This class utilizes ELMS (Canvas) for all course information. The syllabus, announcements, assignments, and grades will be posted via ELMS. To access Canvas, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and login with your Directory ID and password. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact support desk at 301-405-1400. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. You are strongly encouraged to access ELMS on a regular basis as you are responsible for knowing the material posted on the website. It is important to enable announcement and email notifications for your ELMS account. You can do this by clicking on the "Account" tab once you are logged into ELMS.

**COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL**

I will be available via email if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about course material. Please email me directly using my [mrmm@umd.edu](mailto:mrmm@umd.edu) email address rather than through ELMS. I will work to respond to emails as quickly as possible, but please keep in mind that I have additional responsibilities as part of my job. Please only use your UMD email account associated with ELMS to communicate with me.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Walsh, Anthony, & Jorgenson, Cody. (2020). Criminology: The Essentials (4th edition). Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781544375373

## **COURSE GRADING**

Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

A+ (97-100)	A (94-96%)	A- (90-93%)
B+ (87-89%)	B (84-86%)	B- (80-83%)
C+ (77-79%)	C (74-76%)	C- (70-73%)
D+ (67-69%)	D (60-66%)	F (0-59%)

## **EXAMS**

You will have a total of three multiple choice exams, which will (all together) account for a total of 60% of your overall grade in this course. Exams will be fifty minutes long, and will feature content from the lectures, class discussions, course readings, and any other activities that are assigned. All content mentioned in lectures or that appears on the PowerPoint slides are fair game for quizzes and exams, so take notes accordingly. Exams will **not** be cumulative. Exams will not be curved in the course. Exams and all assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does **not** apply to them. All students should arrive on time to exams.

## **QUIZZES**

You will have a total of four multiple choice quizzes, which will (all together) account for a total of 20% of your overall grade. Quizzes will be administered via pencil and paper, are closed note, and will be completed during lecture time, at the beginning of class. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions and you can expect multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions on the quiz. You will have 25 minutes to complete each quiz. Content eligible to appear on quizzes includes content from lectures, classroom discussions, course readings, and any other activities that are assigned. All content mentioned in lectures or that appears on the PowerPoint slides are fair games for quizzes and exams, so take notes accordingly.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

The class before the exam will incorporate extra credit activities that can only benefit students. These activities will help prepare students for each exam and each point the student earns on the assignment will be added to each following exam. If you are absent on the day of an extra credit assignment, you will forfeit the opportunity to earn those points and there will be NO makeup assignments (even for excused absences).

## **PARTICIPATION**

In-class participation is essential to this course and accounts for 20% of your overall grade. Your in-class participation grade will be the combination of two elements: contribution to the class discussion and discussion questions and comments in the class discussion forum. Students are expected to post discussion questions/comments demonstrating that they have critically thought about the assigned reading materials (i.e., textbook chapter).

## **COURSE RELATED POLICIES**

Policies relevant to Undergraduate courses are found here:

[Course-related policies](#). Topics that are addressed in these various policies include academic integrity, student and instructor conduct, accessibility and accommodations, attendance and excused absences, grades and appeals, copyright and intellectual property.

## **MAKEUP POLICY**

With COVID-19 still present, I am going to be flexible if life events make it difficult to keep up with class. I want to be there to support you during this difficult time, though, to do this, I need to know about a problem when it starts, not afterwards. Please let me know of the issue sooner rather than later (and please only tell me what you are comfortable with sharing). I know some issues occur unexpectedly so please don't hesitate to reach out regardless but, generally, I am in a much better position to help and make accommodations if you tell me when the problem arises.

**Exams/Quizzes:** Makeup exams and quizzes will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior written notice to the start of the exam/quiz and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam/quiz and notify Ms. Romm after the start of the exam/quiz, you will not be able to reschedule the exam/quiz. Please contact Ms. Romm immediately (before the start of the exam/quiz) to let her know if you will not make the exam/quiz so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather documentation. All makeup exams/quizzes must be completed as soon as you return but no later than one week of the missed exam/quiz, per the instructor's availability. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam/quiz.

**Discussion:** Makeup discussion posts will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior to the due date, as well as official documentation. All makeup discussion posts for a missed discussion, due to an excused absence, must be completed before the next discussion due date. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment.

## **GRADE DISPUTES**

If you have questions or concerns about your grade on any assignment and believe I should review it, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

## **CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." This includes such things as leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, and pursuing side conversations during the course lecture. This also includes reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using prohibited technological devices. Also, please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

Students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and provide required ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. After receiving an Accommodations Letter from ADS, you are expected to meet with each course instructor, in person, to provide them with a copy of the Accommodations Letter and to obtain their signature on the Acknowledgement of Student Request form. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Testing Office need to provide me with a testing form online at least three business days prior to each exam or will have to take the exam with the rest of the class. Saturday and Sunday are not business days. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class, unless other accommodations have been approved by the instructor. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS.

## **INCLUSIVE LEARNING**

Students should be respectful of their fellow peers and the instructors and at all times feel comfortable and safe in the classroom environment. A diverse exchange of ideas is an integral part of the learning process and is essential to intellectual growth. The classroom should be a space where diverse opinions are exchanged in a non-threatening and respectful manner. No student should ever be made to feel marginalized in the classroom. If at any time you feel uncomfortable or offended with something that is said or presented in the classroom, please notify the instructor immediately. Furthermore, UMD's official policy recognizes that name and gender identity are central to most individuals' sense of self and well-being, and it is important to establish mechanisms to acknowledge and support individuals' self-identification. To this end, we ask that students honor the name and pronouns that each of us go by.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Cell phones are prohibited in this class. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, you will be asked to put them away. If they are seen and/or used after you are asked to put them away, then you will be asked to leave class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, you will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as zero and you will be referred to the Student Honor Council. In addition, you are not allowed to record the lectures (neither audio nor video recording) or take pictures of any of the course material. The only exception to the use of technology policy is if a student has required documented accommodations through ADS and has provided me with this documentation before the second week of class. Computers and ipads can be utilized to take notes in class.

## **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

If you are unable to attend class or an exam due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me prior to the missed date. Failure to notify me by this date will result in a zero.

## **COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The lectures, exams, and quizzes that I deliver and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. My work may not be recorded or reproduced for anything without the permission of the course instructor. Do not sell, post, take pictures, or record course materials without documented permission from the course instructor. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**MASK POLICY**

Wearing a mask will not be required while indoors in most situations, including classrooms. As a reminder, masks are a significant defense against the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. Therefore, I recommend wearing a KN95 mask while indoors for added protection. Masks will continue to be required in all patient care areas, including the University Health Center.

**Class Schedule**  
(subject to change)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	14-Jul 15-Jul 16-Jul 17-Jul 18-Jul	An Overview of Crime and Criminology Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior Victimology <b>(Quiz 1)</b> Classical School and Positivism <b>Exam</b>	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4
2	21-Jul 22-Jul 23-Jul 24-Jul 25-Jul	Rational Choice Theory and Routine Activities Biosocial Theories <b>(Quiz 2)</b> Social Structural, Broken Windows, Code of the Street Labeling, Critical, Feminist Theories <b>(Quiz 3)</b> <b>Exam</b>	Chapter 5 Chapter 9,10 Chapter 6 Chapter 7
3	28-Jul 29-Jul 30-Jul 31-Jul 01-Aug	Developmental and Life Course Theories Violent Crime and Terrorism Property Crime <b>(Quiz 4)</b> White Collar Crime, Organized Crime, and Cybercrime <b>Exam</b>	Chapter 11 Chapter 12, 13 Chapter 14, 15 Chapter 16, 17