

CCJS 100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Terp Youth Scholars Program
Summer Session II 2026

Instructor	Tashawn Reagon	Term	Summer II (TYS)
Email	treagon@umd.edu	Credits	3
Class Meetings	M–F, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET	Course Dates	July 13 th – 31 st 2026
Format	Synchronous online (Zoom)	Office Hours	Thurs. 1–3 p.m. ET or by appt.

Zoom: A recurring meeting link and Meeting ID/Passcode will be posted on Canvas/ELMS before the first day of class. Office hours are held at the same link. You must log in to Zoom with your university credentials, or you will remain in the waiting room and will not be admitted.

PART I: COURSE GUIDELINES

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to the three major components of the criminal justice system in America: police, courts, and corrections. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of (1) policing in America, (2) court organization and processes, and (3) corrections, incarceration, and community supervision. We will also cover other issues pertaining to the criminal justice system as they arise. Because this is a Terp Young Scholars course, we move quickly and meet daily, so steady day-to-day engagement is essential. At the completion of this course, students should have a strong understanding of how the criminal justice system operates in the United States.

Welcome

I'm very excited to have you all in the course! We meet every weekday for three weeks, so I am looking forward to getting to know you and discussing criminal justice with you. I welcome your perspectives and questions, and I hope to create an academic space where everyone feels included, heard, and valued. Please feel free to attend office hours, whether you have a specific question or simply want to talk through the course content.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the three subsystems of the American criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories used to explain criminal and delinquent behavior.
- Examine how crime and delinquency are defined and measured in America.
- Identify specific crime issues, including offender reentry, technology, and crime.

- Understand the future direction of the American criminal justice system.

Required Textbook

Cole, G. F., Smith, C. E., & DeJong, C. (2022). **Criminal Justice in America**, 10th Edition. ISBN-13: 9780357456330

Please obtain a copy of the textbook as soon as possible. You may use either the print or electronic version. You may not use a previous edition. Any readings that are not from the textbook will be posted on the course website for you to download.

Course Website — Canvas / ELMS

This course uses Canvas (ELMS) to distribute important course information, including the syllabus, lecture slides, assignments, and grades. Access ELMS at <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your university Directory ID and password. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. If you have trouble accessing your account, contact the ELMS support desk at (301) 405-1400 and email me to let me know what happened (treagon@umd.edu).

Course Format

This class is **online and synchronous**. We meet live on Zoom Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET, for three weeks. Each daily session combines lecture, discussion, and in-class activities. You are responsible for attending the live sessions, keeping up with the assigned readings, participating in the in-class discussion activities, completing the written reflections, and taking the three scheduled exams. All exams and assignments are submitted on Canvas/ELMS.

Please enable Announcement and Email notifications in your ELMS account (under the “Account” tab) so you receive any changes to the class as planned. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and Canvas/ELMS inbox.

Communication with the Instructor

Email

- If you need to reach me, please email me at treagon@umd.edu. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends. If you have not received a response within 24 hours, please resend your email.
- Per University of Maryland policy, instructors may only respond to emails from addresses affiliated with the University of Maryland. Please email me from your university-assigned account.

Zoom & Office Hours

- Office hours are held Thursdays 1–3 p.m. ET at the same Zoom link as class, or by appointment. Email me to set up an alternate time.
- Remember to log in to Zoom with your university credentials. If you find yourself in the waiting room, exit Zoom and re-enter using the correct credentials.

PART II: COURSE GRADING

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Percentage
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Participation (in-class discussion activities)	20%
Written Reflections (2 × 5%)	10%
Final Written Reflection	10%
Total	100%

Exams (three exams, 20% each)

- There will be three exams over the course of the term. The exams are **NOT cumulative**, and each is worth 20% of your final grade.
- Exams cover material from both the lectures and the readings assigned since the previous exam.
- Exams are administered online through ELMS during class meeting time on the scheduled Friday (see the course schedule for dates and chapters).
- Exams are in multiple-choice format with a **60-minute time limit**.
- Because this is an online course, exams are **open-book and open-note**; however, with only 60 minutes you should study beforehand, as it is difficult to finish if you look up every answer. You may not give or receive help from any other person.
- Makeup exams are only allowed for excused absences with prior written notice and, upon request, acceptable documentation. See the Makeup Policy.

Participation & In-Class Discussion Activities (20%)

Participation is graded through in-class discussion activities completed live during our Zoom sessions. There are eight of these activities across the three weeks. Because they are completed while present in class, you must attend the session to earn the points.

Activities are evaluated on the depth of your engagement with the course concepts, the clarity and specificity of your reasoning, and your thoughtful, respectful consideration of the issue — not on reaching a single “correct” answer. If you are absent without prior notification and excused-absence documentation, you cannot make up participation points from activities completed in class. Please notify me as soon as you know you will be absent (see the Makeup Policy).

Written Reflections (two at 5%, plus a final at 10%)

You will complete a total of three written reflections. The first two reflection worksheets ask you to identify things you learned, raise questions you still have after the lectures and readings, and write brief responses to opinion-based prompts. These first two are each worth 5% and are graded on the care and effort you put into engaging with and reflecting on the course content.

The **Final Written Reflection** is similar but asks you to elaborate more and synthesize what you have learned across the whole course. It is worth 10% of your grade, and we will use in-class time to workshop it. All written reflections are submitted via Canvas/ELMS.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 3% extra credit by completing an additional written assignment (the prompt and requirements will be posted on ELMS). In addition, two extra-credit questions will be available on each exam (one point per correct extra-credit question).

Grading Scale

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

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest half-point. All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page.

PART III: COURSE-RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Makeup Policy

Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of **excused absences**. Excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or an immediate family member, required participation in University activities, death in the immediate family, and required court appearances.

The student must notify me **in writing prior to** missing an exam, graded assignment, or class session in order for a makeup to be scheduled. For exams, this means you must notify me before 10:00 a.m. ET on exam day. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or due date with an approved absence (notify me at least one week prior), you are expected to take the exam or submit the assignment early. Failure to follow these policies will result in a grade of zero for that exam or assignment.

All makeup exams/assignments must be completed within one week of the missed work. **You may not take the final exam (Exam 3) after the day and time it is administered in class — no exceptions.** Official documentation is always required for absences so please provide me a copy for my records. For all other medically necessitated absences, you must provide documentation from a physician or the University Health Center upon request.

Assignments submitted late without a documented excused absence will lose one full letter grade (10%) per day. Students have up to five days (including weekends, when applicable) to submit a late assignment, with a maximum penalty of 50%.

Religious Observances

If you are unable to attend class or take an exam due to a religious observance, you must discuss this with me and submit the necessary documentation **by the third day of class (July 15, 2026)**. Failure to notify me by this date will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam/assignment regardless of circumstances. It is your responsibility to arrange an alternative date to complete exams/assignments prior to the missed class.

Academic Integrity

The University of Maryland expects each student to take full responsibility for their academic work and progress. You are responsible for being familiar with and upholding the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Conduct, and for notifying me in a timely manner about academic accommodations related to absences and accessibility. Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and assignments, receiving help from anyone else in completing exams or assignments, and plagiarizing from other sources, will not be tolerated. For detailed University policies, please review <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, Claude, TerpAI, Copilot, Dall-E, etc.) is **prohibited** for any part of the assignment process in this class, including brainstorming, writing, and editing. This policy is meant to foster your ability to develop original ideas and a unique voice, both core skills of this class. Any use of AI-generated work to outline, write, create, or edit your assignments will be considered an academic integrity violation and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any questions about this policy, please email me.

Classroom Expectations & Conduct

The success of this class depends on maintaining an environment conducive to everyone's learning. Faculty and students are expected to be prepared and to treat one another with respect during all class activities. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated. In our online setting, disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving repeatedly, making loud or distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting others while they are speaking.

This class will cover subjects that may personally affect you or others, and some material may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or another member of this class. Students who do not adhere to these policies may be asked to leave the session and may be referred to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

Disability Support

Students registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) who provide the required documentation will be accommodated. After receiving your Accommodations Letter from ADS, please email it to me to discuss your specific needs **no later than**

July 16, 2026. All required ADS forms must be submitted, and accommodations will not be provided without proper documentation. If you will use your accommodations to take an exam at the ADS office, send me the appropriate online form at least one week before the scheduled exam so I can forward the exam to that office. Exams and assignments must still be completed on the scheduled dates unless other accommodations have been approved.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

All course materials, including lectures, are copyrighted and intended solely for your personal use in this course. Do not reproduce, sell, post, photograph, or record materials without documented permission from the instructor. Violations of copyright policies may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Evaluation

I want to ensure you are satisfied with the course, so please feel free to share feedback with me at any time. A University review will be available at the end of the term at CourseEvalUM (www.courseevalum.umd.edu). The University will also send an email with the evaluation link.

PART IV: COURSE SCHEDULE

We meet live on Zoom Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET. Exams are administered in class on Fridays. **This schedule is subject to change; any changes will be announced in class and through ELMS.**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Graded / Due
1	Mon, Jul 13	Course Introduction & Class Expectations Overview of the Criminal Justice System	Syllabus & Ch. 1	Discussion Activity 1
	Tue, Jul 14	Crime, Crime Causation & the Purpose of Punishment	Ch. 2	Discussion Activity 2
	Wed, Jul 15	The Criminal Justice System & Criminal Law	Ch. 3	Discussion Activity 3
	Thu, Jul 16	Policing: The Role of Police in Contemporary Society Exam 1 Review	Ch. 4	Discussion Activity 4 Written Reflection 1
	Fri, Jul 17	Exam Day	Ch. 1–4	Exam 1

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Graded / Due
2	Mon, Jul 20	Policing: Issues, Challenges & Innovation; Police & the Law	Ch. 5–6	Discussion Activity 5
	Tue, Jul 21	Criminal Courts: Structure, Actors & Procedures	Ch. 7	Discussion Activity 6
	Wed, Jul 22	Pretrial Processes & the Criminal Trial	Ch. 8	
	Thu, Jul 23	Sentencing Exam 2 Review	Ch. 9	Written Reflection 2
	Fri, Jul 24	Exam Day	Ch. 5–9	Exam 2
3	Mon, Jul 27	Corrections; Prisons: Emergence, Incarceration & Reentry	Ch. 10–11	Discussion Activity 7
	Tue, Jul 28	Probation, Parole & Intermediate Sanctions	Ch. 12	Discussion Activity 8
	Wed, Jul 29	Disparities in the Justice System; Technology, Surveillance & Reform	Ch. 13–14	
	Thu, Jul 30	The Future of Criminal Justice; Final Reflection Workshop & Exam 3 Review TYS Survey	Review	Final Written Reflection
	Fri, Jul 31	Exam Day & Course Synthesis	Ch. 10–14	Exam 3 (Final)

Note: Exams are not cumulative. Each exam covers only the chapters and lectures assigned since the previous exam.