



**Syllabus**  
**CRIM 1010**  
**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**2023**

**Committee Members:**

Michael David, Central Community College  
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N/A, Nebraska Indian Community College

**Facilitator: Colleen Barnes**

**The Institution agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.**

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	04/04/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	04/03/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	03/24/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	04/06/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	03/23/2023	Adopt



## **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 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours

Contact Hours: 45 hours

## **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES**

### **A. Course will:**

1. Identify the basic components of justice processes
2. Recognize the major sources of crime data, and their uses and limitations
3. Examine the historical evolution of the role of policing in a modern society
4. Examine criminal court systems and adversarial concepts
5. Examine correctional systems and the purposes of punishment
6. Define the basic differences between juvenile and adult systems
7. Identify emerging and international forms of justice

## **III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

### **A. Students will be able to:**

1. Define and contrast the criminal justice system and its three major components.
2. Understand the historical and philosophical foundations of the modern criminal justice system.
3. Develop an understanding of the need to balance the rights of the individual with the interests of society.
4. Compare the juvenile justice system with the adult system.
5. Understand the relationship between the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and the components of the criminal justice system.
6. Name the four possible outcomes which can occur after a law enforcement officer has completed a criminal investigation and explain how each outcome affects the criminal justice system.
7. Define arraignment and describe in detail what happens at an arraignment.
8. Define the terms extradition, probation, parole, pardon, and set-aside.
9. Identify who may file or press charges in a criminal case in Nebraska.
10. Distinguish between the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and statutes.
11. Identify the amendments in the Bill of Rights and state the purpose of the Bill of Rights.
12. Define and identify examples of the doctrines of:
  - a) Judicial Review
  - b) Void for Vagueness
  - c) Selective Incorporation

13. Identify the three areas in the criminal justice system which require fair procedures and describe how the due process affects government action in those areas.

**IV. COURSE CONTENT / TOPICAL OUTLINE (chronology may vary)**

- 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. The following texts are suggested for this course:
  1. Criminal Justice in Action: The Core, Gaines & Miller, Cengage Learning, Latest Edition.
  2. CJ2022, Fagin, Pearson, Latest Edition
  3. Introduction to Criminal Justice: Practice and Process, Peak & Madensen-Herold, Sage, Latest 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. Supplemental Materials (handouts, articles, videos, website, etc.) to be supplied by the instructor.

**VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Hybrid, Blended, Virtual
- C. Online
- D. Subject Matter Experts

**VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Oral Assignments
- D. Projects

**VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION**

Content and schedule determined by instructor.