

CJ101 | Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Text

No need to track down a textbook; this text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment:

Bohm, Robert and Keith Haley. *Introduction to Criminal Justice*. 10th ed., McGraw-Hill Education, 2021.

Course Description

This course examines the three main components of the American criminal justice system: law enforcements, courts, and corrections. Topics discussed include crime control models, the history of law enforcement, the roles of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers, the court structure and its various steps of due process, and the role of the correctional system.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the three components of the United States criminal justice system
2. Contrast the due process and crime control model
3. Explain crime measurements and costs
4. Describe the history of law enforcement
5. Explain the roles of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers
6. Explain the structure of the American court system
7. Identify the criminal court steps from arrest, conviction, to appeal
8. Describe the history of the correctional system
9. Identify correctional institutions at the local, state, and federal level
10. Describe the future of criminal justice in America

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for Introduction to Criminal Justice.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

Assessment Types

StraighterLine courses may include any combination of the assessment types described below. Review the descriptions to learn about each type, then review the Course Evaluation Criteria to understand how your learning will be measured in this course.

Benchmarks

Benchmarks test your mastery of course concepts. You have 3 attempts, and your highest score counts.

Note: Cumulative Benchmarks (final exams) only allow 1 attempt.

Capstones

Capstones are project-based assessments that help you apply concepts to real-world scenarios. You have 2 attempts, and your highest score counts.

Checkpoints

Checkpoints are quick knowledge checks on important course concepts. All are open-book, and most have 1-3 attempts.

AI Use-Case Policies

StraighterLine Capstone assessments operate under one of three AI Use-Case Policies. These designations are selected intentionally to support learners in developing digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and authentic communication skills. Each model requires students to engage meaningfully with the course outcomes while adhering to academic standards.

Independent Work Requirement: Capstones with this designation must be completed independently without using AI tools. The goal is for learners to showcase their own understanding and skills without AI assistance. Students are expected to generate and submit original work developed solely through their own reasoning and effort.

AI-Assisted Planning Option: Capstones with this designation may allow AI tools to support brainstorming and assessment planning. If allowed, students will be asked to document any AI assistance by noting how it informed their work. Documentation must be included within the assignment or in a designated reflection field. Examples include describing how an AI tool helped organize an outline, generate ideas, or surface sources for further exploration.

AI-Integration Requirement: Capstones with this designation require AI tools as part of the learning process. Students will be asked to reflect upon their AI interactions and AI contributions to the assessment. Reflections must include which tools were used, how they were used, and what insights students gained from the process. This promotes transparency, ethical use, and metacognitive skill-building.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint 1: Crime and Justice in the United States	20	1, 3
Checkpoint 2: History and Structure of American Law Enforcement	20	3, 4
Capstone 1: Case Study 1	150	1, 2, 4
Checkpoint 3: Issues in Policing	10	5
Benchmark 1: Checkpoints 1-3	150	1-5
Checkpoint 4: The Administration of Justice	20	7
Capstone 2: Case Study 2	150	5, 7
Checkpoint 5: Institutional Corrections	20	8, 9
Capstone 3: Case Study 3	150	8, 9
Checkpoint 6: Future of the Criminal Justice System	10	10
Benchmark 2: Checkpoints 1-6	300	1-10
Total	1000	

Course Roadmap

This roadmap provides an overview of the checkpoints and lessons covered in this course.

Checkpoint 1: Crime and Justice in the United States

- Textbook: Chapter 1, pages 1-15
- Checkpoint 1 Presentation: Chapter 1 pages 1-15
- Checkpoint 1 Extra Resource: Chapter 1 pages 1-15
- Textbook Chapter 1, pages 16-24
- Checkpoint 1 Presentation: Chapter 1 pages 16-24
- Checkpoint 1 Extra Resources: Chapter 1 pages 16-24
- Chapter 1 Practice Quiz

Checkpoint 2: History and Structure of American Law Enforcement

- Textbook Chapter 5, pages 139-168
- Checkpoint 2 Presentation: Chapter 5, pages 139-168
- Checkpoint 2 Extra Resources: Chapter 5, pages 139-168
- Textbook Chapter 5, pages 169-199
- Checkpoint 2 Presentation: Chapter 5, pages 169-199
- Checkpoint 2 Extra Resources: Chapter 5, pages 169-199
- Chapter 5 Practice Quiz

Checkpoint 3: Issues in Policing

- Textbook: Chapter 7
- Checkpoint 3 Presentation: Chapter 7
- Checkpoint 3 Extra Resources
- Chapter 7 Practice Quiz

Checkpoint 4: The Administration of Justice

- Textbook: Chapter 8, pages 300-327
- Checkpoint 4 Presentation: Chapter 8, pages 300-327
- Checkpoint 4 Extra Resources: Chapter 8, pages 300-327
- Textbook: Chapter 8, pages 328-353
- Checkpoint 4 Presentation: Chapter 8, pages 328-353
- Checkpoint 4 Extra Resources: Chapter 8, pages 328-353
- Chapter 8 Practice Quiz

Checkpoint 5: Institutional Corrections

- Textbook: Chapter 10, pages 386-413
- Checkpoint 5 Presentation: Chapter 10, pages 386-413
- Checkpoint 5 Extra Resources: Chapter 10, pages 386-413
- Textbook: Chapter 10, pages 414-449
- Checkpoint 5 Presentation: Chapter 10, pages 414-449
- Checkpoint 5 Extra Resources: Chapter 10, pages 414-449
- Chapter 10 Practice Quiz

Checkpoint 6: Future of Criminal Justice System

- Textbook Chapter 14
- Checkpoint 6 Presentation: Chapter 14
- Checkpoint 6 Extra Resources
- Chapter 14 Practice Quiz

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