SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

SYLLABUS
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRJ 445

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID M. STADELMAN
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WEDNESDAY 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS
ATKINSON HALL RM 116
FALL 2008
Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
CRJ 445 Siena Heights University/JCC
Fall Semester 2008
Tuesday 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Professor: David M. Stadelman
Office Hours: Tuesday (before and after class) or by appointment
Phone: 517-206-0816
Email: dstadelm@sienaheights.edu

Required Text for Course


Course Objectives:
We will be looking at different drug related problems within a text that incorporates a variety of different dimensions from biomedical to social psychological. The class starts with an introduction to crime and will focus on drugs and society, drug regulation, cultural influences of alcohol and drugs on society. Secondly, how our knowledge of crime and justice comes primarily from the media. The last part of the semester will cover family violence and current controversies, policies, definition, and social intervention.

Method of Instruction:
This course will be based on the lecture format, class discussion of current criminal justice issues, and group activities. A strong emphasis will be placed on student participation in class discussion concerning reading material, current criminal justice issues and in class practicum where students problem solve critical situations faced by criminal justice professionals.

All students will be expected to do the required readings prior to class. Field experiences of the instructor will supplement the textbook readings. Examinations will cover lecture, textbook material, handout material, and video presentations

Expectations:
Readings and assignments listed in this syllabus should be read prior to class, not in class or during class. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings and add to the lecture. All assignments are due on the day listed in the syllabus. Any late work will be only accepted with proper justification and a reduction in points. The student=s assigned reading material and assignments will be part of the lecture, plus additional material that may be prepared for that day.

Learning Objectives:
During this course we will critically evaluate contemporary issues affecting how the criminal justice system operates. Through these issues we will try to understand its strengths and weaknesses and look at possible solutions to these social problems. When studying these serious issues it is important the diversity of thought about criminality, causes, and extent of crime.

**Student Grading and Evaluations:**

Your final grade will be based on the class=s possible points: **500 points**.

1. There are **two examinations** valued at 100 points each: **200 points**

2. There will be a **15 page research paper** completed: **200 points**.

3. Each student will prepare a 15 minute in class presentation in conjunction with their research paper: **50 points**.

4. Each student will prepare an outline of their research paper that will be discussed in class as scheduled in this syllabus: **50 points**

A = 475 - 500  
A- = 450 - 474  
B+ = 425 - 449  
B = 400 - 424  
C+ = 375 - 399  
C = 350 - 374  
D = 325 - 349  
FAIL = Below 325

**Note:** I reserve the right to modify or revise this syllabus at any time and will make these changes very clear to students.

1. **Attendance:** I will be taking attendance. If you miss a class period, you are responsible for any material that you missed. I am available by email, phone, and before and after class to assist you in any way possible, but doing the work necessary for success is entirely up to you. **If you miss two or more class periods your grade is lowered 25 points.** Being late is not considered a missed class unless you arrive 15 minutes or more after class begins.

2. **Participation:** Class is always more fun and engaging if you decide to show up and are prepared. Participate and speak your enlightening thoughts so we can all enjoy them. I welcome intelligent and somewhat unintelligent discussion, sometime downright dumb discussion, from those that have read and have legitimate questions and comments that relate to topics being discussed.

3. **Exams:** There will be 2 in class exams. These exams will be composed of
multiple choice, T/F, and essay. Each exam is worth 100 points for a class total of 200 points.

4. **Research Paper:** This research paper is to be at least 15 pages in length and clearly demonstrate college level work. It must be well organized, formulated, written by you. Follow the questions and directions below: 200 points.
   1. If you are going to be using material from a website, book, journal, lecture, professional interview, etc., it is necessary to cite the work properly within the paper, as well as a Works Cites page using APA format (In text citation).
   2. Typed, double-spaced and using one-inch margins.
   3. Font 12, using indented paragraphs, check spelling, grammar, etc.
   4. If the paper is written poorly and grammatically inferior for this level of college 15 points will be automatically deducted.
   5. Due date for the paper is April 23rd.
   6. The paper may not be emailed and must be submitted for presentation.

5. **In-class presentation:** The in-class presentation will be completed on April 23. This presentation will demonstrate your expertise on the subject of your paper and 15 minutes in duration. Be creative with the presentation! More discussion on the presentations will be conducted in class.

6. **There may be Extra-Credit Assignments available at the discretion of the professor.**

7. **Makeup Exams:** Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor. They will only be given when students have medical or other VERIFIABLE excuses that prevent you from completing the exam at the regular scheduled time. These verifiable excused makeup exams must be discussed with me within one class period before or after the regularly scheduled exam.

8. **Cell Phones:** Turn them off.

9. **Leaving Class Early or Coming in Late**
   If you are late for an in-class exam you will only get time that is remaining of the original allotted test time.

10. **I will be using blackboard** so that students can follow along with grade progress. A copy of assignments and syllabus are always available to students. I will also post class information, announcements and class reminders.

11. **Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:** Neither plagiarism nor other forms of cheating will be tolerated. Your work should be your own. Any work used that is not your own should be cited properly. Documented proof of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for this course. I will be utilizing a plagiarism site for paper verification.

12. **Academic Accommodations:** Faculty and staff at Siena Heights University are
committed to providing a learning environment, which benefits all students. We recognized that an individual’s learning style, academic skills, physical condition, motivation and personal situation impact on academic performance and achievement/there are many support services and resources available to students on this campus. For information about these resources, contact Rene Teater, Director of Academic Advising, at 264-7613.

13. In accordance with University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me to discuss course accommodations as soon as possible. Requests are not retroactive. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Bob Ritz is the Coordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities. He may be reached by phone at (517)264-7863. It is your responsibility to work with me to assure a fair opportunity to perform well.

14. Beverages/Food: Coffee and soft drinks are permissible in class. No food!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 2  
**Introduction to class.**
Handouts: Syllabus
**Discuss: What is plagiarism?** Expectations of Research Papers and other submissions.
**Assigned Readings** - Chapter 1-5 Drugs and Society
**Assign Research Paper topics to students**

Sept. 9  
**Lecture/Discuss** - Discuss Ch.1 - Ch 5
**Assigned Readings** - Chapters 6-10 Drugs and Society

Sept. 16   
**Lecture/Discuss** - Ch. 6-10
**Assigned Readings** - Chapter 12-14 Drugs and Society
**First Outline for Research Paper**- Discussion

Sept. 23  
**Guest Speaker**
**Lecture/Discussion** - Ch. 12-14
**Assigned Readings** - Ch. 1-7 Crime and the Media

Sept. 30  
**Lecture/Discuss** - Ch. 1-7
**Assigned Readings**- Ch. 7-14
**Second Outline for Research Paper**- Discussion
Oct. 7  Lecture/Discuss - Ch. 7-14
Assigned Readings – Ch. 15-21 Crime and the Media

Oct 14  Lecture/Discuss – Ch. 15-21
Assigned Readings - To be provided
Third Outline for Research Paper - Discussion
Review for mid-term exam

Oct. 21  Mid-term exam

Oct. 28  Lecture/Discuss - Assigned reading
Assigned Readings - To be provided
Fourth Outline for Research Paper - Discussion

Nov. 4  Guest Speaker
Lecture/Discuss - Assigned Reading
Assigned Readings - To be provided

Nov. 11  Lecture/Discuss - Assigned Reading
Assigned Reading - To be provided
Fifth Outline for Research Paper - Discussion

Nov. 18  Lecture/Discussion - Assigned Reading
Assigned Reading - To be provided

Nov. 25  Lecture/Discussion - Assigned Reading
Assigned Reading - To be provided
Sixth Outline for Research Paper - Discussion

Dec. 2  Research Papers Due
In-class presentation for Research Papers

Dec. 9  Final Exam - 100 points Cumulative Exam