

CJ 37560

Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Instructor: Mr. Bob McDermott
423-1919, 586-9470 or 371-4605.

Textbook: Criminal Justice, Opposing Viewpoints, editor Michael D. Kiskup.

Course Overview

The focus of this course will be contemporary issues, **particularly the outbreak of Juvenile violence**, and how they are affected and adjudicated by our current criminal justice system, keeping in mind that our system is a living entity which is constantly **developing and metamorphosing**.

Course Objective

Through the text, assigned readings, and guest lecturers, expose students to, and provide insight into, a wide range of contemporary issues, **particularly the outbreak of youth violence**, and their origins in a seminar type **setting** requiring intensive student participation.

Grading

4 quizzes at 20% each

Class participation and attendance 10%

Oral presentation 10%

Suggested Reading. **Body Count**, William J. **Bennett**, John **Dilulio**, and John Walters.
Crime, editors James Wilson and Joan Petersilia.
It's All the Rage: Crime and Culture, Wendy **Kaminer**
Real Justice, Ted Wachtel

Class Meetings as Scheduled in the Bulletin.

If you have any questions about the grading process, please ask me for clarification.

As working students I understand that there may be a need for flexibility on occasion. I will make **reasonable** accommodations for reasonable absences. See page two for **more** detailed **information**.

Page two **Expectations**

Attendance: Attendance is an expected and necessary requirement of the course. It is **recognized** that there are times when students will not be able to attend class but absence from class will impact their grade. The students's participation in each class session is **considered** very important to the learning process. It is the student's responsibility to prepare for each class. Missing class is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class or not completing the assignments. A student's grade may be reduced due to missed classes or continued late arrivals to class. Sleeping in class is frowned upon and is annotated as absent from class. Leaving early without a valid excuse is also frowned upon and is noted.

Examinations: Students are expected to complete the examinations during the allotted time frame. Exams will be in the form of essay questions requiring comprehensive thought, sentence structure and grammar. Students who miss an examination are required to call the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the exam. Students who know in advance they will miss an exam should contact the instructor to make other arrangements. If a student did not have advance notice of the fact that one would miss the exam, contact the instructor within 24 hours and be prepared to make-up the exam with 48 hours.

Alternative arrangements for exams may be denied if the absence is due to frivolous reasons as determined by the instructor.

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments must be completed prior to class or the student will not be prepared to participate in discussions. Lectures are prepared on the assumption and expectation that the student has read the assigned material.

Grading will be as follows:

- A > 90% Outstanding scholarship and intellectual initiative.
- C > 80% Superior work done in a consistent intellectual manner.
- C > 70% Average grade indicating a competent grasp of course.
- D > 60% Inferior work of the lowest passing grade.
- F < 60% Failed to grasp even minimum subject matter.
- I = Did not complete small portion of work.