

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE: POLI 203 (04)**

### **SYLLABUS**

Fall 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 1:40-2:55

Maybank Room 316

Instructor: Rhett Dunaway

Office Hours: By appointment, before and after class and on Zoom or by Telephone

Contact Information: [dunawayrc@cofc.edu](mailto:dunawayrc@cofc.edu) (843) 442-9696

There are no prerequisites for this course. This is a 3 Credit Hour Course.

### **Course Introduction and Objectives:**

Welcome to Criminal Justice! I love this subject and I really enjoy teaching this course. I hope my enthusiasm and interest in this course will rub-off on you and that you too will enjoy it. With the exception of our lectures, textbook and the assigned movies, everything you need for this course can be found in OAKS. That includes our course schedule, test dates, assignment due dates, outside readings, and written lecture outlines.

This is a survey course covering the American criminal justice system. We will cover a lot of ground. We will learn the elements of a criminal charge (the legal basis for a charge) as well as how someone who is arrested for a charge moves through the criminal justice system to a final disposition. We will discuss the various players and their roles in the criminal justice system: police, victims, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges. The history of our criminal justice system will be explored as well as the practical aspects of a criminal case: how to analyze a criminal case; bond settings; preliminary hearings; and the ethical considerations of attorneys practicing in this area of law. The full spectrum of dispositions will be examined including dismissals, pre-trial options, specialty courts, guilty pleas and trials.

We will have four True/False style tests – with the possibility of some Multiple Choice questions. You will take the four tests on your personal laptop computer IN CLASS. The material for the tests will come from the lectures, textbook, outside readings, and the three assigned movies. If pandemic restrictions allow – this semester you will observe two sessions of Guilty Plea Court at the Charleston County Courthouse. You will be required to provide a summary of what you saw and a short paper (no more than two pages) about your observation. I will provide more information about this in class. You will be responsible for finding the movies online or wherever you normally access movies and watching them on your own during the assigned week(s). Additionally, you will be required to submit a two-page Reflection Paper on one of our three assigned movies. This will not be due until the end of the semester. More information on the Reflection Paper will be provided to you as we approach the end of the semester. Towards the end of this syllabus you will find the breakdown (%s) of the various graded assignments. There is no Final Exam for this course.

Whether we are together in class or meeting as a group by Zoom -- I am fine with differences of opinions but disagreeing in a respectful manner is expected. Rude or unkind behavior towards your fellow classmates will not be tolerated.

### **How To Succeed:**

The key to success is to stay on top of your work. Keep an eye out for email messages from me sent to your CofC email. Keep track of your assignment and test due dates. Don't procrastinate and don't fall behind. There is a lot to do and a lot of material to cover.

Take notes during the lectures, read your book for more guidance and ask questions if you are unclear on anything. Print out the lecture outline in advance of class and use it as a starting point for your lecture notes. I think taking handwritten notes also increases your learning of the material. Similarly, pay close attention to the assigned movies. I hope you enjoy them – but they are assignments. Watch them with a critical eye and don't just have them on as background noise. Your attendance and active participation are expected in this class. Unexcused absences will be counted against your final grade. During the pandemic – this course became an on line class. I filmed each of the chapter lectures and will make those recordings available to the class to act as an additional study tool. If you have an excused absence or if you need to refresh your memory about a chapter lecture – then these will be available to you. These recorded chapter lectures are to supplement your learning. They are not to be used as a substitute for attending class.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

My goal is to provide you with an understanding of the foundations of the American Justice system so that you can identify specific crimes; understand the many players involved in our criminal court system; predict likely dispositions of criminal cases; and understand the various possible outcomes available in our modern day court system.

In addition to the textbook (Criminal Law and Procedure, Scheb & Scheb 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition are both fine) some outside reading will be assigned (and available to you on OAKS). I am always asked if “buying the textbook is really necessary?” It has been my experience that students who have the textbook and read it do better in the class. Additionally, you will be required to find and watch several films on your own. It will be your responsibility to find these films and to watch them outside of class.

**Midterm Grades** will only reflect the average of your first two tests. No additional grading areas will be included in this grade.

**Final Grades** will be calculated from: your two-page Guilty Plea Court Observation paper (10%), your two page Personal Reflection paper of one of the three assigned movies (10%); Participation and Attendance (10%); and four tests (each test worth 17.5% for a total of 70%). **There are no scheduled make-up tests.** Extra Credit – each of the four

tests has several Extra Credit questions and I do provide opportunities throughout the semester to all of the class for Extra Credit. I do not offer Extra Credit to individual students. If you are aware of a conflict or have an excused absence at the time an assignment is due or at the time of a scheduled test, then it is your responsibility to notify me in advance to determine if alternative arrangements can be made. Similarly, if you are aware of an attendance issue for a lecture, then I will expect you to communicate that issue to me in advance of your absence (if possible) or provide an excuse after missing class. Unexcused absences will adversely affect your final grade. Finally, if there are any special circumstances that will hinder your ability to complete the course work, tests or other requirements, or any issues that will limit your potential to succeed in this class – then please let me know.

**Grading Totals:**

Two Page Guilty Plea Court Observation Paper	10%
Two Page Reflection Paper of an Assigned Movie	10%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Four Tests covering the lectures and assigned movies (totaling)	70%
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<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Policy:**

A 94-100 A- 90-93 B+ 87- 89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79  
 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D- 60-62 F below 60

**The Center for Student Learning (CSL)** offers academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking and writing skills, and course content. Services include tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills appointments and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and these services are available to you at no cost. Their website is <http://csl.cofc.edu> and their phone number is (843) 953-5635. Their office is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Room 116 of the Addlestone Library. This is free help for students – so take advantage of what they have to offer.

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help you with writing for this course and all of your CofC courses. They offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, call them at (843) 953-5635 or visit them at <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>

**Mental Health and Physical Wellbeing:** If you find yourself experiencing physical illness, please reach out to student health services (843-953-5520). If you are experiencing mental health issues (anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, loneliness or homesickness, etc.) please contact either the Counseling Center

(professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu>) 843-953-5640 located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Robert Scott Small Building, or Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting “4support” to 839863 or visit <http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php>) or meet them in person on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Stern Center. These services are here to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

**Food & Housing Resources:** Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php>). Also, you can go to <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php> to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need.

**Disability/Access:** The College abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center for Disability Services (SNAP) (843-953-1431) or me so that an accommodation may be arranged. If you are already a SNAP student, then please present me with your SNAP letter in the first days of class.

**OAKS**, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the Syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

**Recording of Classes (via Zoom):** In the event we are required to meet by Zoom as a class, then please know that class sessions on Zoom may be recorded – both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in the class, the student (you) consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

**Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction:** In the event that in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available at CofC to provide students with these essential tools. Because I have taught this course as an online course several times, we are well suited to be able to continue with our course in the event of the school’s closure. If you are required to leave campus, please be prepared to bring along your laptop, textbook,

notes and class materials with you. If you have access to the internet - wherever you might be – then our class can continue.

**Inclusion:** The College of Charleston offers many resources for LGBTQ+ students, faculty and staff along with their allies.

**Honor Code and Academic Integrity:**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of the deception involved.

As is true with all College of Charleston classes, lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of the Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of the deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding or confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response may be recorded on a form and signed by the instructor and the student. It may then be forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive an XXF in the course. Indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at: <http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>.

**Statement on “Religious Accommodation for Students”:**

The College of Charleston community is enriched by students of many faiths that have various religious observances, practices and beliefs. We value student rights and freedoms, including the right of each student to adhere to individual systems of religion. The College prohibits discrimination against any student because of their religious belief or any absence thereof.

The College acknowledges that religious practices differ from tradition to tradition and that the demands of religious observances in some traditions may cause conflicts with student schedules. In affirming this diversity, like many other colleges and universities, the College supports the concept of “reasonable accommodation for religious observance” in regard to class

attendance and the scheduling of examinations and other academic work requirements, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship on the College. Faculty are required, as part of their responsibility to students and the College, to ascribe to this policy and to ensure its fair and full implementation.

The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the College. Faculty members are expected to reasonably accommodate individual religious practices. Examples of reasonable accommodations for student absences might include: rescheduling an exam or giving a make-up exam for the student in question; altering the time of a student's presentation; allowing extra-credit assignments to substitute for missed class work or arranging for an increased flexibility in assignment dates. Regardless of any accommodation that may be granted, students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives, requirements and prerequisites as defined by the instructor and by the College.

A list of recognized religious holidays can be found on the CofC Dean of Students' web page.