

**SSC 202: Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT**

5 Credits  
Effective Date (Winter/2022)

*Access to the Internet is required.  
All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.  
See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.*

# Faculty Information

Faculty Name: FACULTY NAME

Contact Information: CONTACT INFORMATION

[INSTRUCTOR MAY INSERT PERSONAL MESSAGE IF DESIRED]

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the criminal justice system. Students develop a general understanding of the criminal justice system and its response to crime in society. Topics include policing, courts, and corrections with emphasis examining special issues to understand the balance between individual liberty and public order. Upon completion of this course, students exercise critical thinking in evaluating justice, punishment, and reform.

## COURSE RESOURCES

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are found on the course Reading List. Access is provided through the Reading List link in your online course as well as from the library homepage (“Find Your Reading List” button).

Note: Required resources that must be purchased by the student are tagged “Purchase from a vendor of your choosing.” Required resources with a direct link, “Available through CityU Library”, are available at no cost to students.

Students in Canada will see required resources they need to purchase tagged “Purchase from the Canadian Bookstore.” Students outside the U.S. and Canada should contact their advisor or textbook coordinator for additional information.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will prepare students to:

- Describe a criminal case and process, including the investigation and in-court procedure in detail.
- Understand overarching themes including recidivism, reform, deterrence, and retribution as well as the role those concepts play in informing punishment.
- Apply the concepts of liberty and justice to criminal justice concepts including guilt, punishment, and reform.
- Relate theories that attempt to explain the reason for the existence of crime and various models of punishment and justice.
- Create and provide reasons to support a punishment system informed by research.

- Evaluate a specific area of criminal justice reform, offer reasons to both support and oppose change, and provide an informed opinion.

## **GRADING SCALE**

The grades earned for the course will be calculated using City University of Seattle’s decimal grading system, found in the current University Catalog (<https://www.cityu.edu/catalog/>).

Grading rubrics with details on how each assignment will be graded are located under *Assignments* and/or in *My Grades* in the online course menu. Students should review the rubric for each assignment prior to completing their work in order to understand how it will be assessed.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

<b><i>Overview of Required Assignments</i></b>	<b><i>% of Final Grade</i></b>
Case Study: Was Justice Done?	25%
Connecting Cause and Solution: Designing a Punishment System	25%
Criminal Justice Reform Report	30%
Instructor Determined Assignments and Activities	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Case Study: Was Justice Done? (25% of Final Grade)**

The concept of justice may be explored in a broad sense within domains such as looking at crime statistics and trends, and in a more specific sense, through the evaluation of a particular instance, by applying principles of fairness and the balance between order and liberty to determine whether justice was served. For this project, students will conduct research to identify and carefully study a criminal law case involving serious allegations, such as murder, and questions surrounding guilt. The instructor will also be available to provide guidance as to case selection. Students will analyze the real-world criminal process, applying and evaluating the concept of justice. Students can utilize the following outline to guide their analysis:

- **Introduction:** Provide a brief description of the research topic and a clear purpose statement.
- **Case analysis:** Analyze the selected criminal justice case, applying course concepts such as fairness and the balance between public order and individual rights.
- **Argument:** Present an opinion and offer reasons to support why justice was either served or not served. Develop the opposing point of view, or counterargument, and then rebut that position.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the research topic, purpose, and conclusion, highlighting key takeaways.

This case study paper will be 4-6 pages (excluding cover page and reference page); APA writing conventions should be followed with a minimum of three (3) sources referenced and cited.

<b>Components</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Case Analysis	25%
Application of Criminal Justice Theories, Concepts, Models, and Frameworks	30%
Argument	25%
Technical Requirements	15%
Citations	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Connecting Cause and Solution: Designing a Punishment System (25% of Final Grade)**

Public policy, or the principles of public good in which law is based represents the driving force behind the system of crime and punishment. For this theoretical analysis, students will explore the connection between crime, causation, and punishment to create a solution-oriented proposal and justification. Students are encouraged to apply the overarching theme, the balance between liberty and order, to support their design and analysis. Students can utilize the following outline to guide their analysis:

- **Introduction:** Provide a brief description of a project, any area of focus, and a clear purpose statement.
- **Causation:** In this section, students will assess two or three theories on the cause of crime, determine strengths and weaknesses of each, and recommend which theory should be utilized as the framework for structuring an effective punishment system.
- **Proposal and Justification:** Incorporating values from the discussed theory, the student will design and innovate a model punishment system. Students are encouraged to use their creativity to recommend solutions and present reasons to support their system. Students may focus on the big picture or zoom in on one area of crime, such as sex offense, chronic offenders, violent crimes, or drug offenses. The proposal should include a discussion of sentencing, probation, and confinement.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the research topic, purpose, and conclusion, highlighting key takeaways.

This paper will be 4-6 pages (excluding cover page and reference page); APA writing conventions should be followed with a minimum of three (3) sources referenced and cited.

<b>Components</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Causation	25%
Application of Criminal Justice Theories, Concepts, Models, and Frameworks	30%
Proposal and Justification	25%
Technical Requirements	15%
Citations	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Criminal Justice Reform Report (30% of Final Grade)**

Following the “tough on crime” policies of the 90s that contributed to mass incarceration, there have been forces of change in several areas of criminal justice. For this paper, students will explore and analyze an area of reform, such as juvenile justice, brain development and injury, marijuana, drug crimes, police accountability, cyber-crime, and human trafficking. Students need to analyze each side’s position towards the policy and identify strengths and weaknesses. Finally, students will offer a recommendation, sharing their opinion and relevant reasoning. Students can utilize the following outline to guide their analysis:

- **Introduction:** Provide a brief description of the research topic and a clear purpose statement.
- **Evaluation and Positions:** Conduct research on the specific area of reform and define and synthesize their point of view. Present at least 3 reasons to support each position.
- **Recommendations:** Informed by the analysis of the area of reform, generate and offer an opinion and 1-2 guidelines or themes for that area of criminal justice. Justify the effectiveness of each proposed recommendation.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the research topic, purpose, and conclusion, highlighting key takeaways.

This paper will be 5-7 pages (excluding cover page and reference page); APA writing conventions should be followed with a minimum of five (5) sources referenced and cited.

<b>Components</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Evaluation and Positions	30%
Application of Criminal Justice Theories, Concepts, Models, and Frameworks	25%
Recommendations	20%
Technical Requirements	15%
Citations	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Instructor Determined Assignments and Activities (20% of Final Grade)**

Whether in class, online, or in a mixed mode setting, students will be graded on their participation in classroom discussions; ability to present, explain, or defend alternative viewpoints; and the degree to which they have mastered the concepts and principles inherent in the study of business management. Written work will be assessed not only on relevance to the subject presented, but also on adherence to good written form, APA style, and professional presentation. Students will be required to use the CityU *Library resources* for marks in at least two assignments. The instructor may also choose to create additional activities to support learning in the classroom or online.

<b>Components</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Quality of Responses	50%
Quantity of Responses	30%
Timeliness	20%

TOTAL

100%

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Late Assignments**

A critical aspect of management is to meet predefined deadlines. Therefore, all assignments are expected to be submitted when due. No late assignments are accepted. Life-situations do occur. When an issue arises coordinate with the instructor prior to the assignment's due date and the due date may be adjusted. It is in the best interest of the student to ensure that all assignments are submitted on time.

### **Participation**

Class participation will be evaluated during class. Participation includes being prepared for class discussions and contributing meaningful content when appropriate. It also includes individual effort contributed to the team project.

### **Professional Writing**

Assignments require error-free writing that uses standard English conventions and logical flow of organization to address topics clearly, completely, and concisely. CityU requires the use of APA style.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.

### **Antidiscrimination**

City University of Seattle and its staff and faculty are committed to supporting our students. We value equity, diversity, and inclusion as a way of life as well as the educational opportunities it provides. City U will not tolerate any form of discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, socioeconomic status, or religious values. If you have experienced any discrimination based on any of the above, we encourage you to report this to the University. Please report this to your instructor. If you do not feel safe reporting this to your instructor, please report to the Provost or to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

### **Non-Discrimination & Prohibition of Sexual Harassment**

City University of Seattle adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education. The University is committed to ensuring that the education environment is bounded by standards of mutual respect and safety and is free from discriminatory practices.

In the U.S., the University is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Sex include sex, sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by City University of Seattle policy. City University of Seattle also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internal or external to the institution. Questions regarding Title IX, including its application and/or concerns about noncompliance, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, visit <https://my.cityu.edu/titleix> or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In Canada, in compliance with the British Columbia Human Rights Code, the Alberta Human Rights Act, WorksafeBC, and the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta, the University believes that its environment should at all times be supportive and respectful of the dignity and self-esteem of individuals. Discrimination, harassment and bullying conduct, whether through person to person behavior or via electronic communications such as email or social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to cultivate an environment of excellence, equity, mutual respect and to recognize the value and potential of every individual. The University will take all necessary steps to meet or exceed the requirements of the law to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying. The Respectful Workplace Policy for the prevention of discrimination, harassment and bullying policy and procedure can be found at <https://www.cityu.edu/discover-cityu/about-cityu/> under the Policies section or at <https://www.cityuniversity.ca/about/>.

### **Religious Accommodations**

City University of Seattle has a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The University's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available in the University Catalog and on the my.cityu.edu student portal. Accommodations must be requested by the 20% mark of this course (e.g., day 14 of a ten-week course, day 7 of a 5-week course) using the Religious Accommodations Request Form found on the student dashboard in the my.cityu.edu student portal.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. Students are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on academic integrity and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) under *Student Rights and Responsibilities* on the page titled *Academic Integrity Policy*.

## **Attendance**

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly.

Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if s/he is present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if s/he has posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled *Attendance Policy for Mixed Mode, Online and Correspondence Courses*.

## **Final Assignment Due Date**

Final assignments for each class at CityU must be due on or before the final date of the course as indicated in the university's course information system. Due dates that extend beyond the final date of the course may negatively impact tuition funding for students.

# **SUPPORT SERVICES**

## **Disability Services Accommodations Statement**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at [disability@cityu.edu](mailto:disability@cityu.edu) or 206.239.4752 or visit the [Disability Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors.

## **Library Services**

CityU librarians are available to help you find the resources and information you need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services online](#), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **Smarthinking**

As a CityU student, you have access to 10 free hours of online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at [help@cityu.edu](mailto:help@cityu.edu) to request your user name and password.