



Syllabus Cover Sheet for AJ 7

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2022

Course ID & Section #: AJ 7 – V2638

Instructor's name: Prof. Gary Sokolow

Course units: 3.0

Instructor Contact Information

This is an on-line class

Office hours: By Appointment

Email address: Via Canvas

Catalog Description

A study of current issues facing the criminal justice system. Such issues include police use of force, capital punishment, mandatory sentencing laws, militarization of policing, crime prevention strategies, and juvenile delinquency and gang crime. Analysis of these issues will also consider whether and if so, the extent to which the criminal justice system improperly discriminates against diverse multicultural groups in our society.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Articulate a number of emerging issues (including crime-fighting strategies) facing the criminal justice system today.
2. Identify the diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic populations of the United States and recognize their perceptions as to the fairness of the criminal justice system.
3. Articulate the arguments as to the effectiveness of various crime-fighting strategies adopted by the criminal justice system.
4. Identify the major causes of societal dissatisfaction with the police, the courts, and other criminal justice personnel, e.g. probation and corrections officers.
5. Identify the limitations society imposes upon the criminal justice system in dealing with the emerging issues discussed in this course

Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

It is recommended that students have taken AJ 1 before enrolling in this class. This is merely a recommendation rather than a required course prerequisite.

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

AJ 7

**CURRENT ISSUES IN
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

SPRING 2022

(V2638 – R2)

ON-LINE

Professor Gary A. Sokolow

Office Hours: By Appointment or after class

E-mail: Via Canvas

INSTRUCTOR HOME PAGE:

redwoods.instructure.com

COURSE GOALS: After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate a number of emerging issues (including crime-fighting strategies) facing the criminal justice system today.
2. Identify the diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic populations of the United States and recognize their perceptions as to the fairness of the criminal justice system.
3. Articulate the arguments as to the effectiveness of various crime-fighting strategies adopted by the criminal justice system.
4. Identify the major causes of societal dissatisfaction with the police, the courts, and other criminal justice personnel, e.g. probation and corrections officers.
5. Identify the limitations society imposes upon the criminal justice system in dealing with the emerging issues discussed in this course.

WEB SITE/ASSIGNMENTS

The issue essays will contain detailed instructions for their completion and the electronic submission of them to the Canvas website for grading via *Turnitin.com*. I will grade them in the Turnitin site, where you can then see both your grades and my comments. *If these assignments are turned in late, I will assess a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, child care, computer issues, etc. are **not** excuses for the submission of any late work. Plan ahead.*

If you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, e-mail me and/or the College of the Redwoods help desk – **its@redwoods.edu** or call them at **707.476.4160**. A live person will respond for help during regular business hours, Monday-Friday. Before contacting me however, I suggest you first try to solve the problem with the help of the guides posted in our Canvas Help folder or the help menus. A link for help will be found at “Canvas Help” at the bottom of our course home page.

Please note that once you log in to Canvas, there is a fairly extensive on-line help menu keyed to each feature (tool) of our website. If I can, I will help you with computer/technical issues but my main expertise is in teaching the course, not computer issues. For professional computer-

technical assistance, please visit the following website:
<https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help>

** The best way to reach me is usually via e-mail through the Messages tool of our Canvas course webpage. By E-mailing me through our Canvas website, rather than sending me E-mail via the main CR website (@redwoods.edu), I can better keep track of all of your e-mail messages. When you E-mail me, leave me a contact phone number as well. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via E-mail, I will call you at the number provided.*

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required because there will be material and discussion in the class, which will not come from the assigned readings. Classroom discussion and small group/presentation work are *important* parts of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *None*

COURSE GRADE*: The course grade will be composed of the following:

Issue Briefs	75%
Weekly Discussion Questions	25%

*A failing grade (<61%) on **more than two** issue briefs **or** the writing assignment – class presentation category **or** overall class participation category may result in an “F” grade for the entire course.

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- “*Excessive Absences*” – defined as missing *more than* six class sessions. This means that if you miss *more than* the six classes, I will withdraw you from the class.

The weekly discussion questions will normally require you to respond to a particular post and then critique one or two classmates’ posts.

The issue briefs will require some research outside of class. The proper use of standard English, which includes grammar, spelling, and punctuation are all a part of the grade of all written coursework as well as the depth and accuracy of your responses.

GRADING SCALE:

A	= >95% - 100%
A-	= >90% - 95%
B+	= >85% - 90%
B	= >82% - 85%
B-	= >80% - 82%

C+	= >75% - 80%
C	= >70% - 75%
D	= 61% - 70%
F	= <61%

The “Incomplete” grade status will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.

CLASS SCHEDULE – ASSIGNED READINGS:

Every week, there will be assigned readings or videos to watch, all of which will be posted to our Canvas website.

Code of Conduct

Preface:

The purpose of this code is to ensure that both the instructor and students are mindful of the rights and responsibilities of each other. Additionally, adherence to this code will help ensure that the class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

Instructor Expectations:

Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author. It also includes taking a substantial portion (approximately 30% or more) of your assignment from another source ,whether or not credit is given to that source. This includes the work of fellow students. If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of another, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.

- *On-line Classroom Environment* - In order to create a classroom environment that supports respectful, critical inquiry through the free exchange of ideas, the following principles will guide our work:
 - Treat every member of the class with respect, even if you disagree with their opinion;
 - Bring light, not heat;
 - Reasonable minds can differ on any number of perspectives, opinions, and conclusions;
 - Because constructive disagreement sharpens thinking, deepens understanding, and reveals novel insights, it is not just encouraged, it is expected;
 - All viewpoints are welcome;
 - No ideas are immune from scrutiny and debate;
 - You will not be graded on your opinions
- Netiquette - In participating in an on-line format, it is expected that all students treat each other with respect. This includes no personal attacks on any other class member or the

instructor. I expect that you may disagree with the views of your classmates from time to time, but such disagreements may be expressed in a respectful manner. It is good to remember that we all bring to the class a broad array of life experiences and much of it is valuable.

Student Expectations:

Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters during the class period.

Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting for the student.

In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) , 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

The syllabus is subject to change upon advanced notice

