

Course Expectation Resource Sheet - CRM 210

“What can students expect if they choose this course?”

Course: CRM 210 - Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System

Department: Criminology & Criminal Justice

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: 12 credit hours

Catalog Description: This course provides an overview of the American criminal justice system, and examines its functions, problems, and potential solutions. Students explore citizen rights and responsibilities relevant to the fair and equal distribution of justice and examine how communities can be strengthened to aid crime prevention.

Catalog: 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 9/19/2025

Gen Ed Course: Yes

Gen Ed Area: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gen Ed Requirement: Public Issues (GEC 116)

CORE-42 Course: Yes

CORE-42 Area: Social & Behavioral Sciences

MOTR Code - MOTR Title: CRJS 101 -
Introduction to Criminal Justice

Is credit also available through:

[Advanced Placement \(AP\)?](#): No

[College Level Exam Program \(CLEP\)?](#): No

[International Baccalaureate \(IB\)?](#): No

(click link for more information and required scores)

Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

Last Updated: 2/6/2026

The following responses apply to: Both seated and online courses

What expectations do you have for students in this course?

Students can expect an engaging and enlightening introduction to criminal justice topics that connect directly to current events and real-world issues. The course involves reading assigned chapters, attending class, taking notes, and completing assignments that help students apply ideas to real cases, laws, and policy debates shaping society today.

What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?

Students who succeed in this course complete study guides when available and review materials to organize key concepts and themes. Effective strategies include taking structured notes during class, highlighting important ideas in the readings, using flashcards for defining terms, and regularly reviewing how the subjects connect to real-world examples discussed in class.

What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?

See above

What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course?

What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?

Students often find that adjusting to college-level organization and time management is the biggest challenge. This course introduces new legal concepts and terminology, so staying organized and keeping up with materials is essential. Students who connect course topics to current events or real cases tend to find the material more intuitive and manageable.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (without using the catalog description)?

This course examines how crime is defined and how the criminal justice system responds to it from investigation through courts and corrections. Students explore key topics such as use of force, search and seizure, victim assistance, gun violence, the death penalty, and the role of agencies like the FBI. The course helps students understand how laws are applied, how decisions are made, and how justice-related issues shape individuals, communities, and society.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Crime and justice affect everyone, whether through laws that shape daily behavior, media coverage of criminal cases, or public debates about safety, rights, and fairness. This course helps students become more informed and critical thinkers about these issues, giving them tools to better understand legal controversies, evaluate policy decisions, and navigate interactions with the justice system.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

In addition to criminology majors and minors, this course is relevant for students interested in:

- Education and youth services
- Nursing and healthcare professions
- Business and organizational leadership
- History and Political Science
- Philosophy and ethics
- Natural sciences, including chemistry and biology

Any student interested in public policy, community safety, civil rights, victim advocacy, or understanding how laws influence everyday life will find this course valuable.

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