

Course Description:

Criminology and Justice is a beginner-level course on the topics of crime and forensic procedures. This course covers the criminal justice system, non-forensic evidence, and what happens inside the courtroom. The course follows the story line of two college interns who discover a series of connected crimes in a suburban setting, what they do with that information, and how they follow it through the justice system and procedures.

Suggested Prerequisites:

Criminology and Forensics

Course Objectives:

- Distinguish between types of criminal charges and understand their implications.
- Describe inchoate offenses and identify defenses for those crimes.
- Define and describe the essential elements of crime.
- Explain the importance of crime statistics.
- Explain the importance of the 911 call, its value as evidence, and its limitations.
- Describe video evidence and its limitations.
- Describe the legalities of wiretaps and other advanced surveillance.
- Discuss the process and legalities of long-term investigations and task forces.
- Explain how confidential informants are utilized and protected in cases.
- Describe goals of criminal sentencing and reasons for different sentence types.
- Explore and analyze sentencing guidelines.
- Analyze factors considered in the penalty phase of a criminal proceeding.
- Describe standards involved in death-penalty conviction and sentencing.

Required Materials:

- Word-processing software
- Internet browser
- Pen and paper (for notes)

Course Overview:

Each pair of units begins with a video showing the story of Jordan, a college intern at the local newspaper, and Cristina, a college intern at the Crime Lab. Students will then proceed through a series of activities presented in the following order:

Odd Lessons (1, 3, 5, etc.)

Warm-Up Discussion - A short Discussion Board prompt asking students to use their prior knowledge about a topic to engage in a discussion about topics that will be related to the content in the lesson.

Key Terms - A list of the new vocabulary present in the lesson along with their definitions.

Instruction - There will be between three and eight different direct instruction activities in each lesson, which will be composed of text, interactive questions, interactive activities, images, and videos.

Main Discussion - A Discussion Board prompt for students to engage in an informed discussion. This activity should be graded based on students' abilities to use proper logic and reasoning to support their arguments, with evidence drawn from the text of the lesson.

Even Lessons (2, 4, 6, etc.)

Enrichment - The Enrichment pieces are provided for students to go one step farther in their exploration of a topic. Teachers are given the freedom to include an alternative activity for students if they want to, rather than having them work on these Enrichment pieces. If teachers do want students to submit these pieces, they will need to use the Teacher's Notes to inform students as to how to accomplish this. Otherwise, students should complete these activities on their own in a notebook/journal or on a local copy on their computers. These activities are ideal opportunities for teachers to award extra credit or makeup credit to students who need additional points toward their grades.

Project - There are three projects in this course. For the Gradebook, they are labeled Project 1, Project 2, and Project 3. The projects ask students to take part in the investigations that Cristina and Jordan are conducting. Students are expected to give longer answers (3-5 sentences in most cases) to questions designed to get them to think about the study of crime as well as the forensic procedures used. Projects are submitted in lessons 8, 18, and 26.

Lesson Recap - A set of questions for students to answer in their notes regarding the items presented in the previous lesson. Students who struggle to answer these questions should seek help from their instructor. Answers to these questions are provided in the Unit Reviews at the end of the course.

Checkpoint - A set of 10 questions that test students on the main objectives from the lesson. These activities are defaulted to three attempts.

Exceptions

Lessons 9, 19, 27

Contains the same four activity types as odd lessons, but will also contain the Enrichment piece from even lessons in order to leave more time in the following lesson for the Exam.

Lessons 10, 20, and 28

Lesson Recap - Same type of activity as seen in other even lessons.

Unit Review - A set of questions designed to help students review for their Unit Exam, which will cover both units. If students struggle to answer the questions, they should contact their instructor for additional help before taking the Unit Exam.

Unit Exam - A set of 30 questions testing the information presented in the unit. Questions are presented in the following formats: multiple-choice, multiple-answer, and true/false questions. All questions are automatically graded by the system. The default setting is only one attempt on these activities, as questions are not drawn from a pool. Multiple attempts would deliver the same questions to the students each time.

Lesson 29

Units 1 and 2 Review - Contains links to the Direct Instruction pieces from Units 1 and 2, along with answers or guidelines to the Lesson Recap questions from these lessons. Students can enter their answers; then compare them with the sample answers or guidelines provided.

Units 3 and 4 Review - Same as the Units 1 and 2 Review but for Units 3 and 4.

Final Discussion - This discussion is part of the Main Discussion, but should be graded solely on participation. Students are asked for feedback on what they did and didn't like about the course.

Lesson 30

Units 5 and 6 Review - Same as the Units 1 and 2 Review but for Units 5 and 6.

Final Exam - A set of 25 questions testing the information presented in the entire course. Questions are presented in the following formats: multiple-choice, multiple-answer, and true/false questions. All questions are automatically graded by the system. The default setting is only one attempt on these activities, as questions are not drawn from a pool. Multiple attempts would deliver the same questions to the students each time.

Course Recap - A brief congratulations message to the students and a video concluding Jordan and Cristina's story.

Schedule of Work

Every pair of units has a similar schedule of work for students. This schedule includes the following estimations for the time that students should spend on each activity. Students who spend less than the recommended time on any activity should be encouraged to use that time on the Enrichment, Discussion, or Project pieces instead.

- Warm-Up Discussion
- Key Terms
- Direct Instruction reading and videos
- Main Discussion
- Enrichment

- Project or Unit Review
- Lesson Recap
- Checkpoint or Exam

Topics

- The Criminal Justice System
 - Crimes: Classification and Punishment
 - Violent and Property Crimes
 - Crimes of Intent
 - Essential Elements of Crime
 - Crime Statistics
- Non-Forensic Evidence
 - 911 Calls and Recordings
 - Video Evidence
 - Surveillance and the Law
 - Long-Term Investigations
 - The Confidential Informant
- Inside the Courtroom
 - The Role of Criminal Sentencing
 - Sentencing Guidelines
 - Reporting and Punishment
 - Understanding the Death Penalty