

**CRJ-800 THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**SPRING 2009**

**SYLLABUS**

Professor: Dr. Derek J. Paulsen  
Office: 410 Stratton  
Telephone: 622-2906  
Class Time: Monday 3-5:45  
E-mail: Derek.paulsen@eku.edu  
Web page: www.criminalbehavior.com  
Office Hours: M-W-F 9:00-4:30

**I. Required Texts**

1. Kraska, P. Theorizing Criminal Justice: Eight Essential Orientations.

**II. Course Objectives**

The purpose of this class is to provide the new graduate student with a critical look at the criminal justice system. The course will cover general topics related to the criminal justice system including: crime and the media, criminal justice policy, and white collar crime, as well as critical analyses of traditional elements of the criminal justice system, such as police, courts, and corrections.

**III. Alternative Behavioral Objectives:** Primarily in writing assignments throughout the course, students will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of vocabulary words related to criminal justice policy in the United States and its relationship to U.S. society.
2. Knowledge of the historical development of the criminal justice policy within U.S. society and the causes and influences of its transformation over time.
3. Methods of critical evaluation and problem solving used in studying the relationship between the criminal justice system and society.
4. Knowledge of different views of the relationship between the criminal justice system and Society, including: media aspect, system view, citizens view, and critical view.

#### IV. Course Grade

A student's course grade will be comprised of five parts.

Exam I:	30%
Exam II:	30%
Paper	30%
<u>In-Class Assignments</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

#### V. Academic Dishonesty Statement

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on tests as well as parrallelism and plagiarism. **Any student in violation of this policy will automatically fail this course. DO YOUR OWN WORK AND DO NOT CHEAT.**

#### VI. Disabled Student Policy

Appalachian State University provides special services to students with disabilities.

**Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:**

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Learning disability Program and Disabled Student Services (LDPDSS), who can be reached at 262-2291; and
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the LDPDSS indicating you need academic accommodations. **This should be done within the first week of class.**

#### VII. Class Schedule

*The dates in this schedule are approximations and are subject to changes as made by the professor.*

**Week of 1/12: Introduction to Class**

**Readings:** None

**Week of 1/19: No Class Holiday**

**Week of 1/26 Crime and Crime Waves**

**Readings:**

The Social Construction of Crime Myths  
Crime Waves, Crime Fears and The Social Reality of Crime  
Myth and Murder: The Serial Killer Panic  
Juvenile Superpredators The Myth of Killer Kids, Dangerous Schools and a Youth Crime Wave.



