Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Year: 2025
Course Prefix: CJ
Course and Section #: 470G-X02
Course Title: Comparative Criminal Justice
Credits: 3

Course Description
Studies the implementation of criminal justice within the four major legal traditions and the cultural issues that influence its administration. Compares and contrasts the differences in interpretation of procedural and substantive law, policy-making, law enforcement, court systems, corrections, and juvenile justice with that of the United States.

Course Attributes
This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☒ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information
Instructor Name: Professor Greg Petersen

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Analyze the role of law enforcement, the judiciary, corrections and juvenile justice systems in various countries representing the four major legal systems.
- Explain similarities and differences in how various countries organize and administer their respective justice systems.
- Explain how culture influences the respective criminal justice systems around the world.
- Analyze global or intercultural issues.
- Discuss stereotypical cultural conceptions.
- Evaluate how one's own cultural values compare with those from different backgrounds.
- Recognize the complexity and variety of different cultural groups.

Course Materials and Texts
- Textbook: ***Comparative Criminal Justice Systems*, Harry R. Dammer and Jay S. Albanese, Fifth Edition**

- Access to a computer and reliable internet connection
- Access to webcam or video recording tools

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Submissions:
Each week you will be required to submit a section (one to two pages) of your research paper, which will be based on the topic for that week. These sections will be compiled to comprise the bulk of your research paper. You will be scored for both your weekly submissions and for the final paper. In this paper you will describe the legal system in a country of your choice. You must select from the Country List provided in Canvas (if there is a country you would like to research that is not on the list, contact Instructor for prior permission).
We will use APA7 Writing style for this class. Refer to the Paper Writing Guideline when writing your papers.

Discussions:
You will also be expected to engage in class discussions regarding the material covered each week and how it applies to the country you selected. Discussions will be opportunities to explore international criminal justice systems together. Posts to the discussion should add significantly to the conversation and support your point of view. *Comments that do not add significantly to a discussion will receive **no** credit.* It is okay to disagree in a discussion. In fact, much learning happens when we disagree. However we need to be respectful and keep our online classroom a safe place to learn.
Due dates for discussions correspond with the initial post date which is usually a **Thursday**. Follow up comments are due by the following Sunday. Follow up posts are expected to be after the due date and are not marked late. Discussions conclude by the **Sunday** following the due date. After this, posts will be marked late.

Assessments:
There will be a Mid-Term and a Final examination. The Mid-Term examination will cover material from Chapters 1-6, and the Final will cover material from Chapters 7-12 (the Final exam is not comprehensive).

Research Paper:
The final paper is worth 120 points and must be submitted via Canvas by **the due date.**
In this paper you are expected to describe the criminal justice system in your selected country. The paper should display a high level of professionalism and adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The paper should follow **APA7 format,** be **double-spaced** in **12-point font** with **1-inch margins,** and the main body of the paper should contain a **minimum of 10 pages of content**. You can use section headers, if desired, and if it assists the overall flow of the paper. You can also use a limited number of charts (1 or 2), if they add to the topic and are not just filler.
2. Outside the main body of the paper, you should include a **title page** and **reference page.** The reference page should have **at least 10 outside research sources**. You should attribute and correctly site your research throughout the paper and in the reference page (including author, title and publication) at the conclusion. Note that a table of contents, an abstract, and running headers are not required.
3. Throughout the semester you will have prepared portions of the paper. For the final product, you are expected to put these sections together in a coherent manner. The paper should flow and keep interest. We will have covered a number of criminal justice topics, all of which can be included in the paper. However, this is your paper and you are expected to include or exclude any items

you find necessary to convey the information and overall message you desire. Remember, your goal is to describe the criminal justice system (policing, courts, corrections, etc.) in your selected country in a professional, coherent, interesting, and accurate manner. Further details regarding the paper can be found on Canvas. I have attached a general outline of the material that you should consider including in your paper.

Grading Scale:
The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Percent
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62

E	0-59

Assignment Categories

Activity	Points
Submissions	100
Discussions	100
Research Paper	100
Mid-Term Exam	50
Final Exam	50
TOTAL	**400**

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the schedule below.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week	Topics	Assignments
Module 1	Introductions / Writing Well	• Country Sign-up List • Submit - Country Sign-up
Module 2	Textbook Introduction / Research	• Discuss - Constitutions and Oaths • Submit - Research & Identify Source Material
Module 3	Measuring and Comparing Crime	• Reading Quiz - Chapters 1 & 2 • Discuss - Research Methods & Websites

Week	Topics	Assignments
		• Submit - APA7 In-text Citations & Reference Page
Module 4	Families of Law	• Discuss - Families of Law/Legal Traditions • Submit - Course Paper Section: Country Basics
Module 5	Six Model Nations	• Reading Quiz - Chapters 3 & 4 • Discuss - Demographics and Crime Rates • Resubmit - Course Paper Section: Country Basics
Module 6	Law Enforcement	• Discuss - Police Systems • Submit - Course Paper Section: Description of the Police System
Module 7	Criminal Procedure	• Reading Quiz - Chapters 5 & 6 • Discuss - Criminal Procedure • Submit - Course Paper Section: Description of the Police System
Module 8	The Courts and Legal Professionals	• Reading Quiz - Chapter 7 • Submit - Course Paper Section: The Courts and Legal Professionals
Module 9	The Sentencing Process	• Discuss - Capital Punishment • Submit - Course Paper Section: Corrections and Punishment
Module 10	Prison	• Reading Quiz - Chapters 8 & 9 • Discuss - Special Issues • Resubmit - Course Paper Section: Corrections and Punishment
Module 11	Terrorism	• Discuss - Terrorism • Submit - Course Paper Section: Transnational Crime
Module 12	Transnational Organized Crime	• Reading Quiz - Chapters 10 & 11 • Discuss - Transnational Organized Crime
Module 13	Draft Term Paper & Peer Review	• Submit - Draft Term Paper • Complete - Peer Review
Module 14	Term Paper	• Submit - Term Paper

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
AI Syllabus Statement
adapted from [Temple University](#)Links to an external site. statement on AI in classes.

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.