

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ADMJ 100    **TITLE:** Introduction to the Criminal Justice System    **C-ID:** AJ 110

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 100 or 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5d. Career Exploration and Self-Development

**CSU GE:**

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

**IGETC:**

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

This course examines the evolution of the principles and approaches used by the justice system and the changing forces which have shaped them. Students are introduced to the origins and development of criminal law, legal processes, and sentencing and incarceration policies. Discussion points will include components and characteristics of the criminal justice system, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to and measurement of crime, and current challenges to the system.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Explain the history, structure, and function of the key components of the Criminal Justice System.
2. Describe theories of crime and victimization, and discuss their overall costs.
3. Discuss the future of the Criminal Justice System.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Explain the history, structure, and function of the key components of the Criminal Justice System.
2. Describe theories of crime and victimization, and discuss their overall costs.
3. Discuss the future of the Criminal Justice System.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

I. The Nature of Crime, Law and Criminal Justice

1. Crime and Criminal Justice
2. The Nature and Extent of Crime
3. Understanding Crime and Victimization
4. Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure

II. The Police and Law Enforcement

1. Police in Society: History and Organization
2. The Police: Organization, Role, Function
3. Issues in Policing
4. Police and the Rule of Law

III. Courts and Adjudication

1. The Courts and the Judiciary
2. The Prosecution and the Defense
3. Pretrial and Trial Procedures

IV. Corrections

1. Punishment and Sentencing
2. Community Sentences

- A. Probation
- B. Intermediate Sanctions
- C. Restorative Justice
- 3. Corrections: History, Institutions, and Populations
- 4. Prison Life: Living in and Leaving Prison
- V. Contemporary Challenges in Criminal Justice
- 1. Crime and Justice in the New Millennium
- 2. Terrorism, Homeland Security and the Future of Criminal Justice

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Guest Speakers
- C. Other (Specify): Student journal

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Student journal assignments

**Reading Assignments:**

Assigned reading for class session

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Homework
- C. Quizzes
- D. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Siegel. *Introduction to Criminal Justice*, 16th ed. Cengage Publishing, 2018

**Origination Date:** September 2017

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** September 2017

**Effective Term:** Fall 2018

**Course Originator:** Michelle Schneider