ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

CJS 307 – Criminal Justice Practitioner and Stress

Maymester 2020

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Other Phone: (936) 355-1643 cell
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Class: CJS 307: Criminal Justice Practitioner and Stress
Section 090
Time: Variable
Location: Online; See Brightspace

Office Hours:
Online only and by appointment

***Forward your Brightspace Email and Notifications to your regular email!!***

***THIS IS AN ONLINE COURSE***

Course Description

Informs future criminal justice practitioners about the phenomenon known as stress and specifically the stressors involved in all facets of the criminal justice profession. Methods of stress remediation are discussed.

This course will cover sources of, manifestations of, and possible solutions for, stress in criminal justice practitioners. Specifically, the stresses of police officers, attorneys, judges, and correctional officers will be examined.

Course Materials

The textbook is required!

Readings
As assigned (posted on Brightspace)

Note regarding textbook: You are required to have access to the textbook. I do not require that you own the book; sharing is always an option if you can make that work. The book is available from your campus bookstore, off-campus stores, and through Internet sources.
Helpful Hint

You should forward your Brightspace email and alerts and your MySFA email to the email account that you use the most. Click on your profile photo (or where one would be), then click “Notifications” to select the various notifications that you would like to receive. It is your very important responsibility to regularly check your email—and your Brightspace course homepage!

Credit Hour Justification

Criminal Justice Practitioner and Stress (3 credit hours) is an upper-level criminal justice course that, though not officially designated as writing-enhanced, is heavily dependent upon students’ writing, and focus is placed upon developing the student’s analytical and critical thinking skills. The course meets for 15 weeks with a 2-hour final exam in the sixteenth week. Students are assigned weekly essays in which they must read and critically analyze the reading(s) for the weeks. All exams have essay and short-answer questions in which the student must communicate their knowledge of the material and demonstrate assimilation of the lectures, readings, and current events. For each classroom “hour,” the student is expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours in preparation for upcoming classes and in completing assigned work.

Course Objectives

Program Learning Objectives

This course meets the following CJS Program objectives:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purposes and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system, and the student will be able to critically analyze the criminal justice system and its aims and outcomes.

2. The student will demonstrate an awareness of multicultural and ethical issues in criminal justice, and will use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote positive organizational and professional trust.

Course-Specific Student Learning Outcomes

This course meets the following CJS Course objectives:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of general components of police stress.

2. The student will be able to identify stressors unique to attorneys, judges, and other courtroom workgroup members.

3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of correctional officer stress.

4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of barriers to CJ practitioners seeking professional assistance with stress and mental health issues.

5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of current trends in addressing criminal justice practitioner stress by administrators and mental health professionals.

6. The student will develop critical thinking and writing skills through weekly writing assignments and essay portions on the examinations.
Classroom Meeting Schedule and Location

You are expected to participate actively in the “courseroom.” There are no specific times for you to be present in the courseroom, but you should expect to visit the courseroom several times during the semester—at least once daily (more often is recommended).

Student Responsibility

- You retain the responsibility to follow the guidelines of the course syllabus, to comply with university regulations, to read all assigned material and postings specific to this course, and to comply with due dates, submission guidelines, and my instructions.

- You are an adult, and you retain the responsibility of regulating your behavior in a manner that will be conducive to learning and for attaining a passing grade in the course. You are expected to comply with the general rules of civility.

- You are to participate in class discussions, and, though you are free to express your personal views, you must also respect the views of others. I maintain the right to censor any discussion that is becoming disruptive to the learning process.

- The course syllabus is not a menu and you do not have the option of choosing which items to complete and/or which tasks to perform. Failure to submit required material or failure to participate in required discussions will result in a failing grade for those assignments. Note: Failure to comply with ALL requirements for written assignments will result in a grade of zero. Make sure that you read and understand all instructions and expectations!

- You are participating in a course designed to prepare you for a career as a public servant. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld higher standards for those involved in public service—particularly in those professions related to criminal justice. You are expected to read carefully, and to fully comply with, the course requirements, the courseroom rules, and the academic honesty policy as explained in this syllabus.

Participation

Because participation is a very important part of learning, I place a strong emphasis upon discussion in ALL of the class meetings, so your participation is essential. NO ONE IS EXEMPT from participation; you must participate to be successful in this course!
Module Discussions

Note that the module discussions are detailed in the included Course Module Schedule, listed below. The schedule includes details of the prescribed reading assignments, and it includes a work due date. All items (posts, responses, etc.) detailed for that assignment must be completed by the work due date. If you are in any way confused, contact me via email or come see me during office hours. You have plenty of time before the course work begins to clarify any confusion.

Examinations

Four examinations will be given during the semester. The exams may have an objective section (multiple choice and true/false) and two subjective (short-answer and essay) sections. If there is an essay section, essay responses will be graded upon content, critical thinking skills, and grammar. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Students must complete all four exams for the semester. No grades will be dropped!

Keep in mind that material from the textbook may not cover all of the required information; a portion of any examination material may come from other sources as presented or discussed in the course modules.

Make-Up Exams

Students with legitimate reason and prior approval of the instructor can make up ONLY ONE exam at the end of the semester. Date and time will be announced—and that will be based upon my schedule and convenience.

Grading

Student grades will be earned according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Below 600</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The cumulative semester grade will be based upon the following:

- Exam One: (0-100 pts)
- Exam Two: (0-100 pts)
- Exam Three: (0-100 pts)
- Final Exam: (0-100 pts)
- Participation: (0-100 pts)
- Writing Assignments: (10 @ 1-50 pts; 500 pts possible)

1000 points available
Make-Up Grades and Extra Credit

Not offered and not available, so do not ask.

Justification of Credit Hours and Course Work Expectations

Per SFA policy, you are expected to spend a minimum of two hours on out-of-class work per every one hour of class time or direct faculty instruction over the 15-day semester (this does not include finals day). That means that you should plan on attending class for 45 hours and working on this course outside of class for at least 90 hours for a minimum 135 hours. In this course, this requirement is approximated in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courseroom attendance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Discussions, quizzes, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading the text/outside materials</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study for exams</td>
<td>4 exams @ 4 hours each</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing assignments</td>
<td>2 hours @ 10 assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Calendar

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

See module schedule on next page
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Discussion - Initial Response Opens</th>
<th>End of Module - Work Due; Discussions Close</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Activity (see Course Modules for Specific Assignments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/13/2020</td>
<td>Included in Module</td>
<td>Introductory Readings and Exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/15/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Police Stress Defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/15/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Occupational Stressors &amp; Consequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/16/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Critical Incident Stressors, Debriefing, and Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/16/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Family Stressors; Females in Policing; Etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EXAM #1 - 5/16/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/17/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>The Stress of Policing Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>The Stress of Small-Town/Rural Policing</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/18/2020</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Person-Centered Initiatives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Changes: Professionalism &amp; Hiring</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EXAM #2 (MIDTERM) – 5/18/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module</td>
<td>Discussion - Initial Response Opens</td>
<td>End of Module - Work Due; Discussions Close</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Activity (see Course Modules for Specific Assignments)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All start times are at 12:01 a.m. CST of the date listed</td>
<td>All end times are at 11:55 p.m. CST of the date listed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/20/2020</td>
<td>Create Camaraderie</td>
<td>Why Practicing Law is Stressful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Elephant in the Workplace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/22/2020</td>
<td>Courtroom Stress</td>
<td>Courtroom Stress</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beyond Burnout</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EXAM #3 – 5/23/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5/11/2020</td>
<td>5/26/2020</td>
<td>Leave it at the Gate</td>
<td>Correctional Officer Stress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EXAM #4 (FINAL EXAM) – 5/27/2020</td>
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</table>

* You should post your initial module discussion post on the "open" date shown for each module. The two required responses must be posted by the "end of module" date for each module.
Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Courseroom Rules

1. Maturity – Certain topics within this course may stir emotional reactions in some. So as not to derail the discussions, mature behavior is required. Please treat others with respect and courtesy. If you flame, insult, or intentionally offend someone in this class—or if you disrespect others’ opinions, feelings, or beliefs—you will be warned (the first time); you will be removed from the class for a second offense.

2. When others say something in a discussion or during a chat, you are expected to listen and be respectful of the person’s right to have an opinion that may differ from your own.

3. I do not “give” grades, I merely report them. You are in complete control of your final grade. Everyone starts with an A; where you go from there depends entirely upon you. Do NOT come to me at the end of the semester asking me to “give” you anything—and that includes make-up work and extra credit work; it will not happen.

4. The tentative class schedule in the syllabus is a general guide. Coverage of the material may be accelerated, decelerated, rearranged, augmented, diminished, or otherwise modified when the change would be to the benefit of the class.

5. This syllabus will act as the final word in the event of a discrepancy, error, or misunderstanding. Make sure you read and understand it completely—and make sure you keep a copy for reference during the semester.

6. Cheating, plagiarism, or any other violation of the University’s Statement on Academic Integrity, will result in IMMEDIATE and irreconcilable removal from the class.

7. If you quote it, cite it;
   If you paraphrase it, reference it;
   If you don’t know, contact me.
Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf)

Any occurrences of cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with according to University policy, provided to you in your student handbook. (A-9.1) Specifically, we will first meet together to discuss same in my office where you will be given the opportunity to explain your position. If it is determined that academic dishonesty has occurred, I will then make a decision as to the penalty therefore. Penalties may include reprimand or no credit for the assignment or exam, or re-submission of the paper, or make-up exam, or failure of the course. I will then refer the incident to the Chair of the Department and the Dean of the College. This Report of Academic Dishonesty form, along with supporting documentation shall be made a part of the student’s record and remains on file with the Dean’s office for at least four (4) years. A second or subsequent offense shall be referred to the Committee on Academic Integrity pursuant to policy.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Policy: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accomodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accomodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf)
For additional information: [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

Withheld grades Semester Grades Policy (A---54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.