

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY



Thinking about taking CRJU335 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems as an online course?

Here's some information about the course to help you decide.

Course description:

In recent years, it has become more and more apparent that the world is highly interconnected and interdependent. Rapid travel, global commerce, and instantaneous communication are only some of ways that remind us of our growing globalization. Crime, or course, is another reminder. International terrorism is the latest reason why it has become extremely important that we increase our understanding of the different ways that law and criminal justice are understood and practiced in other parts of the world.

This semester we will examine and compare some of the key legal and criminal justice institutions and particular practices of several countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We will compare them not only with each other, but with the United States, and attempt to understand how differences and similarities might be explained by history and culture, as well as current social, political, and economic conditions.

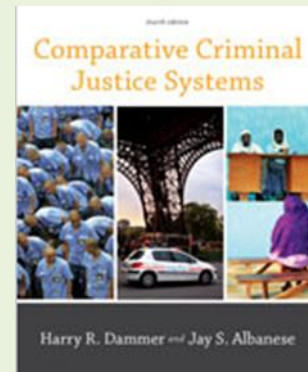
Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to the globally diverse institutions, particular practices, and concepts of law and criminal justice;
- To identify both differences and similarities among the countries studied and the United States, and possible historical, cultural, social, political, economic explanations therefore;
- To enhance by comparative learning the student's critical understanding of the ethical and moral foundations of the law and criminal justice, as well as the roles that race, ethnicity, and gender play in the formation of each;
- To enable students to engage in critical analysis of domestic criminal justice policies and practices by examining "foreign" alternatives;
- To familiarize the student with the quantitative and qualitative research tools that are available for comparative study in the field of criminal justice.
- To enhance students' research and writing skills by means weekly writing assignments

Required text:

Dammer and Albanese (2011) *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems*, 4th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning Publishing.

The ISBN is different depending if you rent it, buy the ebook version or buy the Kindle version. The text can be purchased through Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com or any other online distributor for about \$100 for a new hard-copy. You can also purchase an electronic version (good for six months viewing) of the text through the publisher's site-[click here](#) for about \$70. Look around as prices vary. The book can also be purchased by chapter for \$10 per chapter at the publisher's site. The book has 12 chapters. If you find a used copy of the 4th edition you can use that also. There are many used books dealers on the web.



Additional web based readings will be made available on the course website.

Course Format and Instructor Availability:

This is an asynchronous class, meaning that both students and the instructor will sign in to the course pages on their own schedules and work independently of each other, but there are certain minimum requirements to insure that this course is a good choice for you.

1. Have stable internet access, intermediate-level computer skills, and familiarity with the PLATO course environment. Inability to access the site, navigate the pages, or open files will not excuse you for missed or late assignments.
2. Complete all the assigned readings, assignments and quizzes.
3. Have basic skills in Microsoft Word (or a similar word processor)
4. Check in to the course several times per unit and post responses to the discussion topics for the week. Students who complete all of their postings on the same day, or who do not post until the end of the unit, will receive lower grades.
5. Start each unit's assignments towards the beginning of the unit, so as to work out any problems (technological or otherwise) as early as possible.
6. Contact the instructor if they have any difficulties.

I will generally check the course page every day, usually in the morning, and respond to e-mail at that time. You can almost always expect a response to e-mail within 48 hours.

The content of the course will be presented online in weekly modules. Each module will generally correspond to the chapter(s) in the text. Along with reading assignments from the text, each module may include supplementary reading, weekly projects, chapter quizzes and discussion questions.

Topics to be covered:

An introduction to the field of comparative systems
Measuring and comparing crime in different nations
Comparison of systems of law
Six case studies
How law enforcement is organized in different nations
Criminal procedure systems
Courts and the legal profession
Sentencing and punishment
Prison systems
Terrorism
Transnational organized crime
Juvenile justice systems

Grading:

Grading generally will break down this way-

Quizzes	12 X 25	300 points
Assignments	12 X (varying amounts)	400 points
Discussion posts	6 X 50	300 points
		1000 total points available

Please be aware that the grading breakdown is subject to change before the course begins.

Instructor and contact information:

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