

VALENCIA COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

CCJ 1010, 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: H. L. 'Buddy' Nash, Jr. MS, MPA

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COURSE TEXT:

Introduction to Criminology. **Authors:** Pamela J. Schram and Stephen G. Tibbetts. **Publisher:** Sage Publications

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a study of the nature of crime and delinquency, causes and explanations of criminal behavior and rationale of crime control and treatment in the United States. This course includes learning activity designed to ensure competence in the basic use of computers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will provide the student with a general understanding of the theories used throughout history in study of criminology. Students will develop an understanding of criminality, its causes and the effect it has on all levels of society and government. The student will develop an understanding of the psychological, sociological and biological theories of crime causation and be able to apply them to current criminological trends throughout the World.

CLASS OUTCOMES

- Describe the similarities, differences, and criticisms of the two most common sources of crime data in the United States.
- Identify theories of crime causation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical and practical justifications of criminal law.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

A full description of all College policies can be found in the following:

- College Catalog at <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/catalog/>;
- Policy Manual at <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/>;
- Student Handbook at <http://valenciacollege.edu/studentdev/CampusInformationServices.cfm>

NO-SHOW PROCEDURE

Any student who does not attend class prior to the start of the no-show period will be withdrawn by the instructor as a no-show. This will count as an attempt in the class, and students will be liable for tuition. If your plans have changed and you do not plan to attend this class, please withdraw yourself through your Atlas account before the drop for this term.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Regularity in classroom attendance and punctuality is vital to academic success. Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. The professor **will** withdraw students who do not maintain regular attendance. A student missing the equivalent of more than **four (4) weeks** of class for any reason, other than absences excused in accordance with Valencia's policies, will be considered excessive and a basis for withdrawal.

CLASS WITHDRAWAL

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of "W". A student is not permitted to withdraw themselves after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of "W". Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F". For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75>.

Students may withdraw and receive a "W" if the withdraw is completed by the posted deadline

EXAMS AND QUIZZES

Exams and quizzes are scheduled throughout the semester. Although the testing schedule may change from that within the syllabus, it will still be the responsibility of the student to be prepared for the exam at the assigned time. All exams must be taken on or before dates assigned. No makeup exams are available without explicit consent of instructor, which will only be granted in the case of documented emergency. The final exam must be taken on the date published for final exams. Should a student miss an exam, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to make arrangements for a make-up exam.

(Some exams will be taken through Blackboard).

If a student fails to take the Final Exam or complete all coursework, the final course grade will be based only on the total points earned.

RESEARCH PAPER

Each student will complete a Research Paper and prepare an Oral Presentation on their topic. Topics will be discussed the first day of class.

- The paper will be structured using APA guidelines.
- The paper will have a cover page and a reference sheet at the end.
- All references used within the paper must be cited using APA procedures.

Citations show the source of the facts in the paper and must be included within the paper.

Failure to use citations within the paper will result in a 30 point reduction from the total points of your final research paper grade.

RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

- The paper will be typed using a 12 pt. New Times Roman Font.
- This research paper will require at least four sources of information. The textbook may be used as one of the sources. Sources will be listed on the reference page and cited within the paper
- The body of the writing assignment should be no less than four pages long.
- Pages should be numbered and margins should be 1 inch. (sides, top and bottom)
- The paper should be left justified.
- The body length does not include the cover sheet and the works cited page.

The Research Paper is worth 60 points. The oral presentation is worth 30 points.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE:

Students will be graded on their participation. Participation will include class discussions, pop-quizzes, homework assignments and projects. This will require the student to come to class prepared by reading the assigned material and completing the assigned work. Because a student cannot participate in class if they are not in attendance, students will lose points for not attending class. Students will begin to lose points after the second absence. The student will **lose 5 points** for every additional **unexcused** absence up to 30 points. Excused absences are only those considered to be a **documented student emergency**.

Excessive tardiness (3) will be counted as an absence.

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the following:

5 Exams/ Quizzes – One of which will be the final exam

One Research Paper and Oral Presentation

Classroom participation – This will also include attendance, assignments and pop quizzes. There will be points deducted from the final point total for unexcused absences from class.

GRADING FORMAT:

Grades will be based on the following percentages:

4 Exams (Blackboard)	40%	120 points
Research Paper	15%	45 points
Oral Presentation	5%	15 points
Final Exam	20%	60 points
Class Participation	20%	<u>60 points</u>
Assignments & Quizzes		
Total Points		300 points

Grade Scale:

Total Points	Percentage	Grade
270 – 300	90 – 100%	A
240 – 269	80 – 89%	B
210 – 239	70 - 79%	C
180 – 209	60 – 69%	D
Less than 179 points or 59.9%		F

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student's individual thoughts, research, and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states "group project." Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.

Students caught cheating will be given a "0" zero for the test or assignment. Additional penalties could also result from cheating. Using another person's words, ideas and research, without giving that person cited credit, is plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the same manner as cheating.

EXPECTED STUDENT CONDUCT:

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible individual and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct, responsibility and General Policies. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty.

Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in the disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

See policy, See policy, <http://valenciacollege.edu/studentdev/CampusInformationServices.cfm>

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

In order to avoid disruptions please try to get to class on time. During class the use of cell phones and other communication devices will not be allowed. If you must have a cell phone on during class, it must be on a silent mode. The student must step out of the classroom before answering. The use of any of the above items during testing and will result in a zero grade for the test.

Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes but any activities that may distract or disrupt other students in the class will not be allowed. Please refrain from those activities

STUDENT COMPETENCIES:

- **Think** clearly, critically and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating and evaluating symbolic works and truth claims.
- Reflect on your own and others' **values** from individual, cultural and global perspectives.
- **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively.
- **Act** purposefully, reflectively and responsibly by implementing effective problem solving and decision making strategies.

COMPUTER/EQUIPMENT USE POLICY:

Use of computers in the Business, IT, and Public Services classrooms at Valencia College is restricted to those activities designated by the instructor to enhance the class materials. Any other use is strictly forbidden.

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Use of computer to send E-mail or access Internet sites not specifically assigned in class
- Use of computer for job, internship, homework or other activities not assigned in class
- Modifying any hardware or software system configuration or setting
- Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct

Use of computers in the departmental open lab is limited to those activities involved with preparing homework or coursework in this department and subject to the same restriction as listed above.

Computer use is remotely monitored; any student using computers inappropriately may be subject to dismissal from class or banishment from the lab. Subsequent offense may be sent to the campus administration for further disciplinary action.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Valencia College is interested in making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office of Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The West Campus Office is located in the Student Services Building, Room 102 Phone: 407-582-1523 Fax: 407-582-1326 TTY: 407-582-1222

VALENCIA I.D. CARDS

Valencia ID cards are required for LRC, Testing Center, and IMC usage. No other form of ID at those locations will be accepted. Possession and utilization of a Valencia ID is mandatory in order to obtain these services.

ASSIGNMENT AND TESTING SCHEDULE:

Students will receive this information when they register for the class.