

Special Topics In Criminal Justice
The Media & Law Enforcement
CRJU 4590-B
Fall 2009

Wednesday

5:30-8:20

Classroom – Young Hall - 208

Department – Political Science/Criminal Justice

Instructor – B. W. Lansing

Phone – (706) 864-1871

Office – West Main Hall - Room 329

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Office Hours	Day	-	Time
	Monday	-	8:30-9:45 12:45-2:15 3:45-5:00
	Tuesday	-	8:30-9:15
	Wednesday	-	8:30-9:45 12:45-2:15 3:45-5:00
	Thursday	-	8:30-9:15
	Friday	-	8:30-9:45 12:45-2:15
	By Appointment		

Semester Hours - 3

Course Description

This course will introduce the student to the interaction between the news and entertainment media and the criminal justice system.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

This course is designed to give the student knowledge and understanding in the areas of:

- The interaction between the News and Entertainment Media with the Criminal Justice System
- The impact of the media on public perception of the Criminal Justice System
- The influence of the media on Criminal Justice policy development
- Future trends of Criminal Justice-Media relations

Required Text

Surette, Ray (2007). *Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies, 3rd ed.*. Thompson Wadsworth.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class and arrive on schedule. It is generally considered unacceptable for a student to miss more than 14% of instructional time without a legitimate excuse. Excessive absence may result in the student's withdrawal from the class. The instructor will determine if an absence is excused and determination may be made on a case-by-case basis. Because students arriving late for class may disrupt a class already in progress and distract other students, being tardy may count 1/3 absence.

The maximum number of unexcused absences for this class is – 2 ½

Integrity Code

The Integrity Code of North Georgia College and State University reads as follows:

“On my honor, I will not lie cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth or tolerate those who do.”

Suspected violations of the Academic Integrity policy should be referred by students to the instructor. If the instructor concludes that a violation of the Academic Integrity policy has occurred, the instructor will either (1) penalize the student and file an incident report with the Academic Integrity Council (2) refer the matter directly to the Academic Integrity Council, If an incident report is filed by the instructor, the instructor will review the completed report with the student and will request that the student sign the report as an indication that the student is aware of the contents of the report.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism cannot and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as “the presenting the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs, or output of another as one’s own work.”.

Intervention Program

NGCSU has implemented an Early Alert/Early Intervention program. I am a participating faculty member in the program.

I am committed to your success in this course and at this university. I may refer you to other persons and/or services available to help you achieve academic success. In turn, if you are referred, you will be expected to take advantage of these services. Please understand that such referrals are not a form of punishment. They are intended to help you.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and to the principle of individual rights and responsibilities. To the end, the policies and procedures of NGCSU reasonably ensure that a person with a disability is not, on the basis of that disability, denied full and equal access to and the enjoyment of academic programs and co-curricular activities or otherwise is subjected to discrimination in such programs and activities.

The policies for access by individuals with disabilities at NGCSU are designed to ensure full compliance with all pertinent federal and state legislation, specifically to include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

To receive disability accommodations, the student should contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources, Office of Academic Support Programs, Room 207 Barnes Hall. Approval of reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Information Literacy

Information literacy, the topic of North Georgia's Quality Enhancement Plan, is the ability to know when information is needed and to access, evaluate and use information effectively and ethically. Information literacy, with its focus on definable skills and critical thinking, supports and extends the institution's overall learning outcomes.

Information Literacy Learning Outcomes:

- The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
- The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
- The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
- The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

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Instructional Strategies

Chapters from the text will be assigned for study to reinforce the lecture material. Additional media may be used to reinforce major points covered by lecture and discussion and to expose the students to various research and materials. Four examinations will be administered. The final examination will be comprehensive. Students will also submit a research paper (10-15 pages in length) during the term.

Course Requirements

Successful completion of the course requires the student to demonstrate knowledge of course material through performance on the exams and research papers.

Evaluation

Each exam and the research paper will be graded on a scale of 0 – 100. The lowest score on the first three exams may be dropped. The grade on the final exam and research may not be dropped. The final grade for this course will be calculated both utilizing a dropped grade and no dropped grade. The higher average will be counted. One of the two following scales will be applied.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|---------------------|---|-----|
| • Examination 1 | - | 0 or 25% | • Examination 1 | - | 20% |
| • Examination 2 | - | 0 or 25% | • Examination 2 | - | 20% |
| • Examination 3 | - | 0 or 25% | • Examination 3 | - | 20% |
| • Final Examination | - | 25% | • Final Examination | - | 20% |
| • Group Project | - | 25% | • Group Project | - | 20% |

The sum of higher two regular exams, final exam and research paper divided by four.

The sum of all four exams and the research paper divided by five.

Grading System

The grading system that will be used is as follow.

- 90-100 - A
- 80-89 - B
- 70-79 - C
- 60-69 - D
- Below 60 - F

Missed Examinations

Make up examinations will only be administered under the following circumstances:

- A school sponsored event (if the instructor is notified in advance by a faculty or staff member of the university who is the advisor of the organization sponsoring the student's participation)
- A military obligation
- An accommodation due to a documented disability

The student must also make arrangements in advance with the instructor concerning the time for the administration of the make up exam.

Rescheduling the Final Exam

A final exam will be rescheduled only if the student completes the required form (available at the Department Office) and if the request is approved by the instructor and the department head. Requests will be denied if not filed prior to Academic Review Day.

Class Project

The questions from the pre-test will also be included on the final exam. I will make two printed copies (without answers) of the pre-test available to the class as a whole. The class will determine how to best make that information available to every one. As a class, you will make the process of how you disseminate the pre-test available to me in writing two weeks from the first day of class. The two copies will be made available according to the process that you develop. I will not make any other effort to disseminate any other information regarding the pre-test.

Group Project

There is a group project assigned in this class. A topic will be assigned to each group. The group will make a presentation to the class regarding the topic. The presentation must include visual media. I will be giving the class an opportunity to give input regarding the mechanism for assignments of students into groups, assignment of topics (form an approved list) to individual groups, and procedures for grading the project. We will discuss the requirements during the first class session and I will post a handout on my web site regarding the requirements of the project before the second class meeting.

Course Outline/Schedule

August	19	Pre-Test Course Syllabus & Outline Group Project Requirements Discussion Introduction
	26	Drop/Add Ends @ 5:00 Predators, Pictures, Policy Chapter 1 Film & Discussion
September	2	Social Constructionism Chapter 2 Film & Discussion
	9	Group Presentation Film & Discussion Exam 1 Preview

16 Exam 1
Film & Discussion

23 Exam 1 Review
Crime & Criminality
Chapter 3
Film & Discussion

30 Crime Fighters
Chapter 4
Group Presentation
Exam 2 Preview

October

7 Exam 2
Film & Discussion

13 **Last Day To Drop With A “W”**

14 The Courts
Chapter 5
Group Presentation

21 Corrections
Chapter 6
Film & Discussion

28 Crime Control
Chapter 7
Group Presentation
Exam 3 Preview

November

4 Exam 3
Film & Discussion

11 Exam 3 Review
The Media & Criminal Justice Policy
Chapter 8
Group Presentation

18 Media and Criminal Justice in the 21st Century
Chapter Film & Discussion
Final Exam Preview

25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Wed. December 2 5:30-7:30 Final Exam

Food or Drinks in Class

Food or drinks allowed in class are at the discretion of the instructor. Generally, drinks and some snacks are allowed as long as they do not distract other students and waste is properly disposed of. Full meals **should not** be eaten in class.

Safety Procedures

Not applicable