COURXAM 520:

Introduction to Criminal Justice

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Content Outline & Learning Objectives

A CourXam has no syllabus because the amount of time spent and the order of content areas are entirely up to the learner. Credit earned is based only upon the results of the college credit exam, which will measure the student's mastery of the material.

Each CourXam has six general content areas (noted as COs) and each of these general content areas are broken down into three modules (noted as MOs) as outlined on the next page.

The relative weight of each general content area is included on the outline and the reference materials to be used for each module are also identified. All instructional materials are included within the digital instruction in a CourXam. No additional textbooks, articles, or other materials are required to learn the material.

Introduction to Criminal Justice covers and measures knowledge and understanding of material typically taught in a one-semester, 3-credit, lower-level undergraduate introductory course in criminal justice. It covers the general concepts, principles, and processes related to the American criminal justice system, focusing on law enforcement, courts, and correctional practices and issues, and addresses ethical, legal, and discretionary concerns relevant for professionals and others interacting with the criminal justice system.

Overview

I: Overview of the Criminal Justice System (10%)

CO 1: Examine the goals, functions, legal foundations, and interactions of the major components of the criminal justice system.

MO 1: Explain the purpose and structure of the criminal justice system (Gaines, Ch 1).

MO 2: Explain the foundations of criminal law (Gaines, Ch 4).

MO 3: Explain the roles that discretion and ethics play in criminal justice decision-making (Gaines, Ch 1).

II: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Crime, Offenders, and Victims (20%)

CO 2: Explain the causes, extent, and measurement of crime and victimization in the United States.

MO 1: Differentiate various theoretical perspectives of crime causation (Gaines, Ch 2).

MO 2: Evaluate the classification and measurement of crime (Gaines, Ch 3).

MO 3: Identify characteristics of offenders and victims (Gaines, Ch 3).

III: Law Enforcement (20%)

CO 3: Analyze the roles, functions, and legal considerations of law enforcement.

MO 1: Outline the history of U.S. law enforcement (Gaines, Ch 7).

MO 2: Distinguish the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement (Gaines, Ch 5 & 7).

MO 3: Examine the culture of law enforcement (Gaines, Ch 6).

MO 4: Outline the legal principles in U.S. law enforcement (Gaines, Ch 7).

IV: Courts and Adjudication (20%)

CO 4: Examine the structure and function of criminal courts, including processes, participants, and substantive and procedural law.

MO 1: Explain the structure and functions of the court system (Gaines, Ch 8).

MO 2: Delineate the pre-trial processes (Gaines, Ch 9 & 10).

MO 3: Analyze the adjudication and sentencing processes (Gaines, Ch 11).

MO 4: Examine victim rights and services (Gaines, Ch 1, 3, 8, & 11).

V: Corrections (20%)

CO 5: Analyze the U.S. corrections system, its goals, history, institutions, and populations.

MO 1: Outline the history and organization of corrections (Gaines, Ch 13).

MO 2: Distinguish among various community-based and intermediate sanctions (Gaines, Ch 12).

MO 3: Compare the forms of institutional corrections (Gaines, Ch 13 & 14).

MO 4: Discuss the prison experience and reentry planning (Clear).

VI: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (10%)

CO 6: Analyze contemporary issues in the criminal justice system.

MO 1: Discuss the balance between national security and civil liberties (Gaines, Ch 1, 4 & 16).

MO 2: Analyze the scope, forms, and proliferation of terrorism (White).

MO 3: Examine the scope, forms, and proliferation of cybercrime (Gaines, Ch 16).

MO 4: Discuss the purpose and structure of the juvenile justice system (Gaines, Ch 16).

General Information

What is a CourXam?

A CourXam is a combination of a self-paced, digital college course and a college credit exam. Excelsior College has been providing credit-by-exam opportunities to learners interested in affordable, flexible pathways to degrees since its inception as Regents College back in 1971. What's new with CourXams is that instead of leaving the learner to purchase the textbook and study on their own, Excelsior College has partnered with Cengage, an education and technology company, which developed the digital instructional materials to teach and guide the self-directed learner through the learning materials in order to help them learn and master what they need to know to pass the college credit examination and earn 3 credits toward a degree at Excelsior College.

Each CourXam was developed based on a market-leading Cengage textbook used by hundreds of U.S. colleges for teaching the subject area. These textbooks were then developed into rich digital instructional materials by instructional design experts from Cengage Learning, to meet the learning objectives identified by teaching experts from Excelsior College as well as from other regionally accredited institutions. The proof of progress toward, and ultimate achievement of, those learning objectives is measured by assessments expertly designed by the Center for Educational Measurement at Excelsior College in concert with dozens of subject matter experts from colleges around the country.

Uses for Excelsior College Degrees and for College Credit

Excelsior College will grant three (3) semester hours of lower-level undergraduate credit to students who receive a grade of C or better on the college credit exam.

Introduction to Criminal Justice is one of a series of five CourXams that help fulfill the core requirements of the Excelsior College Associate of Science in Criminal Justice.

Other colleges and universities may also recognize this exam as a basis for granting credit or advanced standing. Individual institutions set their own policies for the amount of credit awarded and the minimum acceptable score. If you seek to transfer credit to another institution, confirm credit acceptance at that institution prior to purchase.

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REFERENCE MATERIALS

Gaines, Larry K., & Miller, Roger LeRoy (2017). Criminal Justice in Action (9th edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (ISBN 978-1-305-63375-9)

Clear, Todd R.; Cole, George F.; Reisig, Michael D.; and Petrosino, Carolyn (2012). American Corrections in Brief (2nd edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. (ISBN 978-0495808657)

Dempsey, John S. (2015). An Introduction to Policing (8th edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (ISBN 9781285862736)

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