



# Course Development Example

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<b>Course Title</b>	Introduction to the United States Criminal Justice System	
<b>Course Duration</b>	6 weeks	
<b>Delivery Mode</b>	Online, Hybrid, In Person	
<b>Course Description</b>	This course provides a comprehensive overview of the U.S. criminal justice system, exploring its three core components: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Students will examine historical developments, legal foundations, due process rights, and contemporary issues such as mass incarceration, racial disparities, and technology in law enforcement. By integrating real-world case studies, legal analysis, and interactive simulations, this course equips learners with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to engage with criminal justice policies and practices effectively.	
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Remember</b>	Define key concepts, terms, and historical developments of the U.S. criminal justice system.
		Identify the constitutional amendments that impact criminal justice practices.
	<b>Understand</b>	Explain the roles and functions of law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections.
		Describe the differences between various types of legal cases (criminal vs. civil).
	<b>Apply</b>	Illustrate how criminal cases progress through the justice system using real-world examples.
		Demonstrate understanding of police discretion in various law enforcement scenarios.
	<b>Analyze</b>	Compare and contrast different models of justice, such as due process vs. crime control.
		Examine how race, gender, and socioeconomic status impact justice outcomes.
	<b>Evaluate</b>	Assess contemporary challenges, ethical dilemmas, and reform efforts in criminal justice.
		Critique existing laws and policies related to sentencing, policing, and incarceration.

	<b>Create</b>	Develop a case study analysis or policy recommendation addressing a criminal justice issue. Design a policy recommendation or public awareness campaign for reform.
<b>Module 1: Foundations of the Criminal Justice System</b>	<b>Topics</b>	Origins and Evolution of Criminal Justice in the U.S.
		Key Theories of Crime and Justice (Classical, Positivist, Social Control)
		Structure of the U.S. Legal System (Federal vs. State Jurisdiction)
		Constitutional Amendments Relevant to Criminal Justice (4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 14th)
	<b>Learning Activities</b>	Interactive Timeline: Explore historical milestones in criminal justice (e.g., Miranda v. Arizona, the War on Drugs).
		Case Study Analysis: Examine the impact of the Bill of Rights on criminal proceedings.
		Video Lecture: Overview of criminal justice institutions and functions.
<b>Assessment</b>	Quiz: Criminal justice terminology and legal foundations.	
	Discussion: "How has the criminal justice system evolved to balance individual rights with public safety?"	
<b>Module 2: Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Topics</b>	Structure of U.S. Policing (Local, State, and Federal Agencies)
		The Role and Responsibilities of Police Officers
		Police Discretion, Use of Force, and Ethics
		Community Policing vs. Traditional Policing Strategies
	<b>Learning Activities</b>	Scenario-Based Simulation: "Make a Policing Decision" (traffic stops, use of force, probable cause).
		Guest Speaker: Virtual Q&A with a police officer or criminal justice professional.
		Discussion: "Should police be required to wear body cameras?"
<b>Assessment</b>	Case Analysis: Review a controversial use-of-force incident and apply legal principles.	
	Ethical Dilemma Response: "How should police balance discretion with accountability?"	
<b>Module 3: The Court System</b>	<b>Topics</b>	The Federal and State Court Systems
		Criminal vs. Civil Law: Key Differences
		Roles of Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Judges
		The Criminal Trial Process (Arraignment, Plea Bargains, Sentencing)
	<b>Learning Activities</b>	Virtual Court Observation: Attend a live-streamed or recorded criminal trial.
		Mock Trial: Students assume different roles (judge, prosecutor, defense attorney).
		Video Case Study: "Understanding Plea Bargains – Pros and Cons."

	<b>Assessment</b>	Quiz: Court system structure and legal terminology.
		Court Reflection Essay: Describe the due process protections observed in a real or simulated court case.
<b>Module 4: Corrections and Rehabilitation</b>	<b>Topics</b>	The Differences Between Jails, Prisons, and Alternative Sanctions
		Theories of Punishment (Retribution, Deterrence, Rehabilitation)
		The U.S. Prison System and Mass Incarceration
		Probation, Parole, and Reentry Programs
	<b>Learning Activities</b>	Data Analysis: Examine incarceration rates and racial disparities.
		Debate: "Does the prison system effectively rehabilitate offenders?"
		Interactive Exercise: Design a reentry program for formerly incarcerated individuals.
	<b>Assessment</b>	Position Paper: "Should rehabilitation be prioritized over incarceration?"
Case Study: Analyze the impact of the Three Strikes Law or Mandatory Minimum Sentencing.		
<b>Module 5: Criminal Justice Policies and Contemporary Issues</b>	<b>Topics</b>	Sentencing Laws (Mandatory Minimums, Sentencing Guidelines)
		The War on Drugs and Its Impact on Communities
		Technology and Surveillance in Law Enforcement
		Criminal Justice Reform Efforts
	<b>Learning Activities</b>	Legislation Review: Analyze policies such as the First Step Act (2018).
		Guest Speaker: Discussion with a criminal justice reform advocate.
		Group Debate: "Should private prisons be abolished?"
	<b>Assessment</b>	Policy Analysis: Evaluate the effectiveness of a current criminal justice policy.
Final Discussion: "What is the future of criminal justice reform?"		
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Clarity and Accuracy: Understanding of criminal justice principles.
		Critical Thinking: Analysis of ethical, legal, and policy dimensions.
		Research and Evidence: Use of real-world data and case studies.
		Presentation: Well-structured report with professional formatting.
	<b>Objective</b>	Synthesize knowledge from all modules to analyze a real or hypothetical case.
		Provide recommendations for system improvements and policy changes.

Assessments Methods and Breakdown			
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	Discussions	15%	Participation in forums and case discussions
	Essays	20%	Critical thinking and analysis
	Scenarios Based	25%	Application of learned concepts
	Final Project	20%	Comprehensive case study with recommendations