



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

**Course Prefix, Number and Title: CRIM 229 & SOC 229 Sociology of Law**

**Course CRN # and Section: CRN 20333 (01), and CRN 20332 (01)**

**Semester Taught (including year): Spring 2019**

**Professor: Mr. Mark Mills**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Office Location: Marsh Hall, A129**

**Prerequisites: None**

**Office Hours: MW 11-12,**

**TR 11-12:30**

**Course Time (if applicable): TR 930-1045**

**Email: [mamills@concord.edu](mailto:mamills@concord.edu)**

**Building and Room Number (if applicable): Admin 310**

**Phone: 304-384-5177**

**Office Fax: 304-384-6091**

**College/Department Website:  
[www.concord.edu/sws](http://www.concord.edu/sws)**

**Course Description/Rationale:**

Welcome to Sociology of Law. This course will explore the complex relationships between the legal system and the everyday social world while also exploring the importance of authority, power and identity. This course will challenge us to rethink the definition, role and meaning of the “the law” in the contemporary social world. We will also consider its relationship to societal institutions and structures such as race and class. The primary goal of the course is to provide students with tools and knowledge to critically analyze and better understand their social environment and everyday notions of legal authority and experience.

**Course Management System** (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

**Hardware/Software Needed** (include privacy policies, if applicable): Microsoft Word Software

**Text requirements:**

Mays, G.L. & Ruddell, R. (2019). *Making sense of criminal justice: Policies and practices*. New York: Oxford.

Phillips, S. (2010). *No heroes, no villains: The story of a murder trial*. New York: Vintage.

**Concord University Educational Goal(s):**

This course addresses the following Concord University Goals:

Skills:

4. An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information and ideas.

Knowledge:

3. An ability to interpret events and trends within historical contexts.

Attitudes:

1. Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes.

**National Standards:** N/A

**Specific Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will be able to explain the organization and structure of the US legal system.
- Students will be able explain the trends and patterns in the relationship between group identity, social status and power and perception of the law.
- Students will analyze the historical and ongoing institutional inequalities within the legal system.
- Students will use their Sociological Imagination to make connections between institutional inequality and contemporary issues of race in the US.

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Participation is very important to your learning experience. Excessive absences and lack of participation will have an adverse effect on your final grade. Students missing more than three (3) unexcused days of class will have their final grade reduced by 10% and more unexcused days means a greater reduction.

Students may earn 3 “attendance” points per class period. One point is for simply being in class and on time. One point is for general respect to fellow students and the instructor. This includes respectful words and behaviors, not using a cell phone during class, and listening quietly when another person is speaking. The 3rd point is for participation.

**Gradable Content:**

Quizzes	250
1 Final Exam	100
5 Assignments	150
Attendance, Participation, Assignments	100
Total	600 points

**Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work:**

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

### Exams and Quizzes:

There will be 5 quizzes and 1 final exam based on the material from the textbook, lectures and classroom discussions. **There will be no make-up of quizzes or exams. If a student knows that he/she will miss a quiz because of an excused absence, the student must make arrangements to take the quiz early.**

### Reaction Papers/Assignments:

Written assignments are designed to help students be introspective and to apply class materials to real life. Each paper will be double-spaced with 1" margins, using the APA style. The fonts will be 12 point Times New Roman and the letter spacing will be normal (not expanded). It must be submitted on standard 8 ½ by 11 inch white paper for approval. The paper will contain a "reference" page containing at least two outside sources and formatted in the APA style. Research material may be obtained from the library, the internet, personal interviews or any other sources with credibility. Wikipedia and eHow are not credible resources. Resources need to have authors and dates of publication. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. The clarity of expression, the paper's appearance (neatness, punctuation and proper grammar) is important and will count toward the final grade. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

### Grading Rubric: Assignments

Appropriate Number of Pages (2)	3	
Appropriate Number of Sources (2)	3	
Cover Sheet	1.5	
Reference Page (APA)	3	
Citations in Paper (APA)	6	
Quality of Writing	13.5	
Opening	1.5	
Logic & Clarity	7.5	
Punctuation/Grammar	3.0	
Conclusion	1.5	
Total Points Possible	30	

### Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Course Week	Homework
Week 1 January 14-18	Class Introduction & Syllabus Dispute Resolution- <i>Hot Coffee</i>
Week 2 January 21-25	Chapter 2 Crime Control vs. Due Process <i>Gideon's Trumpet</i> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Assignment Due</b>
Week 3 January 28-February 1	Chapter 3 Understanding Criminal Justice Policy
Week 4 February 4-8	Chapter 4 The Search for a Guiding Philosophy of Policing
Week 5 February 11-15	Chapter 5 Police and the Use of Force <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Assignment Due</b>
Week 6 February 18-22	Chapter 6 Gun Control
Week 7 February 25-March 1	<b>Quiz 2 Chapters 4-6</b> Chapter 7 Gun Control Presentations
Week 8 March 4-8	Chapter 8 Race, Ethnicity, and Justice <i>To Kill a Mockingbird or A Time to Kill</i>
Week 9 March 11-15	<b>Spring Break</b>
Week 10 March 18-22	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Assignment Due</b> Chapter 9 Gender and Justice
Week 11 March 25-29	<b>Quiz 3 Chapters 7-8</b> Chapter 10 Wrongful Convictions <i>Scottsboro Boys</i>
Week 12 April 1-5	Chapter 12 Putting the Brakes on Correctional Populations <b>4<sup>th</sup> Assignment Due</b>
Week 13 April 8-12	Chapter 13 The Death Penalty <b>Quiz 4 Chapters 9-10</b>
Week 14 April 15-19	Chapter 14 Security vs. Liberty in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Chapter 16 Making Sense of Criminal Justice <b>5<sup>th</sup> Assignment Due</b>
Week 15 April 22-26	<b>No Heroes, No Villians</b> Presentations
Week 16 April 29 – May 3	Final Paper Due
Week 17 May 9	<b>Final Exam 2:00 PM-4:00 PM</b>

### **Accessibility/Accommodations:**

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

### **Concord University Honor Code**

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

### **Class/Online Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

### **Emergency Alert System**

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

### **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the

Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:  
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

#### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

#### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

#### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

### **Student Conduct**

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

### **Sexual Harassment & Assault**

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or [titleix@concord.edu](mailto:titleix@concord.edu). Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

### **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**