GOALS

1. To examine the relationship between criminal law and criminality
2. To examine the various explanations of criminal and delinquent behavior
3. To examine alternative ways of reacting to crime and delinquency
4. To examine juvenile delinquency and other types of criminal behavior

DIVISION/MAJOR ABILITY MET BY THIS COURSE

Ability: Problem Solving - To select and use appropriate and effective approaches and tools in solving a wide variety of problems

Skill: Systems Analysis - Examines the possible interactions and connections between/among various systems and determines the consequences of these interactions and connections

Level: 5 - Achieves a broad and deep enough understanding of the patterns and relationships among the parts of the process underlying the problem to accurately access and predict how changing each will impact upon the others, thereby setting a sound basis for decision making regarding the problem

PORTFOLIO PROJECT: The course presentations and readings focus on various parts of the American Criminal Justice system. Using what you have learned, create a digital presentation that shows how changes in one part of the system (an increase in the number of arrests for example) impacts the other parts (courts, correctional facilities, etc). At a minimum the presentation should examine the interaction between law making (the Legislative function), law enforcement, the courts, and correctional practices (25 Points).

The digital project must also include a reflective statement. Good reflective statements make a case or argue for the relevance of the submitted project to a particular ability and describe what learning has taken place (25 Points).

TARGET DATE FOR PROJECT COMPLETION: Friday April 16, 2004


TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Exam 1

1. The Sociology of Law – (soc.of.law.ppt)

Chapter 1 - Crime and the Nature of Law
Chapter 3 - Criminal Statistics and the Measurement of Crime

2. Etiology - Reserve Reading - "Why Crime? Theories of Causation" – (etiology.ppt)

Exam 2

3. The Criminal Justice System – (CJ.system.2ppt.ppt)

Chapter 4 - Criminal Justice and Procedure: An Overview
Chapter 5 - Police and Policing
Chapter 6 - Police and the Constitution
Chapter 7 - Police Misconduct
Chapter 8 - The Courts
Chapter 9 - The Court Process: From First Appearance Through Trial
Chapter 10 - Sentencing, Appellate Review, and the Death Penalty

Exam 3

4. The Juvenile Justice System - Chapter 15 – (JJ.system.ppt)

Exam 4

5. Penology – (Penology.ppt)

Chapter 11 - The American Prison Experience
Chapter 12 - Behind the Walls: A Look Inside the American Penitentiary
Chapter 13 - The Conditions of Incarceration and the Constitutional Rights of Prisoners
Chapter 14 - Community-Based Corrections

6. Criminal Typologies - Chapter 2 - The Legal and Behavioral Aspects of Crime – (Criminal.typologies.ppt)

SEMICUMULATIVE FINAL EXAMINATION – 5/13/04 10:00 am

ATTENDANCE AND CONDUCT

A record of your attendance will be kept. If you do not attend the lectures for the class, the absences will NOT be counted directly against your grade. When determining final grades, however, I will be more likely to give students who have attended lectures "a one or two point break" in close situations. You will be held responsible for everything that happens during the lecture sessions, whether or not you are in attendance.
Conduct that is disruptive of the learning process will adversely affect the offender's grade. Students should refrain from continuous talking, printing, or similar actions that distract from the learning atmosphere. Serious problems will be referred to the appropriate academic officer.

EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on three or four regularly scheduled tests plus a semi-cumulative final. Tests will be primarily multiple choice and true or false in nature. The LOWEST test score will be dropped when computing your final grade. Any other assigned projects will be award an appropriate number of points.

Test Points

50 - 43 = A 86 %
42 - 38 = B 76 %
37 - 28 = C 56 %
27 - 23 = D 46 %
22 - 00 = F

MAKE-UPS - Students who miss an examination and have an acceptable excuse may make up the exam by having their next test count double, taking an oral exam, or taking an essay test - whatever the instructor decides.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - See the online VCSU Student Handbook

PAPERS AND EXTRA CREDIT - None

DROP DATE – March 31, 2004

TECHNOLOGY - Course syllabus and power points available on the J drive plus videos