

Criminal Justice and Criminology Department
Department Assessment
(2004 Edition)

(4-29-04)

If you are a major or minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology part of your grade (5%) for CJC4650, Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional, will be based on an assessment of your knowledge of and understanding of criminal justice and criminology issues in the United States (the exam is pass/fail). If you are not a major or minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology then the percent of your grade assigned to the class paper will be adjusted to make up for this difference. This document provides you with background information concerning the assessment. The questions in the assessment are based on the learning objectives for the courses, which are based on the Department's educational goals and mission. You should review this information and review what you learned in the core courses, required by the Department.

There are ten questions on the assessment and each question requires approximately one to three paragraphs to answer the question. You will be asked to provide some specifics that were covered in the courses and to generally apply the information you learned in the core courses. You will probably find that the content of some of the other Criminal Justice and Criminology courses you took while attending Metropolitan State College of Denver to be of value in fully answering the questions. The responses are graded on a pass-fail basis. Students who are majoring in Criminal Justice and Criminology must providing a passing answer to seven out of the ten questions and students who are minoring in Criminal Justice and Criminology must provide a passing answer to five out of seven questions.

This exam is to be taken by all students who majored or minored in Criminal Justice and Criminology who are enrolled in CJC4650, Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional. You will be required to put your name on the exam, and you will have to check if you were a major or minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology as well as answer some other questions for demographic purposes. The grades for students who minored in Criminal Justice and Criminology will be adjusted to include only those courses (and questions) required for the minor. The questions that students who are minoring in criminal justice and criminology must answer are noted on the exam.

Students who did not major or minor in Criminal Justice or Criminology are not required to take this assessment. You will need to turn in the assessment with your name on the exam and the block checked saying that you are not a major or minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Students who did not take the exam because of their major or minor will have their grade adjusted based on the other grading factors in the course. Please see the instructor.

Department Mission:

The mission of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology is to provide students with an education in criminal justice and criminology that prepares them to think critically about crime and the criminal justice system. This education will enable students to perform effectively as employees in the criminal justice field, as well as prepare them for advanced studies in law, criminal justice administration, or criminology. Graduates of the program will be equipped with knowledge, skill, and ethical awareness of criminal behavior, legal systems, punishment philosophy, corrections systems, security, criminal justice administration, and challenges of diversity.

Department goals:

Goal 1: Define the relationship and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system and the political and socioeconomic environment in which it operates.

Goal 2: Identify agencies, programs, policies and employee skills that affect crime, crime detection, crime prevention, victims of crime, offenders, and quality of life in the community.

Goal 3: Identify, analyze, and evaluate the legal concepts and principles of law within the criminal justice system. Define how the structure of the United States government and the U.S. Constitution affects the operation of the criminal justice system.

Goal 4: Define and describe organizational behavior of criminal justice and related agencies, apply management skills to solving problems, and recognize the impact of policy and organizational change on various parts of the criminal justice system. Recognize and apply effective leadership skills.

Goal 5: Identify the effects of the criminal justice system on the lives of individuals, communities, and the challenges of diversity as these relate to criminal justice practitioners in a free society.

Goal 6: Define and describe the major issues facing the criminal justice system. Critically analyze events, information, programs, and concepts, and apply to the operation of criminal justice agencies in the United States and, as appropriate, to other countries and cultures.

Goal 7: Identify, describe and apply the theories of crime causation.

Goal 8: Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, and demonstrate basic knowledge of information technology as applied to criminal justice research.

Supporting Information

What follows is some supporting information that you should review prior to the exam. It will assist you in getting ready for the exam.

Required Courses:

The Criminal Justice and Criminology Department has a series of core or required courses that you were required to study as a student at Metropolitan State College of Denver. The learning objectives for each of the core courses are listed below.

CJC1010 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System *

1. Define and describe the functions of the agencies of the criminal justice system as they operate within a democratic society.
2. Describe the major problems and possible solutions to the issues that underlie the criminal justice system.
3. Describe the components of the criminal justice system and how they work together.
4. Describe the issues of victimization and the purpose of victims' rights amendments.

CJC1100 Evolutionary Legal Concepts in Criminal Justice *

1. Discuss the history and the democratic traditions of the Anglo-American legal system using technical vocabulary.
2. Compare the Anglo-American System with other legal systems.
3. Identify the societal forces and evolutionary processes of the major criminal justice institutions.
4. Analyze current events in the criminal justice system.
5. Define reasonable guidelines for predicting future changes in criminal justice.

CJC2100 Substantive Criminal Law

1. Discuss substantive criminal law principles and apply such concepts to factual situations.
2. Discuss Colorado criminal statutory provisions within their historical context.
3. Articulate criminal law concepts and apply those to specific factual situations.
4. Analyze changes in substantive law based upon court decisions.
5. Research and write a report based upon Colorado appellate court rulings.

CJC2120 Evidence and Courtroom Procedures

1. Describe rules and regulations pertaining to testimony in courts of law (and administrative tribunals) in the United States.
2. Explain the application of rules and regulations for securing truth and justice.
3. Discuss the investigative phase of law enforcement by demonstrating a thorough understanding of the evidentiary phase.
4. Describe the perceptual and psychological aspects of evidence and their relationship to advocacy.

CJC2140 Criminal Procedure

1. Articulate the procedural considerations in the handling of criminal cases.
2. Discuss the rules governing criminal procedure.
3. Analyze the standards against which courts evaluate the appropriateness of the governmental action in criminal cases.
4. Analyze individual rights and obligations within the context of liberty and social needs.
5. Research and write a report based upon Colorado appellate court cases.

CJC3120 Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice Professionals

1. Define constitutional government and structure.
2. Discuss basic principles of constitutional case analysis.
3. Analyze the practical application of U.S. Supreme Court decisions to current criminal justice problems.
4. Apply constitutional law principles to specific state and local legal problems.

CJC3200 Criminal Justice Administrative Behavior

1. Discuss the dynamics of management in criminal justice agencies.
2. Define fundamentals of organizational theory as they relate to the criminal justice field.
3. Explore various possibilities of managerial strategy which could be utilized in agencies of criminal justice.
4. Describe the dynamics of motivation, communication, job design, personal issues and group process.
5. Evaluate the dynamics of conflict and change in criminal justice organization.

CJC3350 Seminar in Delinquency Causation, Prevention and Control

1. Articulate the history and basis of juvenile law and the special place of juveniles in the criminal justice system.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with etiological theories of delinquency and crime, classifications theories, and practical implications of these theories.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the fundamental of normal growth and behavior patterns and how they are affected by various factors in modern society.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the various institutions, agencies, and processes which bear a relationship to delinquency and crime and their control and prevention.

CJC3400 Criminal Behavior and Criminal Careers

1. Develop a basic understanding of the etiology of criminal behavior and the development of criminal careers.
2. Demonstrate the social-psychological processes of group alienation, individual estrangement and the development of criminal self-conceptions.
3. Identify behavior patterns through an eclectic approach and by classifying and analyzing those patterns.
4. Apply the abstract techniques of identification and classification to specific cases, with logic and practicality.
5. Develop an understanding of the interaction of the bio-psychosocial aspects of the criminal lifestyle.

CJC3410 Criminal Justice and the Social Structure

1. Explain the development of the functioning of criminal justice systems in relation to other aspects of a modern society.
2. Identify the ambivalence that exists in the social processes of the criminal justice system.
3. Analyze criminological theory involving social and cultural causes of deviant and antisocial behavior.
4. Compare and contrast the legal and philosophical concepts of justice.
5. Describe and explain the impact of cultural influences on conflict between cultures and cultural competence.

CJC4300 The American Correctional System

1. Discuss the background, history and development of the American (United States) corrections system.
2. Identify those factors which contribute to the institutional environment and the inmate subculture.
3. Discuss correctional programs for dealing with the offender.
4. Evaluate current problems and trends in prisons and jails.

CJC4650 Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional *

1. Compose an ethical framework for use in determining ethical courses of action.
2. Evaluate prevailing ethical education and standards as represented by current society and consequent conflicts with criminal justice.
3. Discuss theoretical postulates of dialectical ethical and moral education as represented by classical and contemporary theorists.
4. Evaluate the United States view of ethics and morality as it relates to criminal behavior and criminal sanctions.
5. Examine those behaviors of criminal justice roles which create ethical dilemmas for criminal justice personnel.

Example Questions:

1. Disparate treatment of various groups by the criminal justice system is a major issue in the field. What causes the differences in treatment and what would you do about the problem?
2. What actions could a criminal justice agency take to reduce crime in a community?
3. Describe what core job characteristics are in job design.

* Course required for the minor.

A Glossary or Series of Definitions Follows

There are thirteen pages of word definitions that will assist you in remembering the needed information for the exam.