

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>4/21/25</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Political Science College Honors College		
Current Course Prefix and Number POS 2692		Current Course Title Honors Punishment	
Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template . Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.			
Change title to: Honors Law, Crime, and the Criminal Justice System Change prefix From: POS To: CCJ Change course number From: 2692 To: 2002 Change credits* From: To: Change grading From: To: Change WAC/Gordon Rule status** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> Change General Education Requirements*** Add <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> <small>*See Definition of a Credit Hour.</small> <small>**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.</small> <small>***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.</small>		Change description to: An introductory course that provides students with an understanding of law, crime, and the criminal justice system in America. This is a General Education course. Change prerequisites/minimum grades to: Change corequisites to: <small>**Note**:</small> This course is designed to be incorporated into the Social Science Content area Change registration controls to: Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).	
Effective Term/Year for Changes: Spring 2026 pending BOG approval		Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:	
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Dr. Mark Tunick/tunick@fau.edu/561-799-8670			
Approved by Department Chair <u>Miguel Ángel Vázquez</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Terje Hill</u> College Dean <u>Julia Carles</u> UUPC Chair <u>Korey Sorge</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____			Date _____ 4/8/2025 _____ 4/8/2025 _____ 4/8/25 _____ 4/21/25 _____ 4/21/25 _____ _____

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



CCJ 2002 Honors Law, Crime, and the Criminal Justice System

TR 11:00 – 12:20

3 credits

Fall 2026

Prof. Mark Tunick

Office: HC 104

Office hours: MWF 11-12

Classroom: tba

Telephone: 561-799-8670

Email: tunick@fau.edu

Course Description

An introductory course that provides students with an understanding of law, crime, and the criminal justice system in America. This is a General Education course.

Instructional Method

In-Person. There is no remote option for this course.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Required Texts/Readings

Required readings are available in Canvas at no cost.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will develop content knowledge of law, crime and the criminal justice system
- 2) Students will increase their ability to think critically
- 3) Students will improve their social science communication skills
- 4) Students will improve their information literacy

Course Evaluation Method

Students can earn a maximum of 100 points, based on 3 papers of 3 pages each (10 points each=30 points), in-class quizzes (12), two discussion board posts (3), two exams with essay components (25 and 20 points each=45 points), and the quality of your participation in class discussions (10 points). Papers and exam essays will require responding to prompts and providing critical analysis of the assigned texts and construction of a well-reasoned position and will be graded based on quality of the critical analysis, extent to which relevant texts are drawn on and properly cited, persuasiveness (which requires consideration of counter-arguments), coherence, clarity and conciseness, and grammatical correctness. Substantial feedback will be provided for each writing assignment. Papers turned in late will be penalized. Because this is a discussion-based class, attendance is important and you must come to class

prepared to discuss the readings. Each unexcused absence beyond 2 reduces your total grade by 1.5 points.

Course Grading Scale

The default grading scale is 94-100 (A), 90<94 (A-), 87<90 (B+), 84<87 (B), 80<84 (B-), 77<80 (C+), 74<77 (C), 70<74 (C-), 67<70 (D+), 64<67 (D), 60<64 (D-), <60 (F). I may utilize a curve but only if doing so would yield a higher rather than a lower grade than what the student would earn using the default scale.

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes

Late work will be penalized. Students may not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. Reasonable accommodation will be made for students participating in a religious observance. Grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

Classroom Etiquette Policy: In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education and discussion, electronic devices such as smartphones are not to be used during class.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#). Use of AI on any graded assignment is prohibited unless explicitly stated to the contrary by the instructor.

Policy on use of A.I.: the use of A.I. tools such as Chat-GPT or Grammarly-Go in preparing or writing any paper or other assignment or taking a quiz is not permitted; violating this policy is a violation of the Honor Code.

Disturbing material: In learning and thinking about issues raised by crime and punishment, we necessarily engage with some material depicting disturbing behavior including acts of violence, and some readings and films include profane language.

Schedule: Specific topics and readings are listed in Canvas. Be sure to check Canvas regularly for updates.

Schedule. Check Canvas for the latest version and assignment due dates.

I. Introduction

8/20 Introduction: some hard cases.

Rdg: Brief newspaper articles in Canvas.

II. Punishment and Sentencing Theories

8/22 Classic Retributive justifications from the western canon: Kant and Hegel

Rdg: Kant's Doctrine of Right (from the *Metaphysics of Morals*), pp. 140-5; and Hegel's Philosophy of Right, excerpts; and background reading in Canvas.

8/27 Modern Retributive justifications: Mabbott's 'amoral' justification and Feinberg's 'expressive' justification of punishment

Rdg: D. Mabbott, "Punishment," *Mind* 48:152-167 (Apr., 1939); Joel Feinberg, "Expressive Function of Punishment," Preface and secs. 1-2

8/29 Classic Utilitarian justifications

Rdg: Bentham, Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, chs. 1-4, 12-17

9/3 Modern utilitarianism: 'law and economics'

Rdg: Kaplow and Shavell, *Fairness versus Welfare*, ch. 6 (excerpts)

9/5 Due Process vs Crime Control, Individual Rights, and the Exclusionary Rule

Rdg: H. Packer, 'Two Models of Criminal Law'; excerpts from USSC exclusionary rule cases.

Paper 1 due

III. Alternatives to Incarceration

9/10 Restitution instead of punishment?

Rdg: Randy Barnett, "Restitution: A New Paradigm of Criminal Justice," *Ethics* 87:279-301 (July 1977)

9/12, 9/17 Psychological perspectives on punishment

Rdg: selections from Karl Menninger and others

IV. The Criminal Trial

9/19 Plea-bargaining

Rdg: Kipnis, 'Criminal Justice and the Negotiated Plea', *Ethics* 86:93-106 (1976)

9/24 Jury Trials

Film: *Twelve Angry Men*; excerpts from Adler, *The Jury*

V. Crimes

9/26 John Stuart Mill's harm principle.

Rdg: J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5 (excerpts)

10/1 Legal Moralism.

Rdg: Reading offering multiple perspectives on legal moralism in the criminal law

10/3 Is drunk driving a serious offense?

Rdg: Husak, "Is Drunk Driving a Serious Offense?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 23:52-73 (Winter, 1994), available online at jstor

10/8 Paternalism

Rdg: Sarah Conly, *Against Autonomy* (2013), chs. 1, 6-7. Additional short readings in Canvas.

VI. Courts and the determination of guilt

10/10 Degrees of culpability; justifications and excuses; self-defense

Rdg: Kaplan and Weisberg, 'Culpability'; *Commonwealth v. Feinberg* (required to write Paper 2) In class: opening scene from Ric Waugh's film "Felon" on self-defense (2008)

10/15 Exam One (in-class)

10/17 Case Study: *In Cold Blood*

10/22 The felony-murder rule; and culpability for parents whose children kill

Rdg: Sarah Stillman, 'What Makes a Murder?', *New Yorker* 99(42):26-37 (2023) (Pulitzer Prize-winning article on felony-murder); and 'Parents of Michigan School Shooter Sentenced to 10-15 Years in Prison', *New York Times*, April 9, 2024.

10/24 The insanity defense

Rdg: The Trial of John Hinckley Website: read Linder's summary, and "Trial Testimony and Arguments"; "Should John Hinckley Go Free"

Recommended Films: Taxi Driver: M (directed by Fritz Lang, in German with English subtitles)--available in the library

10/29 Film documentary on ethical and legal decision-making: 'Fatal Distraction' (2020; 92 minutes, viewing to be arranged)

10/31 Involuntary manslaughter: Did Michelle Carter cause Conrad Roy's Death?

Rdg: Mark Tunick, Texting, Suicide, and the Law, chapters 1, 3.

11/5 Neuroscience and punishment: Does punishment make sense if there is no free will?

Rdg: Joshua Greene and Jonathan Cohen, "For the law, neuroscience changes nothing and everything," in S. Zeki and O. Goodenough, eds., Law and the Brain (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006), ch. 11 (excerpts).

VII. Prisons, Jails, and the Prisoner Experience

11/7 Film: "The Chair" (79 minutes): viewed in class

11/12 Multiple perspectives on capital punishment

Rdg: John Stuart Mill, Speech on capital punishment; Walter Berns, "The Morality of Anger"; Tunick, "Capital Punishment," in Social Issues in America (2006); selected recent readings

11/14, 11/19 The Prison Experience

Rdg: Earley, The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth

VIII. Youth and the Justice System

11/21 Youth accountability and justice

Case study materials in Canvas

Paper 2 due

11/26 Exam 2 (in-class)

Paper 3 due