

Criminal Justice Learning Community for Transfer Students Seminar I

CJUS 3031 (W)

Instructor: Dr. Charisse T.M. Coston

Day/Time/Location: **Thursdays 1 p m - 2 p m**

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Philosophy/Goal: This year-long course is designed to introduce transfer students in Criminal Justice to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and help them feel comfortable with the experience of being a criminal justice major and a University of North Carolina at Charlotte student. As a group, you will examine the academic and social culture of UNCC and look at ways to be successful at UNCC. Through interactive exercises, lectures and assignments, you will discuss a variety of topics, including the transition to UNCC life, goal setting, decision-making, study skills, time management, campus resources, criminal justice resources and choosing/evaluating a minor and career. As a group, the students will examine the nature of statistics and receive support for An Introduction to Criminal Justice 1100, Statistics, Criminal Justice Theory 3100; Criminal Justice Research Methods 3101 and/or Statistics 1222; Math 900 or Math 1100 of which you must take one per semester as a condition of participating in the Criminal Justice Learning Community Seminar.

Readings: Are recommended and they give you prospective, but they are optional.

Weir, S. (2009). *Transitions: A Guide for the Transfer Student*, Belmont California: Wadsworth. **On reserve in the library**

Harr, J.S and K. M. Hess (2006). *Careers in Criminal Justice and Related Fields*, Belmont, California: Wadsworth. **On reserve in the library**

Class Grading: This course is graded. You will receive written communication credit. Grades will be based upon self-reflections, cultural activities, written assignments, and participation. Points can be earned as follows:

Five Self-Reflections	25
Cultural Activity Packet	25
(12.5 for each of two cultural activity)	

Criminal Justice Scavenger Hunt	25
Major and Careers Packet	25
	100 Total Points

Participation: In order to get the most out of the course, your participation in class discussions and exercises will be important. Please come to class prepared to discuss any readings or assignments that have been given. Class Participation used as a factor in borderline cases.

Written Assignments: There are four written assignments. An overview is provided below. All written work must be typed and double-spaced. We will discuss all of these assignments in greater detail as they emerge throughout the semester.

Your Self-Reflections of Guest Speakers or questions in the syllabus: **Five** self-reflections will be due no later than the week after the presentation from the guest speakers or the question in the syllabus that you have decided upon. These writings should be a maximum of one page in length, typed, double-spaced, and completed with depth and insight. (5 total points each) **for a total of 25 points. All five must be turned in no later than the 25th of October.**

Cultural Activity Packet: The Cultural Activity Packet will describe your experiences at 2 culturally diverse (from yourself and from each other) events at UNCC during the fall semester. You will select the 2 events. (12 ½ points each). After the event, you will briefly describe in writing the nature of the activity. **Both papers are due no later than 11/8/2016 but can be handed in ahead of time.**
Paper length=3-5pages for each paper.

C J Scavenger Hunt Presentation: This is a group project (individual grades will be given) requiring students to complete a resource scavenger hunt, take pictures along the way, and develop a class presentation based on the experience. **(25 points for each group member)** Groups 1-3 will present on 11/29, and groups 4-6 will present on the 6th of December. The group will identify an event occurring in the criminal justice process and create a presentation. You can do ride alongs, cover a trial in domestic or drug court, talk to particular types of inmates, for example. But, you will need to present what you all did as a group. Please get my approval beforehand. Provide me with an activity plan and participation for each member of your group. Be creative! Do not put yourself or anybody else in danger!

Major and Career Packet: This assignment is a report outlining your career strategies, and selection of a minor. You must end the report with the

description of and contact information for the organization where you will intern during the spring semester for a total of 24 hours (5-7 pages).

Due: No later than 11/29/2016

Statistics: If you have not taken Stats 1222, it is mandatory that you take it during this class, preferably at 11am with your cohort. Additional lectures and assigned readings designed by me to support you passing the class with a 'C' or better will be reviewed in this class. Thereafter, you will be able to apply as a major to Criminal Justice. If you have taken Statistics and Intro to CJ then you must take an Theory or an elective. We will be briefly reviewing these elective topic areas as well.

Please make a copy of your work. Your originals might not be returned.

The K-9 demonstration is on TBA

NO classes on 10/11; 11/16

Late Work: All assignments must be turned in on time. Late papers without an excuse will receive 3 points off per day late. **Please note: Missing a class session does not excuse you from completing any future assignment on time.**

Attendance: Because the course is discussion and activity based, attendance is required in order to earn a satisfactory grade. **If you have more than 2 absences without a legitimate excuse you will lose a course grade.**

Plagiarism and Cheating: The University of North Carolina prohibits dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are all examples of academic dishonesty. Cheating or plagiarism can result in a student failing a course or expulsion from the University.

Incivility/Class Etiquette: You are expected to exhibit courtesy and respect towards your professor and fellow students. It is important to be tolerant of different viewpoints, values, and opinions, in order to create a positive learning environment for everyone. Additionally, you may not use your cellular phone or beeper during class. They must be turned off before class begins.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to "reasonable accommodations." It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor of any special needs before the end of the second week of class.

Diversity Statement:

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. In keeping with this commitment, UNC Charlotte actively seeks to promote diversity in its educational environment through its recruitment, enrollment, and hiring practices.

Course Schedule – The Transfer Transition

There may be times throughout the semester when we decide to pursue different topics from those specified in this syllabus. Therefore, this document is subject to change.

All assigned readings for the fall semester are from Weir (2007) and are to be read before class. Likewise, the Self-Reflections assigned are to be answered before class for discussion during the class period.

Week 1 Topic: The Transition from Community College/UNCC
Self-Reflection: Why did you decide to transfer to UNCC?
Read: Chapter #1 – Plugging into your new world
Transitions: Charting a New Course
GUEST SPEAKERS (GS):
Welcome: Chair: Criminal Justice Department
University Advising for Transfer Students
UNCC Police;

Week 2

Read: Chapter #2 – Building a Foundation for success

Learning About the University's Rules and Policies
Self-reflection: Past Successes – Think of a time when you resolved to do something you eventually accomplished. Maybe it wasn't exactly pleasant to deal with, but you did it anyway. What drove you to accomplish this? Write about the experience. What can you draw from this experience that could be applied to your current or future goals?

(GS) Library Services; Writing Resource Center
;Charlotte/Mecklenburg Police/K-9 Unit

Week 3

Read Chapter 3—Study Skills 1; Setting Goals for College

Self-Reflection: People who are happy in their majors/careers have made choices that closely match their interests, abilities and values. Describe your interests, abilities and values. What really captures and holds your attention? What are you passionate about? What are you good at- writing, working with people, etc.? What is important to you-family, money, helping other, etc.? How do your current plans match/mismatch with these attributes?

GS: Information Technology; Counseling Center; Crime Scene Clean-up

Week 4 Read Chapter 4 Study Skills II

GS:

Criminal Justice Association; Honors; Alpha Phi Sigma (CJ Honor Society); Pre-Law Program; Mecklenburg County Court System

Week 5

Topic: Time Management – Day One

Time Management Log

Read: Chapter 5 – Time Management

GS: Disability Services; Recreation Services; Legal Affairs

Week 6

Topic: Preparing for and Taking Tests

Read: Chapter 6 – Managing your money

Self- Reflection: There are times in all peoples lives when they say, “yes” when they should have said, “no.” Write about a time either this semester or in the past when you said, “yes” when “no” would probably been a better choice. Explain the situation, including your thoughts that led you to say, “yes.” Describe the consequences of your saying “yes” in terms of the “price” you paid later.

GS: Dean of Students Office; O.A.S.E.S; F.B.I.

Week 7 Read Chapter 7: Staying Well; Stress Management

GS: Center for Academic Excellence; Homeland Security- Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and Security

Week 8 Read Chapter 8 Career Planning; Managing Personal Finances Complete Appendix D (p. 171)

GS: Financial Aid Office; Ware Bonsell Architects

Week 9 Read Chapter 9 Your next transition: The first year after college

Topic: Developing Interdependent Relationships and Mentoring

Bring in a question about advising.

Topic: Preparing for Final Exams; Course Wrap-up and Evaluation;

In class preparation for the presentations of the Scavenger Hunts

Self-Reflection: Who is your Mentor? – Consider the people in your life who have made an impact on you (not a family member). Do any of them fit your definition of a mentor? If so, describe your relationship with this person and focus on how they have influenced your thinking, behaviors, and decision-making. If you have not had a mentor in your life, decide if you think it would be a good thing. If not, why not. If yes, describe the kind of mentor you would find helpful.

Week 10

TOUR: Piedmont Medium Security Prison.

1245 Camp Rd. Take I-85 to Peeler Rd exit and turn left. Follow the road until it ends and turn left immediately. Turn right onto Camp Rd. and travel about a mile. Do not go to the minimum sized prison on the corner. Go to the high rise prison that you'll see on your left.

Weeks 11-15

United Family Services (Victim Services)

Recycling and Student Health and Wellness

