

**CJ 489: Senior Capstone in Criminal Justice  
Spring Semester 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. Stichman  
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**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 to 10:30am, Tuesdays 11am to 12pm, or by appointment

**Course Objectives:**

This senior capstone class is designed to provide graduating criminal justice students with information about careers. In doing so, criminal justice students are given the opportunity to: (1) learn and explore various careers; (2) learn how to apply effectively for criminal justice positions; (3) learn about your own personality traits and how they fit with careers in criminal justice; (4) polish overall professional skills; and (5) learn some life skills that are beneficial for career development.

**Required Text:**

Harr, J.S., & Hess, K.M. (2010). *Careers in Criminal Justice and Related Fields: From Internship to Promotion*. Sixth Edition. Wadsworth.

**Grading procedures:**

Your grade in this class will consist of multiple assignments.

1. Assessment completion	10 points
2. Registering with the Career Center	10 points (confirmation due by the 4 <sup>th</sup> week of classes)
3. Resume construction	15 points
4. Interview with successful person	20 points
5. True Colors exercise	10 points
6. Career Exploration exercise	25 points
7. Criminal Justice Club Speakers (x2)	10 points
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	100 points

The grading distribution is:

90.00% to 100.00% = A	60.00% - 69.99% = D
80.00% to 89.99% = B	Less than 60% = F
70.00% to 79.99% = C	

**Class Policies:**

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all classes. We only meet once a week for 50 minutes and the bulk of the class will consist of discussion. There will also be occasional guest lecturers. I will give you the above assignments in class, and they will typically be due the following week. Your class attendance is important and not optional. **If you miss a class, you will not be allowed to do the assignment for that week. Missing three (3) classes means you earn an automatic failing grade (F) in the class.**

**Classroom Culture:**

Comments made in class that are racist or sexist in nature or that otherwise denigrate and insult members of the classroom are unacceptable. Furthermore, I expect that courtesy and respect will be shown to the other students in the class as well as to me. This courtesy includes being in class on time, not whispering comments to your friends in class when it's not appropriate, and not text messaging your friends during

class. *There is no reason for you to be text messaging in class or looking up websites on your phones, etc.* Please turn off ringers for cellular phones and pagers; it is very distracting to hear them in the middle of class.

**Laptops:**

I used to allow laptops, but I'm now banning them. Too many people abused using them in class. So, if you do bring your laptop to class, it must be put away when class begins.

**Academic Honesty Policy:**

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. Occasionally, this trust is violated when cheating occurs, either inadvertently or deliberately. NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335 will serve as a guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism, or other academic improprieties have occurred. All student work must be done in a manner consistent with this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to failure of the assignment, test, or course, depending on the gravity of the offense and the circumstances of the particular case (policy 335,2,b). (<http://ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).

**Disability policy:**

Any students who need special accommodations for learning or who have special needs are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

**Military service:**

Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.

**Blackboard:**

I will post the grades and materials you might need on Blackboard. Most of the materials will likely be websites to visit for job information.

**Criminal Justice Club Speakers:**

During the semester, you are required to attend at least two criminal justice club speaker functions. After you attend, you must write up a one paragraph description of the talk, including information about the speaker himself or herself. *These write-ups are due within one week of your attendance. After that time, they will **not** be accepted.* If you have a scheduling conflict with another class during the club meetings, then you may find another speaker function to attend. *It is your responsibility to locate other opportunities.* It is important that you clear it with me, however, so that I can determine if it is related to the course and your discipline.

**Late assignments:**

No late assignments will be accepted.

**Course Outline**

The schedule below for coverage of the chapters is tentative and may be changed, especially depending on the availability of speakers. Because the speakers work in the criminal justice field, their schedule can quickly change, so we may need to change the ordering. The readings must be read by the assignment date.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Week 1:	Jan. 13	What do you do with a CJ degree?	H & H: Ch. 1, 5, 12

Week 2:	Jan. 20	Career Center presentation	none assigned
Week 3:	Jan. 27	Assessment and student preparedness Instrument	none assigned
Week 4:	Feb. 3	Resume construction	H & H: Ch. 10
Week 5:	Feb. 10	Characteristics of persons with Successful careers	H & H: Ch. 9
Week 6:	Feb. 17	Knowing yourself: True Colors Personality assessment	none assigned
Week 7:	Feb. 24	Interviewing for positions	H & H: Ch. 13, 14
Week 8:	Mar. 2	Careers in law enforcement	H & H: Ch. 2
Week 9:	Mar. 9	Careers in Corrections	H & H: Ch. 3
Week 10:	Mar. 23	Internships/Background checks/ References	H & H: Ch. 6
Week 11:	Mar. 30	Testing: knowledge, psychological Polygraph	H & H: Ch. 7, 8
<b>Week. 12:</b>	<b>Apr. 6</b>	<b>*****No class: Spring holiday*****</b>	
Week 13:	Apr. 13	Reports on career positions (from Week 1)	
Week 14:	Apr. 20	Same as above	
Week 15:	Apr. 27	Promotion and advancement	H & H: Ch. 15-17
Week 16:	May 4	Advice	none assigned