The Criminal Justice Capstone is intended as the last course in the major. Throughout the term, students will discuss various topics in regards to the criminal justice system. Students will also research and submit application papers, the topics of which will reflect the integrated components of the criminal justice system as they relate to the program outcomes. This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding, analysis and synthesis of the materials, concepts and theories in the U.S. criminal justice system, as well as their presentation skills.

**NOTE:** This course is writing intensive and requires research and attention to detail in each module. Students should be aware of this when they begin.

**Prerequisite(s)**

The capstone course is restricted to students majoring in Criminal Justice with senior standing. Also, students must have completed INL, WER, and most of the Criminal Justice courses required for the major. Students must be within 15 credits of degree completion and obtain advisor approval to register for this course.

### Outcomes

**Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the legislative, enforcement, judicial, and correctional components of the criminal justice system, including their interactions.
2. Apply the major legal, criminological, and sociological theories to policies and procedures within the criminal justice system.
3. Analyze the ethical issues that arise in the criminal justice system and generate possible solutions.
4. Assess contemporary literature in the field of criminal justice.
5. Evaluate the changing demographics of society and their impact on the criminal justice system.

**Program Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the criminal justice program, successful students will be able to:

1. Analyze the legislative, enforcement, judicial, and correctional components of the criminal justice system, including their interactions.
2. Apply the major legal, criminological, and sociological theories to policies and procedures within the criminal justice system.
3. Analyze the ethical issues that arise in the criminal justice system and generate possible solutions.
4. Assess contemporary literature in the field of criminal justice.
5. Evaluate the changing demographics of society and their impact on the criminal justice system.

### Deliverables

Click [here](https://my.excelsior.edu/web/syllabus-library/8-week-term-schedule) to view the 8 week Term Schedules.

Click [here](https://my.excelsior.edu/web/syllabus-library/15-week-term-schedule) to view the 15 week Term Schedules.
Course Schedule

Weeks start on Monday, 12:01 AM ET and end on Sunday, 11:59 PM ET, US.

Unless otherwise noted, all assigned items are due at the end of the module (by 11:59PM, Sunday).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module &amp; Title</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Online Discussions</th>
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<td>Personal Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>M1A2: Paper 1 Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Module 2: Macro Analysis of the U.S. Criminal Justice System, cont...</td>
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<td>M2D2: Paper 1 Critique</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Article: The Limits to Evidence-Based Policy: Evidence, Emotion and Criminal Justice.</td>
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<td>CO#2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Article: LaFrance, Casey; Day, Jonathan.(2013) The Role of Experience in Prioritizing Adherence to SOPs in Police Agencies</td>
<td></td>
<td>M4D2: Paper 2 Critique</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Module 6: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice, cont...</td>
<td>Module Notes: Going Along with the Crowd: Is that Ethical?&lt;br&gt;Article: Up Against the Cops.</td>
<td>M6A1: Paper 3 Submission</td>
<td>M6D1: Paper 3 Critique&lt;br&gt;M6D2: Corruption or SOP?</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Module 8: Diversity and Social Demographics in Criminal Justice, cont...</td>
<td>Module Notes: What Effect Does Diversity Have on Criminal Justice?</td>
<td>M8A1: Voiceover PowerPoint Presentation Submission</td>
<td>M8D1: Voiceover PowerPoint Presentation Critique</td>
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</table>

**Evaluation**

**Grade Ranges**
- A=90-100%
- B=80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F=below 60%

**Breakdown**
Criteria

Before beginning your course work, review the Excelsior College Guidelines for Online Interaction (http://www.excelsior.edu/netiquette) (a.k.a. Online Etiquette or "Netiquette"). If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please feel free to direct them to your instructor. All student work in this course may be submitted to plagiarism detection software.

**Topic Proposals—5%**

Prior to working on each of your papers and the presentation, you will submit to your instructor for topic approval and grading, a one-page proposal addressing the topic or case for your papers or presentation.

Submit your topic proposals in one MS Word document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox, using the naming convention: "JSmithTopic1.doc", etc. .

**Annotated Bibliographies—20%**

For each of your assignments (3 papers and a PowerPoint), you will submit an annotated bibliography with at least seven (7) valid sources you have found, which will be used in your paper or voiceover PowerPoint. See the following link if you are not familiar with how to write an annotated bibliography: Olin & Uris Libraries (http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/content/how-prepare-annotated-bibliography)

Submit your bibliographies in one MS Word document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox, using the naming convention: "JSmithANNBIB1.doc", etc. .

**Papers—45%**

Papers in total (3) account for 45% of your course grade.

**Paper 1**

In a 5–7 page paper (1250–1750 words), you will review a high profile, contemporary (within 25 years) criminal case of your choosing. The case must incorporate all aspects of the criminal justice system— from police investigation, to arrest, evidence, court proceedings, and eventually sentencing.

Describe the nature of the case, citing it in appropriate legal format (i.e., *Miranda v. Arizona*, 1966). Explain the investigation. What legal foundations and constitutional laws and amendments were present? What type of defense, if any, was used? Describe the court proceedings; pre-trial hearings, indictments, the trial, defense and prosecution arguments, and court outcome— acquittal, guilty, not guilty, NGRI, GBMI, etc. . Finally, describe the correctional phase, if applicable: jail, prison, probation, parole, etc. .

Summarize the case and offer your analysis of the proceedings. What are your thoughts about the investigation, evidence, court proceedings, and verdict? Make sure you support your conclusions with cited and referenced materials.

Submit your paper in one MS Word document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox. Use the naming
convention with your first initial, last name, and paper1 at the end: “JSmithPaper1.doc”, etc... Additionally, post your document in the discussion forum for your peers to review.

**Paper 2**

In a 5–7 page paper (1250–1750 words), you will give a brief overview of the policy you chose: Its date of implementation, if known. What is its nature? Who is bound by this policy? Why is there a need for this policy? In your opinion, is this policy necessary? Should it be changed or even eliminated? Based on the five theoretical models given by Freiberg and Carson, upon which do you think this policy implementation decision was based? Why?

Submit your paper in one MS Word document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox. Use the naming convention with your first initial, last name, and paper1 at the end: “JSmithPaper2.doc”, etc... Additionally, post your document in the discussion forum for your peers to review.

**Paper 3**

In a 5–7 page paper (1250–1750 words), choose and analyze an ethical decision situation within the criminal justice system that you think needs to be addressed. For instance, a judge might have to release a serious felon based upon technicalities that have arisen in a court case. Although the judge knows this person is guilty based upon impeccable evidence, the law dictates the judge must dismiss the case. What should the judge do? Override the system and invoke their power as a judge to continue the trial? Release the person? These dilemmas arise regularly in police agencies, courts and prisons.

Write an introduction to the issue. You then need to think about who it involves, who it affects, the various models of ethics that may come into play to justify a decision, and ultimately your position on the decision. What would be your decision? How would you decide and why? Write a brief summary of your ethical situation and decision-making process to close the paper.

Submit your paper in one MS Word document in APA format and place it in the appropriate assignment dropbox. Use the naming convention with your first initial, last name, and paper1 at the end: “JSmithPaper3.doc”, etc... Additionally, post your document in the discussion forum for your peers to review.

**Voice-over PowerPoint—15%**

In a 12–15 slide voiceover PowerPoint presentation, choose a social demographic that you think is an issue or may have a significant impact on the criminal justice system. As stated in the Module 7 notes, race is generally considered an issue in this realm. However, do you see any other demographic that may have an effect, cause a dilemma, or be the foundation for policy or procedural change? Age, ethnicity, religion, culture, SES, educational level and physical/mental ability (disability), are variables you may want to consider.

For directions on how to include voice-over narration, see this [website](http://libanswers.excelsior.edu.vlib.excelsior.edu/a.php?qid=1024813.).

**Discussion Participation—15%**

You are required to complete each discussion board question during the module in which it is located. You are expected to submit an initial post in response to the questions provided in each module, a response post to at least one of your classmates’ posts, and a response to any other questions provided by the instructor in each module. **NOTE:** Your initial post should be submitted by midnight of the Wednesday of each week. That gives your fellow students and the instructor time to read them and respond properly.

Initial posts should be 200–250 words, include citations and references if necessary, and have enough breadth and depth to substantially answer the questions being asked.

Response posts to other students should also be at least 150 words and be of a substantial nature, generally carrying on the conversation. Simply writing “Good post, Joe” is not sufficient.

When posting your discussion comments, it is important that you be both honest and respectful to the ideas and comments of your fellow students. Students need to remember that the discussion postings take place in an open forum. Please refrain from vulgar, racial, sexist or any other remarks or comments that an individual might deem to be offensive.

For additional information on how your work will be graded, see the Discussion Board Grading Rubric.
By registering for a web-based course, you have made a commitment to participate regularly with your instructor and other students in online discussions. You will be expected to use online course tools (Discussions and Chat rooms) to interact with your peers and work collaboratively to improve your understanding of underlying course ideas and issues.

To lessen the risk of losing your work, do not write major discussions directly into a discussion posting. Instead, compose and check your work in other software (such as Microsoft Word) and then use the Create Message button and copy and paste your text into the new posting.

**FORMATTING AND STYLE FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Unless noted in the Syllabus, Excelsior College requires that all papers, projects, charts, etc. be submitted using the APA writing style.

### Course Policies

**School of Public Service Late Policy:**

- No exams or quizzes will be accepted after the due date.
- Discussion posts must be completed within the module where they appear. Late discussion posts will not receive credit. Instructors may impose additional due dates for initial posts or responses and assess late penalties accordingly.
- All graded assignments (e.g., projects, papers, homework, lab reports) submitted after the designated due date/time will be assessed a late penalty of five percent per day for the first 5 days (for example, -5 points each day on a 100 point assignment, or -2.5 points each day on a 50 point assignment). Any assignment submitted after the fifth day will receive a grade of zero.
- No work will be accepted after the final day of the term unless an official course extension has been granted.
- Situations involving extenuating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the instructor.

**Turnitin.com:**

Use of the educational tool Turnitin is required for writing assignments within the School of Public Service. The instructor will provide students with a list of Turnitin assignments and guidance for use. Assignments requiring the use of Turnitin must be submitted to both the “final” Turnitin drop-box and the Blackboard assignment drop-box by the designated due date/time or be subject to the School of Public Service late policy.

### Institutional Policies

**COURSE PARTICIPATION:**

Weekly course participation is required. Please see the [Student Participation Policy](https://info.excelsior.edu/student-policies/student-participation-policy-for-online-courses/) for more details.

**Instructor Participation**

Your instructor will:

- Post a welcome message during the first 24 hours of the course.
- Schedule real time office hours through the chat room and/or by individual appointment.
- Communicate with you through the Blackboard communication tools, including internal course messaging.
- Respond to student communications within two business days.
- Log into the course to review and participate at least three different days a week in 15-week courses, or four different days a week in 8-week courses.
- Provide you with formative feedback midway through the course based on work submitted to that point.
- Grade all formative assignments within 7 business days in 15-week courses and 4 business days in 8-week courses, and will grade final summative work within 5 business days after the end of the term.

**Policies**
You are responsible for being familiar with all the policies that are related to your activity in this course. Complete information on Excelsior College policies can be found in the Course Information area or by visiting [www.excelsior.edu/policies](http://www.excelsior.edu/policies).

All student work in this course may be submitted to plagiarism detection software. The reports from this software may be used as evidence in support of disciplinary actions. Please see the policy on [Academic Honesty](https://info.excelsior.edu/student-policies/academic-honesty/) for more details.