Mansfield University
Academic Affairs Committee
Application for Online Course Approval

Course Prefix/Number: __CJA 4496_____ Course Title: _Contemporary Issues in CJ_____
Date:  _10-14-13______ Submitted by: _Justin Crowl_____________
Sponsoring Department: _CJA__________________________

To request approval to offer a course online, complete and sign this form. Include:

1. The course syllabus, with student learning outcomes; the current or proposed catalog description; See attached
2. A narrative that describes: details of how you plan to deliver content in a manner appropriate to the online environment, course activities, learning assessments, and opportunities for student engagement. The narrative must address the following: See attached
   a. Design features that support student learning in a format appropriate to the online environment
   b. Strategies for engaging students with meaningful, interactive activities
   c. Strategies for communicating with and among students
   d. Strategies for assessing student learning outcomes, including methods to ensure procedural integrity

This form and attached materials should be sent to the Chair of AAC in electronic form (a single file is preferred). Two copies of the form and attached materials (with Applicant and Department Chairperson signatures) should be submitted via campus mail to the Chair of AAC.

Signatures:

Department Chairperson: ____________________________ Date: ______________

Chairperson, AAC: _______________________________ Date: ______________

Dean of Record: _________________________________ Date: ______________

The process for online approvals is via Department Chair, AAC, and Dean (this Expedited Approval process is consistent with the CBA). Online approvals should be submitted prior to the listing of a course in WebAdvisor. Once a course is approved for online, any qualified faculty may teach the course. Courses under special topics (or 2255/4455) should be submitted on a topic-by-topic basis.

Use this form to request online status for an existing course (one already approved through the regular curricular process). If you are proposing to create a new course for online delivery, the new course forms should accompany this form.

(Approved by Senate 12/08/2011)
**Design features that support student learning in a format appropriate to the online environment.**

Course objectives will be met by engaging students through discussion board activities, required readings, PowerPoint presentations to reinforce course material and provide vital content, requiring an academic research paper, weekly quiz assignments, and a final comprehensive exam. The combination of these activities / assignments provides a comprehensive approach to student learning, requiring instructor / peer communication, academic research, and exposure to contemporary issues in Criminal Justice.

**Strategies for engaging students with meaningful, interactive activities.**

The course will be offered over the 2013 winter session, requiring the student to engage in weekly quizzes and discussion board posts with both the instructor and peers. The assessment methods and frequent due dates will keep the student engaged in the material. In addition to the weekly assignments, the students will be required to write a research paper concerning a contemporary criminal justice issue and complete a final comprehensive exam. The paper assignment will require the student to synthesize and integrate course concepts into a comprehensive concluding assignment.

**Strategies for communicating with and among students.**

Strategies to communicate with the student and the instructor are clearly defined, particularly in the course syllabus (see attached). All course announcements will be provided through university email and D2L; it is also suggested that all communication with the instructor be made through either university email or D2L. PowerPoint presentations, course information, assignments, and documents will be posted on D2L.

Strategies to produce communication about the course content will be achieved by required discussion board posts with the instructor and peers. Also, course content will be supplemented by PowerPoint presentations for each topic.

**Strategies for assessing student learning outcomes, including methods to ensure procedural integrity.**

Assessment procedures will be clearly stated in the course syllabus (see attached). Due dates for all assignments will be provided in the syllabus and via a discussion board topic during the first week of class. Periodic reminders will be posted on the discussion board and also emailed to students. See above for further discussion specific to the strategies that will be utilized to assess student learning outcomes.
CJA4496-190: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice Administration – Winter 2013
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Instructor: Justin Crowl
Office: Pinecrest 205
Office Phone: (570) 662-4496
Email: jcrowl@mansfield.edu
Class Time: Self-paced (winter session begins 12/17/13 and ends 1/13/14)
Class Location: Online
Office Hours: By appointment

Contact with Instructor:
Office hours are established for students who want to meet and/or discuss things with the instructor while on campus. Appointments can be made to meet with me if the office hours listed above are not convenient. You are encouraged to use the phone, voice mail, and e-mail to contact the instructor. I am always more than happy to assist – so please don’t hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or concerns.

Course Description:
An examination of the nature and extent of crime in modern society. Emphasis will be placed on contemporary criminal justice issues selected from, but not limited to, terrorism, organized crime, white collar crime, victimless crime, corruption, human trafficking, and serial murder.

Course Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will understand the current state of affairs relating to the nature of crime in modern society and our approaches for defining, measuring, and subsequently addressing its occurrence.

2. The student will understand selected contemporary criminal justice-related issues through the use and application of current research and theory.

3. The student will be able to discuss and subsequently evaluate the effectiveness of various strategies and programs designed to control crime in society.

Required Text:

Notes: You will need reliable internet access for this course, preferably a high speed internet connection since some of the material will be in a video/audio format. Also, additional reading materials may be distributed via university email or D2L.
Course Requirements: In this course, final grades will be determined by weekly discussion posts, five quizzes, and two exams (midterm and final). See below for a discussion of each.

Discussions/Participation:
Online discussions will form the cornerstone of this course. There will be 2 different types of discussions for this class. At the minimum, you will submit three posts per week (one initial post and two required replies). Discussion postings are worth 15 possible points per week for 4 consecutive weeks; with 60 total possible points available.

1. Initial posts: You must submit an initial response to each of the prompts provided each week by your instructor. Each prompt will be based on the content assigned for reading in the weekly modules. Your initial post should be carefully considered and well-detailed. In your posts, you are encouraged to use references (you may use your textbook); show evidence of critical thinking as it applies to the concepts or prompt and/or use examples of the application of the concepts to work and life. Proper punctuation, grammar and correct spelling are expected. Please use the spell-check function.

IMPORTANT: Each post must be submitted, at the latest, by 11:59pm (EST) by Wednesday of each week. I strongly recommend, however, not waiting to the deadline to submit your response. Be sure to plan accordingly.

2. Required Replies: You must reply, at the minimum, to two (2) different peers per prompt per week. Feel free to reply to more than two peers per prompt – just be sure to reply to at least two. Your replies should add to the concept discussed, offer a question(s) to consider, or offer a differing way to look at the concept, etc. Rather than responding with, "Good post," explain why the post is "good" or why it is particularly important or interesting, etc. Or, if you disagree, respectfully share your alternative perspective. Just saying "I agree" or "Good post" is not sufficient for your replies.

IMPORTANT: Both replies must be submitted, at the latest, by 11:59pm (EST) by Sunday of each week. I strongly recommend, however, not waiting to the deadline to submit your replies. Be sure to plan accordingly.

* Posting Guidelines: Postings must be submitted on at least two separate days of the week. For instance, you can submit your initial post on Monday and then submit one (or both) or your required replies on Thursday. Just make sure that you don’t submit all three postings on the same day. I strongly recommended that you visit the discussion forum on multiple occasions throughout the week to read and respond to your peers’ postings.

Quizzes:
A total of four (4) quizzes will be administered in this course to assess your understanding of the required chapter readings. Quizzes will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Each quiz will cover key terms and information from that week’s chapter reading. It is therefore essential that you participate in all discussions and read all of the assigned readings and familiarize yourself with the content.

Each quiz will be done online via D2L and will be available for a specific amount of time on the assigned quiz day. You will have a fixed amount of time to take each quiz. Once the quiz is started, it must be finished within the allotted time. You will not be able to stop the quiz, logout, and resume at a later time. Each quiz is worth 25 points; with 100 total points available.
Exam:
There will be one comprehensive final exam for this course. The exam will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. The exam will allow you to demonstrate your mastery over the material covered in this course and will include material from discussions, the assigned textbook, and other possible supplemental readings. It is therefore essential that you participate in all discussions as well as read all of the assigned readings and familiarize yourself with the content.

The final exam will be done online via D2L and will be available for a designated amount of time on the assigned day. You will have a fixed amount of time to take each exam. Once the exam is started, it must be finished within the allotted time. You will not be able to stop the test, logout, and resume at a later time. The final exam is worth 100 points.

Term Paper:
Each student will be required to research, write, and submit a 6-8 page term paper focusing on a designated contemporary issue in criminal justice. The paper will give you the opportunity to further think about, and subsequently respond to, issues or topics covered in class. It will also allow you to apply concepts and ideas that we discuss in class to real-life events or situations. A detailed description of this assignment will be posted on D2L. The term paper is worth 100 points.

Grading Procedure: Final grades will be officially computed based on the total percentage earned on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: +/- grades will be given for the top and bottom 2% of each letter grade.*

Course Expectations: The following are expectations for this course. The first heading outlines the things you can expect from me, while the second section depicts my expectations for you.

What you can expect from me:

Commitment: As your instructor, I am committed to providing you a quality, student-centered learning experience. I truly enjoy teaching and helping students to achieve their fullest learning potential. I remain readily available to all students, and I’m always happy to assist whenever possible. I will make every effort to reply to questions in the discussion forums or via email within 24 to 48 hours and return graded coursework with feedback within 48 to 72 hours of each assignment’s due date.

Communication: It will be the instructor’s job to introduce weekly prompts that will facilitate thoughtful on-topic discussions and encourage active student-to-student communication. It is therefore not the instructor’s responsibility to respond to every single post, although I will reply to
most. Rather, I will encourage students to take ownership of their learning endeavors by responding to each other in a positive, nonjudgmental manner.

**Transparency:** It should be noted that I, of course, may not always have the answers that you seek. I will, however, make every effort to work with you to find the answer or refer you to someone who may be able to help you better than myself. I consider myself as a very transparent, readily accessible individual. As such, please do not hesitate to contact me if you should ever have any questions, concerns, or comments about the class.

What I expect from you:

**Class Discussions:** The design of the class weighs heavily upon the weekly required readings and informed opinions of students. Regular and active participation is an essential aspect of this online course. I strongly recommend that you log on to our course at least **three times every seven days.** It is vital that you do all of the assigned readings as well as the discussion posts. Your full active participation on a weekly basis is an expectation for this course.

Students are heavily encouraged to express their ideas, beliefs, suggestions, or concerns regarding the subject matter covered in each weekly module. Clearly, individual opinions may vary, so please be respectful and open-minded if it is not your own. Proper online etiquette is expected at all times from all students in this course.

**Online Etiquette:** All students will be expected to be respectful of each other’s opinions and viewpoints throughout this course. Opinions may clearly vary at times. However, if it is not your own, please be considerate and respectful to your peers and me. If we all do this, we will be able to have a great learning experience. At the minimum, the following rules of etiquette are expected:

* **Be courteous and respectful:** Positive interaction is essential for any course, particularly those that are delivered online. Keep in mind that the person receiving your message(s) is someone like yourself – someone who deserves respect and kind consideration.

* **Providing feedback:** This course is designed to promote, among other things, student interaction and collaborative learning. It is therefore essential that all students provide quality, nonjudgmental feedback to their peers. Making mistakes is an inevitable part of the learning process. To this end, positive feedback can be used to make suggestions so that peers can improve the quality of his/her work.

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to do your own work; plagiarism (literary theft), copying from others, cheating, having unauthorized possession of exams from others, submitting work of another person or work previously used, falsifying papers, or obtaining improper assistance from others will not be tolerated. All infractions of this type are subject to discipline, ranging from failure of the project or assignment to failure of the course. Certain assignments may be submitted through anti-plagiarism software (such as turnitin.com). The university’s academic dishonesty policy will be followed. It is the student’s responsibility to know and understand this policy.

**Disabilities:** If you have or believe you have a disability, you must present proper documentation to the Disabilities Support Services Office on campus, located in South Hall, Room 143, (570) 662-4798. Appropriate accommodations will be made upon documentation being provided.
# Student Learning Outcomes and Methods of Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Program-level Student Learning Outcome(s) linked to the relevant course-level SLO.</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| The student will understand the current state of affairs relating to the nature of crime in modern society and our approaches for defining, measuring, and subsequently addressing its occurrence. | - Demonstrate an adequate level of knowledge about all of the fields of criminal justice (police, courts, corrections, probation and parole).  
- Demonstrate an understanding of how criminal justice agencies are influenced by the external environment, including the media, the state legislature, and the executive offices of state government.  
- Demonstrate ability to present arguments for or against an issue facing the American criminal justice system. | Comprehensive Exam  
Discussion Board Postings  
Weekly Quizzes  
Term Paper |
| The student will understand selected contemporary criminal justice – related issues through the use and application of current research and theory | - Demonstrate ability to present arguments for or against an issue facing the American criminal justice system  
- Demonstrate an understanding of how criminal justice agencies are influenced by the external environment, including the media, the state legislature, and the executive offices of state government. | Comprehensive Exam  
Discussion Board Postings  
Weekly Quizzes  
Term Paper |
| The student will be able to discuss and subsequently evaluate the effectiveness of various strategies and programs designed to control crime in society. | - Demonstrate an adequate level of knowledge about all of the fields of criminal justice (police, courts, corrections, probation and parole).  
- Demonstrate ability to present arguments for or against an issue facing the American criminal justice system  
- Demonstrate an understanding of how criminal justice agencies are influenced by the external environment, including the media, the state legislature, and the executive offices of state government.  
- Demonstrate an understanding of how criminal justice agencies have evolved within the United States.  
- Be able to articulate the roles of essential institutions with the CJS. | Comprehensive Exam  
Discussion Board Postings  
Weekly Quizzes  
Term Paper |
### Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/17 - 12/22</td>
<td>Terrorism, Serial Murder, and Fear of Crime</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz #1 – Sunday 12/22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/23 - 12/29</td>
<td>White Collar and Organized Crime</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz #2 – Sunday 12/29</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/30 - 1/5</td>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz #3 – Thursday 1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Paper – Due Sunday 1/5 (or before)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/6 – 1/13</td>
<td>Victimless Crime and Corruption</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz #4 – Thursday 1/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finals</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COMPREHENSIVE EXAM – Sunday 1/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reiman Chapters 1 – 5 and Lecture Notes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The dates and course materials are subject to change. All changes will be announced via university Email/D2L.*