Fundamentals of Criminal Justice

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Welcome to a sneak preview of Allyn and Bacon’s Fundamentals of Criminal Justice by Steve Barkan and George Bryjak—an exciting new entry into the introductory criminal justice market that will be available in August 2003.

You might be asking whether the world needs another introductory criminal justice textbook. We think you’ll agree that the criminal justice field is undergoing more rapid and significant change than ever before, and that there has never been a BETTER time for a contemporary new book for today’s criminal justice students. Textbooks that are in their 7th, 8th, and 9th editions simply cannot effectively illustrate for students the challenges and opportunities of the criminal justice system in the world we live in today.

In a market where we often hear that “all books are the same,” Allyn & Bacon has once again broken new ground. Fundamentals of Criminal Justice covers the basics, but it does so in a new and better way—because isn’t there always room for improvement? We certainly think so.

By incorporating three main concepts that are central to the success or failure of the system—the tension between public safety and civil liberties; the capacity of the criminal justice system to control criminal behavior and reduce crime; and the role played by race, class, and gender in the operation of the criminal justice system—Barkan & Bryjak cast a realistic and constructive eye on the American criminal justice system.

It’s an exciting time to be publishing in criminal justice. We strive to both provide the materials that you need to make your courses successful and to anticipate your future needs. We are always interested in your feedback and ideas, so please feel free to contact us.

Thank you and enjoy this chapter preview.

All the best,

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### Preview Chapter

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Is your essentials of criminal justice book missing something essential?

Existing brief texts for the introduction to criminal justice course have been created by removing chunks of detail and explanation from comprehensive books, or by cutting out certain concepts completely, and pasting together what’s left.

What you get is a book that omits important topics and jumps around from subject to subject, without a unifying theme or a smooth flow of discussion. But, now…

Allyn & Bacon invites you to investigate…

- the consistency and readability of a book written to be a 14-chapter introduction to criminal justice book, rather than a sliced-up version of a parent text.
- the flexibility of a textbook whose length and depth you control.
- seven innovative Under Investigation “interchapters” that explore such current topics as women in prison and racial profiling.

Authors Steve Barkan & George Bryjak have written an introductory text that is brief, complete, and flexible. They cover all the important topics in just the right amount of depth and are clear without being overwhelming.

By incorporating three main concepts that are central to the success or failure of the system – the tension between public safety and civil liberties; the capacity of the criminal justice system to control criminal behavior and reduce crime; and the role played by race, class, and gender in the operation of the criminal justice system – Barkan & Bryjak, cast a realistic and constructive eye on the American criminal justice system.

And, Barkan & Bryjak’s innovative “Under Investigation” sections between chapters enable you to use as much or as little additional in-depth material as you wish. No other format gives you total control over the length and depth of your textbook!

Meet the Authors

Steven E. Barkan

Steven E. Barkan is the author of numerous books and articles on crime, criminal justice, and social movements. He is the author of Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 2/e (Prentice Hall, 2001), Collective Violence (with Lynn Snowden; Allyn & Bacon, 2001), Discovering Sociology: An Introduction Using Explorit, 2/e (Wadsworth, 2003), and of several articles on political justice and on racial prejudice and punitive attitudes toward criminals. He and his wife, Barbara Tennent, enjoy walking their dog Sadie, whom they adopted from an animal shelter. Their older son, Dave, is a software engineer in the field of bioinformatics, while their younger son, Joe, is presently in college.
We wrote this text after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, when commercial airliners hijacked by terrorists crashed into New York City’s World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and farmland in western Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 people died that terrible day, including dozens of police officers who rushed into the World Trade Center before it collapsed.

In its aftermath, the nation struggled with many issues, including how best to balance the need for security while working within the framework of civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Among other actions, the government detained hundreds of Middle Eastern immigrants, many of whom were neither informed of the charges against them nor allowed to consult an attorney; others who were allowed to consult a lawyer were told that their conversations would be monitored. Critics charged that these actions violated Constitutional safeguards, while defenders of these measures argued they were a necessary response to the continuing terrorist threat facing the nation.

This debate makes clear that the criminal justice system—law enforcement, the criminal courts, and corrections—continues to play an important yet controversial role in American life, both in normal times and during a national crisis. This book addresses several key and compelling topics and questions for understanding the role that criminal justice plays, the controversies it raises, and its potential for addressing the crime problem.

A first topic, and probably the most important for students to learn, is how the criminal justice system is structured and how it works in reality (as opposed to how it functions ideally). Because most students obtain their knowledge of this system from television programs and the movies, their understanding of the practice of criminal justice is necessarily limited or even gravely mistaken. Our book provides them with an accurate and comprehensive view of the police, the criminal courts, and corrections in the United States.

George J. Bryjak

George J. Bryjak received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1980 and is a Professor at the University of San Diego. His areas of interest include criminology, deviant behavior, the sociology of developing nations, and the sociology of sport. He is the co-author of three books (with Michael P. Soreka): Sociology: Changing Societies in a Diverse World, 4/e (Allyn & Bacon, 2001), Social Problems: A World at Risk, 2/e (Allyn & Bacon, 1999), Sociology—The Biological Factor (Peek Publications, 1985). He was the recipient of a summer Fulbright fellowship to India (1981), and was a visiting professor at a teacher’s college in Zakopane, Poland (1993). His social commentary articles appear regularly in the San Diego Union-Tribune. He and his wife, Diane, have three passions in life: travelling, hiking in the mountains, and their granddaughter Elizabeth, not necessarily in that order.
Take a look at the many exciting features inside the book…

In every chapter…

- Opening Questions for Exploration organize the student’s study of the chapter content.
- Each chapter opens with a real-life vignette to bring the topics under discussion to life.
- Clear topic headings throughout the chapters reinforce this organized study. Also within each chapter, charts, graphs, photographs, and interesting anecdotes reinforce learning. New terms are defined in the margins.

“If utilized by students, these questions [for exploration] can be very effective tools. In essence, students have a study guide for each chapter without the additional purchase. The questions are specific enough to elicit a firm grasp of the material.”

–Angela M. Nickoli, Ball State University
Focus On

Each chapter also features an international Focus On box that highlights an aspect of the criminal justice system from another society. These boxes familiarize students with the structure and workings of criminal justice around the world through a comparative perspective. For example, students see that dispensing justice in criminal courts in the United States is very different from determining guilt and innocence in other nations.

“The international focus clearly distinguishes this text from others on the market.”

—Tod W. Burke, Radford University

Chapter Summary

All chapters end with a chapter summary and list of key terms, to ensure that students understand the central concepts and facts of the chapter.

“The summaries at the end of each chapter are quite extensive and will be very helpful to students who are seeking to have main points synthesized in an orderly and comprehensive manner. This is much better than simple conclusions offered in other books.”

—Tod W. Burke, Radford University
Questions for Investigation

These questions ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the topics and concepts covered and to connect various related concepts.

“I especially like the Questions for Investigation as they give the student a chance to think critically about the subject and provide me with an excellent resource for essay-type or discussion topics.”

–Robert NeVille, College of Siskiyous

It’s Your Call

This feature invites students to assume a role in various hypothetical situations that people involved in the criminal justice system must face every day.

“These features are crucial in a shrinking world. The use of focus questions to each of these sidebars is great.”

–L. Edward Day, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona
A unique format!

Seven “interchapters” located between most chapters give the user the flexibility to branch out from the 14 chapters in several different directions. Topics of these interchapters include Street Gangs And Motorcycle Gangs, Health and Health Care in Prison, and Terrorists and Victims—A World At Risk.

There are countless ways to use these unique interchapters in your course: include them as assigned reading; use them for extra credit projects; assign one or two for in-depth study; ask your students to choose one to use as a launching point for a research project…it’s up to you!

“It [the format] adds another dimension to the material in the text. This is a very good technique.”

–Angela M. Nickoli, Ball State University