Syllabus
Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIJ 1301-001, Fall 2012

Instructor: Kristen Welch  
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Email: kristen.welch@tamucc.edu  
Class Hours: TR, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Classroom: ST 107  
Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30, W 12:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment

REQUIRED READINGS


Any handouts provided or assigned by the instructor and independent readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History and philosophy of criminal justice. Overview of criminal justice system: police, prosecution and defense, courts, trial process, and corrections as they affect the individual, as well as their impact on society. The definition, nature, and impact of crime. The functions of criminal justice agencies will be examined in relation to common analytical themes such as ethics and discretion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The course objectives are:

1. To introduce the student to the American criminal justice system and improve students’ discourse on crime, criminality, and the criminal justice process.
2. To familiarize students with the key concepts and terminology in the criminal justice field and to provide students with the requisite insight into the criminal justice system’s response to crime in society, including the role of each of the core elements: police, courts, and corrections.
3. To examine the criminal justice process, focusing on how the system is structured to respond to crime, while highlighting the balance between community interests and individual rights in decision making within the system.
**Learning Outcomes** - By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss and describe the basic concepts and terminology in criminal justice, including the three main components of the criminal justice system;
2. Provide a basic definition of crime, identify different types of crime, describe crime statistics in America, and discuss the causes of crime;
3. Explain the criminal justice process and discuss the role of each component in the system’s response to crime: including the history and structure of policing, the stages of the court process, the structure of corrections and the role of criminal sanctions.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is highly important because discussion groups, and in class assignments will be assessed throughout the session. The student is expected to attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions. Because of this, students must complete the assigned readings PRIOR to the scheduled class meeting to contribute to meaningful class discussions.

Class attendance is mandatory and attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with University Policy. Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. Penalties for absences will be governed by rules promulgated by the University. A student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence at the discretion of the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor number of absences.

Accordingly, the instructor will deduct points from the FINAL COURSE GRADE based on the following scale:

- 4 unexcused absences = 10 point reduction in final grade
- 5 unexcused absences = 20 point reduction in final grade
- 6 + unexcused absences = 30 point reduction final grade

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy**

Section 51.91 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observation of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University Policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made within the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.
GRADES

GRADING POLICY: (100 Points Possible)

A = 90-100 points
B = 80-89 points
C = 70-79 points
D = 60-69 points
F = Below 60 points

1. 2 Exams: 20 points each; 40 points total
2. Final Exam: 30 Points
3. Quizzes (5) & Participation (5): 10 Points total
4. Homework: 20 Points

Exams (40%): Two exams will be given on the dates listed in the course outline. Each exam will be worth 20 points. Exams will be composed of multiple choice, true false, short answer and essay questions. Questions will come from class notes and the required readings. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the study guide to prepare for exams and to enhance their understanding of the materials.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be given on the date listed in the course outline (December 8th). The exam will be composed of multiple choice, definitions, short answer, essay questions, or a combination of each.

Quizzes (5%): Quizzes will be given throughout the semester to ensure that students are keeping up with the required readings and to help prepare students for the exams. Quizzes may be composed of multiple choice, definitions, short answer, essay questions, or a combination of each.

Class Participation (5%): Students will receive grade based upon attendance, participation in class discussions, participation in small group discussions, and completion of in class assignments. Students are expected to have read the chapters and any additional readings assigned prior to class lecture/discussion so that any questions may be clarified and meaningful class discussion may be conducted.

Homework Assignments (20%): In addition to class participation, students are required to complete any homework assignments which may be assigned. Homework assignments may include completion of short answer or essay questions, research of assigned topics, chapter outlines, or written article summaries (primary article abstracts). Failure to complete, submit, and/or present assignments on time will result in a 5 point deduction from the final grade.

MAKE UP EXAM POLICY

Students are required to take the examinations on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Any scheduling difficulties should be addressed the first week of class. If an emergency arises, students should notify the instructor as soon as possible before the absence. Notifications after the absence are not acceptable, barring extreme circumstances. If you miss an examination without prior approval from the instructor, the grade recorded will be a zero. If it is not possible to discuss the absence prior to the exam date due to an emergency, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency. Appropriate documentation of the nature of the absence must be provided to the instructor.
ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall 116. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS

Grade Appeal Process: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal.

A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule
13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade
Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at
http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the
grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Extra Credit:** In general, extra credit opportunities will not be given, but may be offered at the
instructor’s discretion. However, if an extra credit opportunity is extended to one student, then all
students will be given the opportunity to complete the same assignment for extra credit.

**Confidentiality:** If you would like to discuss your course performance, an appointment with the
instructor may be made at a mutually agreeable time. In order to protect student confidentiality, it is
against TAMU-CC policy for an instructor to discuss grades by telephone or through email. Any
discussions on student’s course performance must be conducted with the instructor in person.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor
as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up the degree plan which
must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. If you are majoring, or
planning to major in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a
signed degree plan, you should see you Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and
useful to successful progress toward graduation. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in
Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Late Work:** Late work will NOT be accepted without appropriate documentation of an excused
absence, such as a physicians note

**CLASS CONDUCT**

**General Conduct**
All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times. Class discussions
may include controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others’ viewpoints and opinions, even
those that they may not agree with. Any conduct deemed by the instructor to be disruptive to the class
may result in the student’s removal from the class. The removal will count as an unexcused absence.
Excessive tardiness (2+) without a legitimate excuse may be counted as an absence at the discretion of the
instructor.

**Tobacco Products**
No tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violations will result in the student’s
removal from the class and the removal will count as an unexcused absence.

**Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom**
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, iPods, and any other distracting device prior to class. This
  means no text messaging during class!
- Laptops may be used in class, for class purposes only (no email or IM services may be accessed) with
  prior approval from the instructor.
- Students are encouraged to use electronic resources outside of class for discussion forums and to
  access reading materials on class topics.
# Course Schedule

The anticipated schedule of lectures, readings, and examinations is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>Readings:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Introduction to Class</td>
<td>Chapter 1 (S)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What is Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Criminal Justice: An Overview</td>
<td>Chapter 2 (S)</td>
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<td>Sept. 1</td>
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<td>Sept. 6-8</td>
<td>The Crime Picture</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (S)</td>
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<td>Sept 13-15</td>
<td>The Search for Causes</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Chapter 4(S)</td>
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<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td><strong>EXAM I</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 27-29</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>Chapter 5(S)</td>
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<td>Oct. 4-6</td>
<td>Policing: History and Structure</td>
<td>Chapter 6(S)</td>
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<td>Oct. 11-13</td>
<td>Policing: Purpose &amp; Organization</td>
<td>Chapter 7(S)</td>
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<td>Oct. 18-20</td>
<td>Legal Aspects of Policing</td>
<td>Chapter 8(S)</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td><strong>EXAM II</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 9(S)</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>The Courts: Structure and Participants</td>
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<td>Nov. 8-10</td>
<td>Pretrial Activities and Criminal Trial</td>
<td>Chapter 10 (S)</td>
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<td>Nov. 15-17</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
<td>Chapter 11(S)</td>
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<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Probation, Parole, &amp; Community Corrections</td>
<td>Chapter 12 &amp;13</td>
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<td>Nov. 29-Dec 1</td>
<td>Prisons, Jails, &amp; Prison Life</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>11:00 A.M. – 1:30 p.m.</strong></td>
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