Texas A&M-Corpus Christi  
College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Social Sciences  
Spring 2013

CRIJ 1301.001 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Professor: Dr. Melissa L. Jarrell  
Days/Time: Monday and Wednesday 2-3:15  
Class Location: CI-108  
Office: BH-345  
Office Hours: Mon 1-2, Tues 1-4, Wed 1-2  
Phone Number: 825-2188  
E-mail Address: melissa.Jarrell@tamucc.edu

Required Text:


Course Description:

Introduction to Criminal Justice is an overview course designed to familiarize students with the reality of crime in America and major issues in the American Criminal Justice System. The course will address issues pertaining to the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system as well as criminal law, policing, courts, corrections, and current issues in criminal justice. Students should gain an introductory as well as a critical understanding of the American Criminal Justice System through lectures, readings, assignments and guest speaker presentations.

Course Objectives:

- Identify the major concepts and components (law enforcement, courts and corrections) of the American Criminal Justice System as well as the major myths and their realities relating to crime and the American Criminal Justice system.

- Understand the steps in the criminal justice process, the major sources of crime data as well as past/current crime trends, the relationship between the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and the components of the criminal justice system and the historical and current trends within policing, courts, and corrections.

- Define goals of punishment and how the American Criminal Justice system punishes criminal offenders.

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of criminal justice in the United States.
Learning Outcomes - By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss 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.

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 Driftwood 101. 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.

**Student Responsibilities:**
- TURN OFF CELL PHONES!!!
- Pay attention during class. Private conversations, sleeping, and reading non-class related material will not be tolerated.
- Learn something! Participate in class discussions.

**Students with Disabilities/Religious Needs:**
If you are a student with a disability or have special needs, please let me know during the first week of class. In addition, students observing religious holidays that conflict with class exams must let me know during the first week of class.

**Academic Honesty:**
Students are expected to be academically honest. If unsure of what honesty entails, please refer to the University Catalog.

**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 a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>400</td>
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A = 90-100% 360-400 points
B = 80-89% 320-359 points
C = 70-79% 280-319 points
D = 60-69% 240-279 points
F = 59% and below 239 and below

No extra credit will be given. No exceptions!!!
**Exams**
Two exams will be administered in this course. Each exam will count for one-quarter of your grade (100 points per exam). There will be approximately 70 multiple choice questions per exam (1 point per question) in addition to a short essay portion (you select 3 of the 6 questions to answer; worth up to 10 points per response). Exams will cover the assigned readings, class discussions, guest speaker presentations, and videos. Exams **will not** be cumulative. Permission to take an all essay make-up exam must be obtained at least one week prior to the date of the exam and will only be granted under extreme circumstances. Naturally, I am the sole judge of “extreme circumstances” and I’ve heard (and used) every excuse in the book!

**Paper**
The paper is worth up to 100 points and is due on Monday, April 8. The paper assignment guidelines are discussed below. Papers must be no less than SIX pages, typed and double-spaced (one-inch margins, 12-point font). Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated. Make sure to use APA-style documentation. Outside sources **MUST** be documented!

Your paper must be a **MINIMUM** of SIX pages. The purpose of the paper is to **objectively** discuss the arguments for and against capital punishment. These arguments should be drawn from textbook information, PP slides and extra resources. In the final paragraph of the paper, you may give your opinion (“Are you for or against the death penalty?”) and explain your reasoning.

1. Define capital punishment. (10 points)
2. Objectively discuss the positions for and against the death penalty. (60 points)
3. State your opinion and why you have this opinion. (10 points)
4. Include citations and references (APA)! (10 points)
5. Format/writing/organization (10 points)

**Quizzes/Assignments**
A number of quizzes will be given during the semester. Quiz questions will cover the assigned readings for that week. **No make-up quizzes will be given, regardless of the reason for your absence; therefore, class attendance is very important.** In-class group activities and take-home assignments will also be given. Quizzes and assignments are designed to prepare you for the exams and to offer you the opportunity for relatively “easy” points **IF** you keep up with the assigned readings. If I feel that students are keeping up with the readings and readily participating in class discussions, I will more than likely give advanced notice of the next quiz and possibly drop the lowest quiz grade.

**Concluding Remarks**
If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to speak with me after class or to give me a call/send me an e-mail. I am available to assist you with information pertaining to this course and to the criminal justice system in general.
The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be given advanced notice of any syllabus modifications.

Note: Assigned Readings should be completed prior to the date listed on the syllabus.

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<td>3/4-3/6</td>
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<td>Corrections</td>
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<td>5/6</td>
<td>Exam #2 Short Essay on 5/6</td>
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