CRIJ 1301.W01 Introduction to Criminal Justice

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.

Learning Objectives:
1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Define goals of punishment and how the American Criminal Justice system punishes criminal offenders.
4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of criminal justice in the United States.

Learning Outcomes:
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.

Major Course Requirements:

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 70 multiple choice questions per exam (1 point per question) in addition to a short essay portion (3 short essays; worth up to 10 points per response). Exams will cover the assigned readings and the PowerPoint lectures. Exam #1 will cover readings and PP slides from Weeks 1-2. Exam #2 cover readings and PP slides from Weeks 3-5.
TIP: Read the chapters first and then review the PowerPoint Presentations and documents for each week. The exams will draw primarily from the PP material but chapter readings will supplement the PP presentations. Use the exam review to study for the exam. You only have ONE opportunity to take the exam. Once you start, you need to finish in the time allotted (2 hours).

Short Paper
One short paper is due at the end of Week 4. The paper is worth 100 points. The paper assignment guidelines are discussed below. Papers must be no less than four 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!

Death Penalty Paper Guidelines

Your paper must be a MINIMUM of 4 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. (50 points)
3. State your opinion and why you have this opinion. (20 points)
4. Include citations and references (APA)! (10 points)
5. Format/writing/organization (10 points)

Weekly Discussions
Each week, students are required to participate in class discussions. Participation in weekly discussions is very important as they make up 25% of your total grade in the course. Each week, two discussion topics will be presented. You are required to post ONE response to BOTH discussion topics and respond to at least one other student or instructor posts for each discussion topic (four posts minimum per week, two for each discussion topic). Responses to the questions must be posted by WEDNESDAY of each week. Responses to student and instructor posts should be posted by SUNDAY of each week (all posts due by Thursday in the last week). All students are expected to participate in the threaded discussions. The quality of your posts and responses will be evaluated to determine your weekly discussion grade (20 points possible each week).

Discussion posts and responses should be thorough, critical, and well written. Make sure to provide complete references (in APA) for authors you cite in the body of your response, including the textbook. Make sure references are correctly cited in APA, including websites. You need to provide the correct website link in APA so that it is easy for your classmates (and me) to locate. Whenever possible, apply textbook concepts to real world issues. I encourage you to provide examples and experiences from the real world; your own experiences, something you read in the news, etc. A more familiar, conversational tone is acceptable (unlike papers which require a more academic or professional tone). However, make sure to proofread your responses
prior to posting. Look for spelling and grammatical errors. You are encouraged to critically examine what you read!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam #1</th>
<th>100 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>(due by 11:59pm on 6/15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<td>Short paper</td>
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<td>Discussions (weekly)</td>
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<td>(Original posts due by Wednesday each week; responses must be posted by Sunday 11:59pm; all posts due by Thursday in the final week of the course)</td>
<td>(20 points per week)</td>
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<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>400 points</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

Required Readings:


*Week 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and PP Slides*
*Week 2: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and PP Slides*
*Week 3: Chapters 9, 10 and PP Slides*
*Week 4: Chapter 11 and PP Slides*
*Week 5: Chapters 12, 13, 14 and PP Slides*

Website:
Your online class will be using the Blackboard platform. You cannot get access to the course until the summer term begins on Monday, June 2. To access Blackboard and get around in the course beginning June 3, follow the steps below:

Office Hours: I will not hold on campus office hours; please e-mail me and send me your phone number if you need to speak with me by phone. I will respond to emails within 24 hours.
Follow the link to TAMUCC Island Online:
https://iol.tamucc.edu/

On the lower right hand side of the screen you will see a log-in for Blackboard. Click on Blackboard and then enter your log-in information. Your log-in is your Banner ID (A number) and PIN. If you have trouble with your log-in, please contact Island Online Support;

- By Phone:
  - 361-825-2825 (Local)
  - 1-866-353-2491 (Long Distance)
- By E-mail:
  - islandonline@tamucc.edu
- Hours of Operation:
  - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Everyday (U.S. Central)

Once in Blackboard, all of the classes you are currently taking will be listed in the middle of the screen. Look for Intro to Criminal Justice CRIJ-1301-W01.

The first thing you will see in Blackboard is a welcome announcement from your instructor.

The course content is found by clicking on the tabs on the left hand side of the screen.

Some of the most important tabs are:

- **Syllabus**: Click on this link in order to access the syllabus.

  **Announcements**: I will post announcements frequently throughout the course.

  **Discussions**: You are required to participate in weekly discussions. The discussion questions are listed under this link as well as in the Learning Modules.

  **EXAMS**: Click on this icon to access the two exams in the course.

  **Death Penalty Paper**: Click on this link to review the paper guidelines, grading rubric, and to submit your paper.

**Course Policies**:

**Late work and Make-up Exams**
Late exams, papers, and discussions will result in an automatic 5 point reduction per day.

**Extra Credit**
No extra credit will be given. No exceptions!!!
**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for that assignment or test.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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. 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 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.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Syllabus
Course Outline

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate 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.

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<td>Steps in the CJ Process</td>
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<td>Sources of Data</td>
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