CRIJ 3340.001: COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course Syllabus
Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi
Department of Social Sciences
Criminal Justice Program

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself
-Chinese Proverb

Course Information
Call Number (CRN)/Section: 31134
Days and Time: TR 8:00-9:15am
Location: CI 102

Professor Contact Information
Professor: Gabriel Ferreyra, PhD
Office Location: Bay Hall Building Room 345 (Third Floor)
Office phone: (361) 825-2537
Office hours: MW 12:30-1:50pm
T 9:15-11:30am and by appointment
E-mail: gferreyra@tamucc.edu

1. Course Description:
The class will examine issues related to crime justice systems throughout the world. There will be a critical analysis of different processes, policies, and practices of criminal justice institutions across multiple nations. The student will identify, analyze, and compare the criminal justice systems in the U.S. with those of other countries. The course will explain the basic worldwide philosophies of law and justice, the arrangements for crime prevention and law enforcement, and the methods of dealing with convicted offenders throughout the world. The political, cultural, and social context of these justice systems will be presented and analyzed.

2. Student Learning Outcomes:
The student should be able to:

- Analyze the international value of comparing systems and issues of criminal justice systems.
- Identify and discuss current events in criminal justice systems in different nations
- Examine globalization and its effect on crime and criminal justice.
- Compare the unique crime problems and solutions in different countries.
- Define the functions of modern, worldwide, police forces.
- Identify mechanisms to deal with issues of human rights and international crimes and criminals.
- Examine the stages of the criminal process in different countries.
- Compare similarities and differences that occur in court structures and procedures in multiple countries.
- Analyze unique correctional practices in different countries.

3. Course Readings

Required Books:


In addition, there will be newspaper, articles, magazine reports, and scholarly manuscripts to read for some specific weeks. I will send you the link and/or where to find them or they will be posted on Blackboard one week before they are due. Check course schedule below for detailed information.

4. Course requirements

Readings:

There will a fair amount of readings and some writing required of each student. Some of the content for exams will be addressed in the readings but not in the lectures. You will need to read in order to help you prepare for the exams. Be aware that all required reading materials, films, lecture materials and class discussion elements are fair game for the exams. Do not rely on my PowerPoint slides to get you through the course – they are only one part of the whole picture. You will be held accountable for all readings whether I have lectured on the material or not.

Exams:

There will be 3 exams – two midterms and a final. All three exams will consist of multiple choice, short answers, and short essay questions, which will be developed from readings, lectures, films, assignments, discussions, exercises, and other class work. The final exam may be somewhat cumulative. It will cover the material from the last section of the class, and may include some basic information which you should have learned from other sections. I will provide a study guide at least one class period before the exams.

I will allow for a make-up exam only with a documented medical excuse or other documented family emergency. “Over sleeping” on the day of the exam is not a legitimate excuse and you will not be given the opportunity for a make-up.
Except for the final, each exam will take place at the beginning of the class, according to the course schedule and students will have 50 minutes to answer it. After a short break we will continue our class to address the corresponding topic of the week.

**Pop Quizzes:**

There will be 5 pop quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings due for each week. You must read in advance the assigned reading for each week whether or not there is a quiz.

**Written Assignments: Four Short Essays**

The student will be required to complete 4 short essays. The theme of each essay will be chosen by the student, and will center on an appropriate comparative justice system topic. However, it has to be a current issue/problem that it has been discussed in the news recently.

Each essay will be 3 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, stapled). The issues may be taken from newspapers, magazines, television, news shows, the Internet, or any other credible news source. However, scholarly articles and/or peer-reviewed journals are needed in order to support your argument. You will need to cite and use at least one academic source (peer-reviewed article, book chapter, scientific report, etc.) for each essay.

The short essay should include the following:

- Your name, date, class information, and number of essay (e.g. 1/4 or 2/4)
- Source information (journal/magazine name, title of the article, author, and date)
- A summary of the article and main issue/problems at stake
- Comparisons/contrasts to the textbook material
- And student’s arguments and discussion comments supported by facts and evidence. **Your particular opinion is not enough if it is not based on scientific evidence and/or facts.**

Each essay is worth a total of 10 points for total essay points: 40. The essay completion schedule (turn in hard copies only at the beginning of the class) will be as follow:

- a) The 1\textsuperscript{st} essay is due September 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2014.
- b) The 2\textsuperscript{nd} essay is due October 09\textsuperscript{th}, 2014.
- c) The 3\textsuperscript{rd} essay is due October 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2014.
- d) The 4\textsuperscript{th} essay is due November, 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2014.
Essay Rubric

Appropriate Comparative Criminal Justice topic 1 points
Compare/contrast to textbook topics or issues 2 points
Well-constructed argument—scientific-based facts/evidence 3 points
Readable/spelling/grammar 2 points
One academic source 2 points

Total 10 points each

The required textbooks are an excellent resource of knowledge for comparative justice systems, but it is also only one small source of information about comparative justice systems. Libraries, journal articles, the Internet, and criminal justice agencies are just a beginning of discovering other information about the variety of criminal justice systems. In addition, the research component adds another level of depth to the educational process. Research experience is important to all students in Criminal Justice.

Note: The text provides excellent Website links at the end of each chapter for research possibilities.

Please, do not e-mail me and ask to explain a class you missed! Call one of your fellow classmates for that. However, I will be happy to answer your specific questions and try to clarify ideas either during office hours or by e-mail.

Classes will begin promptly at 7pm – please be on time or you’ll miss announcements and/or potential pop quizzes. Unless you have an emergency, please do not come and go during lecture – it is distracting to all of us!

5. Grades

Final grades will be determined based on student performance throughout the course as follows. Final grades will be on a standard scale.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5 points</th>
<th>5%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Pop Quizzes</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(at 2 point each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>45 points</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>(at 15 point each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Review Essays</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(at 10 point each)</td>
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TOTAL 100 points 100%
Grading Scale: There is a possible 100 points in this class. I will not bump you up. Do the work to get the grade you want.

90 – 100 ....... A  
80 – 89 ....... B  
70 – 79 ....... C  
60 – 69 ....... D  
59 or below…..F

6. Academics

Class Participation:

If you participate enough so that I get to know who you are, you improve your chances of getting your grade bumped up if your point total is on the borderline. Do not expect an automatic increase just because you have an 89.45%; you have to deserve the upgrade for some academic reason.

Classroom Behavior:

All members of the class are expected to behave with courtesy and respect toward others. Should behavioral disruptions interfere with the business of the classroom and the ability of class members to learn, they may be reported to the Office of Student Services as outlined in TAMUCC General Academic Policies and Regulations (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf).

We also live in a highly electronically mediated and interconnected world where we seem to be “on call” 24/7. Consequently, I am guessing that most if not all of you regularly pack a cell phone as standard operating equipment for helping you navigate through your daily lives. These seem to have become a new form of a musical instrument and have a very disruptive potential in certain settings. TURN THEM OFF WHEN YOU ARE IN CLASS: NO CHATTING, TEXTING, OR ANGRY BIRDS, PLEASE. As a sidebar... some of you may find it necessary at some point in the semester to keep a cell phone on during class because of a sick child or other immediately pressing matter. If so, please let me know before class starts that you’ll need to keep a phone active.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to be above reproach in scholastic activities. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. Such scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the
University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. If you have any questions about this (especially what constitutes plagiarism), please stop by my office and I would be happy to discuss it. Refer to TAMUCC Academic Honesty for further details on definitions of academic dishonesty and the judicial procedure associated with allegations thereof (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf).

7. Student Duties:

Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussion, read the assigned text and hand-out/reserve readings, turn in 4 short essays, take 5 pop quizzes, and take two mid-terms and one final exam.

The reading material should be done prior to the class for which it is scheduled. This is because we will spend a substantial portion of the class analyzing and discussing the content of the assigned readings and its legal implications.

Notice to Students with Disabilities:

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi Complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Students with Disabilities Office located in Driftwood 101, at (361) 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

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 (361) 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process:

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of the 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 on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website:
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean Mark Hartlaub at mark.hartlaub@tamucc.edu

### 8. COURSE SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| August 28\(^{th}\), 2014          | Introduction & overview  
An International Perspective | Reichel, Chapter 1         |                                                                      |
<p>| September 02(^{nd}), 2014        | Exploring Law and Culture I                                           | Bracey, Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3   |                                                                      |
| September 04(^{th}), 2014        | Exploring Law and Culture II                                          | Bracey, Chapters 4, 5 &amp; 6   |                                                                      |
| September 09(^{th}), 2014        | Exploring Law and Culture II                                          | Bracey, Chapters 7, 8 &amp; 9   |                                                                      |
| September 11(^{th}), 2014        | Exploring Law and Culture III First Short Essay is Due                |                             |                                                                      |
| September 16(^{th}), 2014        | Crime on the World Scene: Domestic and International Crime &amp; Justice  | Reichel, Chapter 2          |                                                                      |
| September 18(^{th}), 2014        | Criminal Law in America First Exam                                   | Reichel, Chapter 3          |                                                                      |
| October 02(^{nd}), 2014          | Criminal Law in Mexico Second Short Essay is Due                      | -Ingram &amp; Shirk pp. 1-23 on BB|                                                                      |
| October 07(^{th}), 2014          | Crime &amp; Criminal Law in the Mexico-US Border: Don't Mess With Texas Drug Cartels! | -Astorga &amp; Shirk pp. 31-61 on BB|                                                                      |
| October 09(^{th}), 2014          | A Range of Legal Institutions Homework: Watch Film Dredd              | Reichel, Chapter 4          |                                                                      |
| October 21(^{st}), 2014          | Substantive &amp; Procedural Law: Overview Third Short Essay is Due        | Reichel, Chapter 5          |                                                                      |
| October 28(^{th}), 2014          | International Perspective on the Police &amp; Policing 2(^{nd}) Exam     | Reichel, Chapters 6         |                                                                      |
| November 04(^{th}), 2014         | International Perspective on Courts                                   | Reichel, Chapter 7          |                                                                      |
| November 06(^{th}), 2014         |                                                                        |                             |                                                                      |
| November 11(^{th}), 2014         |                                                                        |                             |                                                                      |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 18th, 2014</td>
<td>International Perspective on Corrections</td>
<td>Reichel, Chapter 8 &amp; 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20th, 2014</td>
<td>Unit XIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25th, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Fourth Short Essay is Due</strong></td>
<td>Reichel, Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27th, 2014</td>
<td>International Perspective on Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>No classes, Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit XIV</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 2nd, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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Instructor reserves the right to make changes and or revisions to this syllabus as deemed necessary and appropriate; students will be notified via email or during class of these changes.

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Your Name, Signature, and Date Here