Introduction to Criminal Justice
Maymester 2019
CRIJ 1301_001

Instructor: Dr. Deborah A. Sibila
Office: BH 352
Telephone: 361 825-4132
Email: Deborah.Sibila@tamucc.edu
Class Hours: MTWR 6:00 – 9:45 PM
Classroom: BH 207
Office Hours: Mon 4:00 – 6:00 PM; Tues 4:00 – 6:00 PM; Wed 5:00 – 6:00 PM; or By Appointment

Required Text:

Course Protection and Intellectual Property:

My personal work contained in this syllabus, the course calendar, and all handouts and assignments created by me are my intellectual property and are protected by law. You do not have authorization to duplicate any part of the work without my written permission.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the criminal justice system. It will start with a brief look at theoretical ideas of why people commit crime and then move to how crime is defined and measured. From there it will walk the student through the funnel of justice, from police intake, through the court system, to a correctional output; with all of the possible exits along the way. It will examine the interaction of the system and its players and how that system balances the rights of an accused individual with the rights of the larger society to be protected.

Learning Objectives and 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.

1 My general office policy is, “if my door is open then I am available to help you.” Do not hesitate to drop by for help or to talk outside my regular office hours if my door is open.
Grading:

Exam 1 100 pts 270 – 300 pts = A
Exam 2 100 pts 240 – 269 pts = B
Exam 3 100 pts 210 – 239 pts = C
Exam 4 100 pts* 180 – 209 pts = D
_______ 179 pts & below = F

300 pts

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the number of points you earn through online exams and quizzes. There are a total of 400 possible points in this course. If you have concerns/questions about any grades received in this class, you must come to speak with me in person – email me so that we can set up an appointment for a meeting. I will not give grade information via email or over the telephone.

The instructor reserves the right whether or not to provide students with extra credit opportunities.

Exams:

Four exams are given during the semester; however, only the top three exam scores will count toward your final grade average. The lowest exam score will be dropped. Exams will be hosted on Blackboard and will consist of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. All exams cover approximately the same amount of information and there are no comprehensive exams. Material for the exams comes from classroom discussions as well as the assigned readings from your textbooks. Class sessions will not cover all material from the assigned readings, but all assigned readings, regardless of whether the material is discussed in class, may be covered on the exams.

Make-Up Exams:

There will be four exams total, including the final. The lowest exam grade will be dropped. **There will be no make-up exams allowed.** Should an exam be missed (even with a legitimate excuse such as illness or a family emergency) it will be the exam grade that will be dropped. Students who miss two exams will need to contact the instructor who will at her own discretion, determine whether-or-not the student will be permitted to make-up a second missed exam. All approved make-up exams will be given on the last class day prior to the final exam. If you do not miss an exam, you will not be required to attend that day.

Participation & Attendance:

You are expected to be in class daily, on time. Individuals who are more than ten minutes late will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Though attendance is not an official part of your grade, it will be taken daily for two reasons: (1) the information is reported to the university and can be used against you in future determinations of financial aid allowances, and (2) if you do not attend, you will be responsible for what you miss. Taking attendance allows me to know if you simply need more explanation or if you are asking questions because you were not there when the topic was covered. Please make sure that a classmate will be getting you notes and assignment information before you miss a class.

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.
Students sometimes have difficulty understanding what exactly constitutes plagiarism. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on APA documentation rules is available from our local Writing Center at CASA and at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/).

**Cellphones, Laptops, Ipads Etc.:**

All communication style or general noise making devises should be set to off or silent during class. If you have an emergency-situation or if you are on call from a professional position, please let me know before class begins. Some exceptions will, of course, be allowed in these cases. If you decide that, for any reason, you must send or receive a call or text, please leave the classroom to do so. **If you are texting in my class, I consider this rude and I reserve the right to ask you to leave my class.** You may use a laptop for note-taking only. Searching the web, checking e-mails and other non-course related activities is prohibited. If I catch any student using his/her laptop for any other purpose than note-taking, I reserve the right to ask the student to leave my class.

**Classroom/Professional Behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Students may have beverages in class; however, eating is not allowed in classroom. Students who must eat due to health reasons should contact the instructor prior to class to discuss their situation so that appropriate arrangements can be made as necessary.

**Disability Services:**

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, Room #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.
**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. *Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **May 22, 2019,** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Maymester 2019 full term.

**Grade Appeals Process:**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *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. 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.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Miscellaneous Information**

You will need to check Blackboard and your Islander email account daily during the week for important course updates and reading assignments.

Do not contact the instructor if you have problems with Blackboard. If you need help with Blackboard:

- View the tutorials at [https://iol.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html](https://iol.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html)
- Call the IT help desk at (361) 825-2692
- Email [computer.helpline@tamucc.edu](mailto:computer.helpline@tamucc.edu)
**Course Calendar:**

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Chapter</th>
<th>Assignments/ Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 16th</td>
<td>Syllabus Review&lt;br&gt;The CJ System – Chapter 1</td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF CLASS</td>
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<td>May 20th</td>
<td>Crime &amp; Crime Causation – Chapter 2&lt;br&gt;CJ &amp; The Rule of Law – Chapter 3</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (Chapters 1–3)</td>
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<td>Exam #1 will be posted on Blackboard – Exam #1 closes May 21st (Tues) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 21st</td>
<td>Police – Chapter 4&lt;br&gt;Policing: Contemporary Issues &amp; Challenges – Chapter 5</td>
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<td>May 22nd</td>
<td>Police &amp; Law – Chapter 6&lt;br&gt;Technology &amp; CJ – Chapter 14</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (Chapters 4 – 6 and 14)</td>
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<td>Exam #2 will be posted on Blackboard – Exam #2 closes May 24th (Fri) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 23rd</td>
<td>Courts &amp; Adjudication – Chapter 7&lt;br&gt;Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining, &amp; the Criminal Trial – Chapter 8</td>
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<td>May 27th</td>
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<td>CLASS DOES NOT MEET MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>May 28th</td>
<td>Punishment &amp; Sentencing – Chapter 9</td>
<td>EXAM 3 (Chapters 7 – 9 and 15)</td>
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<td>Juvenile Justice – Chapter 15</td>
<td>Exam #3 will be posted on Blackboard – Exam #3 closes May 30th (Thurs) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 29th</td>
<td>Corrections – Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Incarceration &amp; Prison Society – Chapter 11</td>
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<td>May 30th</td>
<td>Probation &amp; Intermediate Sanctions – Chapter 12</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASS</td>
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<td>Reentry into the Community – Chapter 13</td>
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<td>May 31st</td>
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<td>CLASS DOES NOT MEET</td>
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<td>Final Exam (Chapters 10 – 13)</td>
<td>Final Exam Posted on Blackboard – exam closes on May 31st (Friday) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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