DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIJ 1301.W01: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Course outline for Spring 2020

Course Number: CRIJ 1301.W01/CRN: 20636
Course Title: Introduction to Criminal Justice
Term: Spring 2020
Class Time: Fully Online
Duration: January 21 – May 14, 2020
Instructor: Dr. Annmarie Barnes
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Telephone: 361-825-5818
Office: Bay Hall 358
Office Hours: Monday 2pm -4.20 pm (online)
Thursday 11 am – 12.20 pm (online)
Tuesday 2 pm – 3.20 pm or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This section of the course is designed to foster an understanding of various dimensions of the criminal justice system, and to provide insights into the nature, and operations of different elements of criminal justice. In particular, students will learn about the concepts of crime and justice, the nature of crime in the USA, how crime is defined and measured, criminal law and the criminal courts, crime prevention and control, police structure and operations, the processing and punishment of offenders, and the future of the criminal justice system.

This section of the course will be delivered entirely online, and students will be expected to actively participate in the Discussion Board activities for all classes, as scheduled in the Course Outline. For each online class, the lecture or discussion questions will be posted in a discussion forum on Blackboard, and students will be required to participate in all of the online group discussions. The group discussion sessions posted for each week will remain open for that entire week to allow students to have greater flexibility in participating in the group discussions. Discussions from a previous week will not be available to students for participation for grading purposes. All assignments for this course will be submitted online.
INSTRUCTOR OBJECTIVES

- The establishment of a learning environment where students are empowered to expand their intellectual horizons, and where each student feels like a valued member of the class
- The achievement of a positive learning experience for all students
- The successful completion of the course for all students who truly desire to learn.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

The course will help students to understand the various elements of the American criminal justice system as well as the theoretical perspectives that guide the operations of the police services, the courts and the correctional services.

Learning Expectations

Throughout the duration of the course, students will be expected to:

- Develop an understanding of the key elements of the criminal justice system;
- Explore various concepts of criminal justice;
- Learn techniques that will help to examine the assumptions, beliefs and biases that are embedded in the criminal justice system;
- Develop a basic understanding of the operations of the criminal justice system;
- Understand how the lives of individuals may be impacted by their criminal justice system;
- Develop knowledge about a range of topical issues that are relevant to a wide cross-section of criminal justice professionals;
- Become familiar with the wide range of employment opportunities that can be found in the field of criminal justice.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental concepts and terminologies related to criminal justice;
2. Have a basic understanding of all aspects of the American criminal justice system, including major sources of crime data, past and current crime trends, the relationship between the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and the components of the criminal justice system;
3. Explain the goals of punishment and how the American Criminal Justice System punishes criminal offenders;
4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the administration of justice in the United States with an emphasis on understanding how racial, ethnic, and gender inequality affect the administration of justice in the United States.
5. Translate the knowledge gleaned from this course into a meaningful basis for future explorations in this area of academic or professional enquiry.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY AND EVALUATION

This first-year course will consist primarily of lectures and will encourage peer exchange through our online group discussions in an effort to help students learn through active participation. Students are expected to complete all reading and writing assignments by the dates specified in the Course Outline, and are responsible for all assigned material, whether or not discussed in the lecture notes. Students will be required to read the assigned texts since they will be expected to discuss concepts and answer questions that demonstrate their understanding of the material covered. The course material for each week will be available to students on the Monday of that week, and discussion forums for each week will remain open until 6pm on Fridays.

Evaluation Summary: Final semester grades will be awarded based on the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mid semester exam  20%
Online Discussion    20%
Final exam            20%
Total                 100%

**Individual Journal**: Students will be required to provide their individual perspectives on two thematic issues discussed in this course. A topic extracted from the readings will be assigned by the course director and each student will be required to write a short (1-2 pages) commentary on the ideas presented. This provides an opportunity for individual commentary and feedback outside the weekly class discussions. The journals are each worth 10% for a combined total of 20% of the final grade and will be due during Week 5 (February 17-21) and Week 13 (April 20-24), 2020.

**Quizzes**: Each student will be required to write two quizzes, which will be completed online. Each quiz will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and will be worth 10% for a total of 20% of the final grade. The quizzes will be due during Week 3 (February 3-7) and Week 9 (March 23-27), 2020.

**Seminar Discussion Forum**: Students will be required to participate in all of the online group discussions that are designed to foster learning through peer exchange. Twenty percent (20%) of the final grade will be awarded for participation in the Discussion Board activities. To achieve the maximum points, students must participate in each seminar discussion by raising relevant issues, responding to questions and generally contributing to the sharing of knowledge on topics covered. A maximum of 2 points will be awarded for participation in each online session, not including the introductory session which is mandatory for all students. The top ten participation scores will be used to calculate the final participation grade. Students who do not participate in a discussion will not earn participation marks for that session. Students who only respond to the discussion questions and do not respond to the comments posted by other students may earn up to 1 point. Students who answer the discussion questions and respond to at least two other students may earn up to 1.5 points. Students who answer the questions and respond to 3 or more students may earn up to 2 points. Participation grades will be improved by the number of days that students participate in each discussion forum. In other words, students who post their comments and respond to other students over the course of several days, will earn better grades than students who participate on just a single day.

**Mid Semester test**: Students will be required to write a midterm test for this course. This will be scheduled during week 7 as an online test on March 3, 2020, and will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice type questions. The test will account for 20% of the final grade.

**Final test**: Students will be required to write a final test for this course. This will be scheduled during the final examination week (May 12) as an online exam and will be a combination of short answer and multiple-choice type questions. The test will account for 20% of the final grade.

**ACCESS, NAVIGATION, AND TECHNOLOGY**
Since this is an online class all the content will be accessed online through Blackboard. You must be familiar with the Blackboard program and must know how to navigate it. If you are not, please contact IT help for students at this address: http://it.tamucc.edu/... To ensure your computer runs properly in Blackboard on either PC or MAC it is recommended that you to perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of this course. Carefully read TAMUCC Blackboard technical requirements here: https://iol.tamucc.edu/bb_resources_students.html.

Instructors are unable to provide technical support so please ensure that you are able to access the course content and contact IT if you need help. If you have any technical problems or need technical support using Blackboard, contact the IT helpdesk. Information is located in the above web address.

Once on Blackboard, students can access course information by clicking on the ‘Course Content’ icon of the course and then opening the weekly content area identified as ‘Week 1’, ‘Week 2,’ etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule listed at the end of this syllabus). Each unit/week will contain the material needed to work on the written
assignments and quizzes. **Students are reminded that presentations on the weekly course material will be available to students on the Monday of that week, and discussion forums for each week will remain open until 6pm on Fridays.**

An Introduction folder will also be provided under the Content tab with additional details on specific assignments and the assigned readings that are not taken from the textbook. Students will also receive regular updates through the Announcement function on Blackboard.

**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS/INFORMATION**

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to be familiar with the TAMUCC's policy on Academic Honesty, and should review the definitions of academic dishonesty and the judicial procedure associated with such allegations at [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. 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.

**Virtual 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 drop the class.

**Blackboard**

Students are reminded that Blackboard will be utilized for some of the instructional material and assignments for this course. An electronic copy of the syllabus, and lecture notes (where available), may also be uploaded to the course website. Blackboard will also be used to post individual grades on tests and assignments.

**Statement of Civility:**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide students with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. Students are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. Each student is expected to behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Should behavioral disruptions interfere with the business of this online class 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](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf).

**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. **April 10, 2020** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.

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. Students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

HEOA Compliance Statement:
HEOA Compliance statement: The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html.

E-mail Accounts:
The College of Liberal Arts communicates through emails via Blackboard and the Islander’s web service. You can set up your accounts to be forwarded to your personal email account. A TAMUCC email account is the only account our main office uses to initiate contact with students. These emails include information about cancellation of classes or an event, student activities and general information. Your student account also is part of the Blackboard communication system and may be the best way for your instructor to get in touch with you if necessary. Be sure you have your account set up!

Grade Appeal Process:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. 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. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
Week 1 - 01/21-01/24  Introduction - Course Overview and Concept Definition
Understanding the Criminal Justice System
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 1

Week 2 – 01/27-01/31  Crime and Crime Causation
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 2

Week 3 – 02/03-02/07  Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 3

Week 4 – 02/10-02/14  The Police
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 4

Week 5 – 02/17-02/21  Policing: Contemporary Issues and Challenges
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 5

Week 6 – 02/24-02/28  Police and the Law
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 6

Week 7 – 03/02-03/06  Courts and Adjudication
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 7

SPRING BREAK  March 9 -13: NO CLASSES

Week 8 - 03/16-03/20  Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining and the Criminal Trial
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 8

Week 9 – 03/23-03/27  Punishment and Sentencing
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 9

Week 10 – 03/30–04/03  Juvenile Justice
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 15

Week 11 – 04/06-04/10  Corrections
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 10

Week 12 – 04/13-04/17  Incarceration and Prison Society
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 11

Week 13 – 04/20-04/24  Probation and Intermediate Sanctions
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 12

Week 14 – 04/27-05/01  Re-entry into the Community
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 13

Week 15 – 05/04-05/06  Technology and Criminal Justice (Last day of classes May 6)
Cole & Dejong: Chapter 14

Week 16 – 05/11-05/15  Final Exam on May 12