



South Plains College

"SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE"

Introduction to Criminal Justice CRIJ 1301

Instructor Contact and Office Hours

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10:00 am – 11:20 am

Introduction to Criminal Justice Syllabus

Department: Professional Services and Energy

CRU 1301 Course Description: This course is an overview of the criminal justice system and the problems it confronts. It covers the workings of law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system, as well as juvenile justice. It reviews what constitutes crime, how crime is measured and the theories used to explain crime. Additionally, this course looks to the future and outlines some of the pressing issues that continue to challenge crime control in a democratic society.

CRU 1301 satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Introduction to Criminal Justice satisfies the Core Curriculum objectives.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills** – to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Teamwork** – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- be able to describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become
- be able to discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control,
- be able to describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
- be able to discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
- understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are related.
- understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

Introduction to Criminal Justice – Class Policies

Required Materials for Class

Textbook: Gaines, Larry K. Jiller, Roger L. *Criminal Justice in Action*. 10th Edition. Cengage Publishing.

Materials: Highlighters, pens, pencils, notepad for taking notes

Technology Requirements:

1. SPC username and password
2. SPC email address
3. Regular access to a computer
4. Regular access to reliable internet service Free Access to Microsoft Word Office 365 (southplainscollege.edu)

Grades and Assessment of Work in Class

Grades are determined by the following scale:

900-1000 points = A

800-899 points = B

700-799 points = C

600-699 points = D

599 and below = F

Formative Assessments consisting of quizzes, video discussion, journals and other assignments as assigned	500 points
Summative Assessments consisting of 3 major Exams and a Final Exam	400 points
1 – Final essay/paper	100 points
Total	1000 points

**I reserve the right to make changes in grade calculation policies at my discretion*

The grades you receive on your assignments, quizzes, homework, digital work, drafts, revisions, papers, and exam are indicators of your progress toward mastering the course objectives. Student grades will be posted in the Blackboard gradebook. *It is each student's responsibility to continually monitor their academic progress.*

General Assignment Information

- **Writing assignments:** Your writing assignments will consist of essays, journals or discussion board of various topics, lengths, and styles. You will receive a set of specific instructions for each writing assignment. You are expected to turn in every part of an assignment according to the dates listed on the course outline and announced in class.
- **Digital homework (weekly):** Every week, you will have assignments to complete in Blackboard. These may include discussion in the discussion board in Blackboard, quizzes or other assignments as assigned by the instructor. Digital homework cannot be made up if missed, unless the instructor grants permission (e.g., due to an unforeseen circumstance):
 - Having technical difficulties is not an excuse for missing homework.
 - It is ***YOUR responsibility to locate a working computer and an internet connection. It is suggested that you use a computer and not a cell phone to complete assignments. It is the students responsibility to file tech support tickets, and/or contact tech support*** to report a problem with Blackboard.
 - **If you are having issues with Blackboard, please email me to let me know, then contact** Blackboard Technical Support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or (806) 716-2180.
- **Reading Quizzes:** you will have reading quizzes covering the required reading material. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the material reviewed in class and read about in the chapters. You will have the opportunity to take each quiz multiple times. Your final submission will be counted as your grade. All quizzes are taken in Blackboard and are timed. Quizzes cannot be made up if missed.
- **Major Exams:** you will have three major exams, which will cover the concepts learned up until that point. Exams will be conducted in person via Blackboard at the discretion of the instructor. During in person exam, everything you brought to class that day will be kept out of sight the entire time. This includes all electronic devices, notebooks, backpacks, textbooks, etc.

Classroom Policies, Assignment Policies, and Due Dates

Assignment Deadlines and Requirements

1. Students are expected to submit college level work on time, on the date on which the assignment is due. No late work will be accepted in the class. Please plan your time accordingly!
2. All work is expected to contain professional and appropriate language, correct grammar, correct spelling and complete sentences.
3. All writing assignments must be in the APA format (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html), unless otherwise noted.
4. Writing assignments are to be submitted in WORD format. Each student at South Plains College is given a Microsoft 365 account and it should be used for assignments. Assignments will be submitted via Blackboard per the assignment directions. Do not send assignments to the instructor's email unless

specifically instructed to do so. If you do not understand the method of submission, speak with the instructor for further clarification.

5. All essays will be submitted through the instructor email tap in Blackboard.
6. ***It is only at the instructor's discretion that a due date may be amended or extended.*** After that, a grade of 0 will be given for additional missed assignments. The student is given plenty of time to complete each assignment. Failure to manage your time or waiting until the last minute is not an “unforeseen circumstance” that warrants an extension the original due date.

Attendance:

Cellphone/Laptop/table Usage in Class:

Disruptive Behavior:

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, digital homework, exams, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations, and citing them; or
3. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Two or more students turning in an assignment with the same answers:
2. Obtaining an exam by stealing or collusion.
3. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given.
4. Using an unauthorized source of information
5. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

Student Responsibilities

As a student, you are responsible for:

1. The learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussion, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment;
2. Having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory threatening or profane rhetoric whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments;
3. Have a respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning;
4. Courteous actions to others,
5. Consistently monitoring grades and academic progress in the course (in the gradebook in Blackboard);
6. Avoiding all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration with others;
7. Asking questions (of the instructor) when something is unclear.

Institutional Policies

All institutional policies including statements for Academic integrity, plagiarism, campus carry title IX, disabilities, diversity, Covid 19, non-discrimination and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by faculty of the Professional Services and Energy /Department at South Plains College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for South Plains College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives. However, instructors also are encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus, is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Tentative Course Schedule – CRU 1301

******Please note: I reserve the right to change this tentative schedule. If a change is made, it will be announced in class, and updated schedules will be made available on Blackboard******

This is not a schedule of weekly homework assignments!

This is a tentative schedule of the topics and textbook chapters to be covered weekly.

Week	Topic
1 - August 14	Introduction to class – Syllabus; Introduction to Discussion <i>Chapter 1 – Criminal Justice Today</i> Discussion #1 - Introductions
2 - August 18-22	<i>Chapter 1 Criminal Justice Today cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch. 1 – due MindTap Video Case File Ch. 1 due Discussion #1 Due
3 - August 25-29	High School Retreat
4 - September 2-5	<i>Chapter 2 – Causes of Crime</i> Reading
5 - September 8-12	<i>Chapter 2 – Causes of Crime cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 2 due MindTap Video Case File Ch 2 due
6 - September 15-19	<i>Chapter 3 – The Crime Picture: offenders and victims</i> Reading
7 - September 22-26	<i>Chapter 3 – The Crime Picture: offenders and victims cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 3 due MindTap Video Case File Ch 3 due Test #1 – Chapters 1, 2 and 3
8 - September 29-October 3	<i>Chapter 5 – Law Enforcement Today</i> Reading Discussion #2
9 - October 6-10	<i>Chapter 5 – Law Enforcement Today cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 5 due MindTap Video Case File Ch 5 due Discussion #2 Due
10 - October 13-17	<i>Chapter 9 – Pretrial Procedures: the adversary system in action</i> Reading
11 - October 20-24	<i>Chapter 9 – Pretrial Procedures: The adversary system in action cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 9 due MindTap Video Case File Ch 9 due
12 - October 27-31	<i>Chapter 11 – Punishment and Sentencing</i> Reading Discussion #3
13 - November 3-7	<i>Chapter 11 – Punishment and Sentencing cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 11 MindTap Video Case File Ch. 11 due Test #2 – Chapters 5,9 and 11 Discussion #3 Due
14 - November 24-28	Thanksgiving
15 - December 1-5	<i>Chapter 16 – Today's Challenges: Security vs Liberty, Cyber and White-collar crime</i> Review Discussion #4
16 - December 8-12	<i>Chapter 16 Today's challenges: security vs Liberty, Cyber and White-Collar Crime cont'd</i> MindTap Quiz/Review Ch 16 due MindTap Video Case File Ch 16 due Test 33 – Chapter 16 Discussion #4 due
17 – December 15-19	Review for Comprehensive Final Exam