

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CRIJ 1301 (3:3:0)**

## **INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology**

**Department of Professional Services & Energy**

**SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**

**Levelland & Reese Campuses**

**Fall 2017**

**Campus:**   X   Levelland, Texas Internet Course

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**COURSE TITLE: CRIJ 1301 INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
(CIP Code 43.0107)

**INSTRUCTOR:** SPC Law Enforcement Staff: LANCE SCOTT

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**VISION: SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE**

## I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

### A. 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.

## B. OBJECTIVES

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

## C. TEXT AND READINGS

Required: Criminal Justice in Action – 9<sup>th</sup> Edition; Authors: Gaines and Miller;

Publisher: Cengage Learning

ISBN-10: 1-305-63375-X

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-63375-9

## II. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of specific elements listed in objective required in this course. Any motor skill competency will meet minimum course evaluations and receive a Pass/Fail grade.
- B. Academic Integrity: It is the goal of the SPC Law Enforcement faculty to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity in education and training endeavors. It is a serious offense for any student to presents as his or her own work that he or she has not honestly performed; such action renders the offender liable to serious consequences that may include suspension from the academy. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism. (See “Academic Integrity” as well as “Student Conduct” sections in the college catalog.) In some instances, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS Competencies C-9 through C-14. If any student has a question as to whether he or she may work with other students on any assignments, SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE INSTRUCTOR to ascertain whether or not the student is in compliance with course guidelines.
- C. Attendance Policy: The South Plains College attendance policy is stated in the General Catalog. Punctual and regular attendance in class is required of all law enforcement students. Each student is responsible for all class work covered while she or he was not in class. At the discretion of the instructor, a student may complete make-up work assignments for unavoidable absences. An instructor may use discretion to administer an “X” or “F” grade when a student has excessive absences. Students will be dropped from the course if five (5) days of class are missed or if the student misses four consecutive classes days. In the event a student is not able to complete course work, she or he is expected to take initiative to initiate a student withdrawal notice that results in grade of “W” when completed before the last college “drop date.” All students must complete or remain in compliance with SPC requirements.
- D. Assignment Policy: All required work must be turned in “on-time” in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD

ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the make-up work is acceptable.

E. ADA Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

- F. Diversity Statement: Instructors in the program will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourage engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. Promoting diversity and intellectual exchange will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be so that each person may live in harmony with others.

III. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

Grading Policy/Procedures/or Other Methods of Evaluation: An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the class.

	TOTAL	
*3 Major Exams @ 100 points each =	300	points
Assignments and Participation/Discussions	600	points
***Final Examination.....	100	points

Total Points Possible.....1000 points

\*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

\*\* MindTap Assignments are completed using Cengage MindTap. Students will need to purchase digital access to complete the assignments.

\*\*\* Final Examination is required for all students.

**GRADING GUIDELINE:**

Total Points Accumulated	=	Grade Earned
900 to 1000 points	=	A
800 to 899 points	=	B
700 to 799 points	=	C
600 to 699 points	=	D
599 or fewer	=	F

IV. Course Learning Outcomes: Topics covered in the assigned courses will afford students opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the following:

**TOPICS OF STUDY**

<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Required Reading</u></b>
Criminal Justice Today	Chapter 1
Causes of Crime	Chapter 2
The Crime Picture: Offenders and Victims	Chapter 3
Inside Criminal Law	Chapter 4
Law Enforcement Today	Chapter 5
Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing	Chapter 6
Police and the Constitution: The Rules of Law Enforcement	Chapter 7
Courts and the Quest for Justice	Chapter 8
Pretrial Procedures: The Adversary System in Action	Chapter 9
The Criminal Trial	Chapter 10
Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 11
Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions	Chapter 12
Prisons and Jails	Chapter 13
The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry	Chapter 14
The Juvenile Justice System	Chapter 15
Today's Challenges	Chapter 16