

CRIJ 1301 – Introduction to Criminal Justice

Fall 2023

University of Texas at Tyler

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00am-12:00pm by appointment (in person or Zoom)

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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 and how crime is measured. Additionally, this course looks to the future and outlines some of the pressing issues that continue to challenge crime control in a democratic society.

Course Objectives: At the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- 1) Describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become.
- 2) Discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control.
- 3) Describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
- 4) Discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
- 5) Understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are related.
- 6) Understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

Course Materials:

- 1) Fuller, J.R. (2018). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Brief Edition*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190298173 **(REQUIRED)**.
- 2) A reliable Internet connection so you can access the class content and materials at the course website found at www.uttyler.edu/canvas.

Course Policies

COVID Policies: It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your

faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult existing campus resources for support.

Class Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner, both in their interactions with other students and with the professor. This class is an exercise in professionalism in the workplace. As you are preparing to enter into the workforce (you may even be there already), it is important that you treat this class as though it were your job. Late work and poor attitudes are not acceptable in this class or any other. Please be respectful of others' opinions and experiences, and do not be aggressive or combative over the topics being discussed in the course.

Course Grade: Your course grade for the semester is dependent on the work that you put into the class. I do not give grades, you earn grades. Also, I do not provide a curve or offer extra credit at the end of the semester. **Please do not ask for extra points at the end of the semester that would boost you to the next letter grade – they will not be given.**

This semester will be broken up into five units. You will be responsible for the assigned readings. I wouldn't recommend missing class as there is always some information you will only receive during lecture.

Course Exams and Assignments

Final Exam: This semester you will have a final exam that will test your knowledge and ability to apply the concepts learned in class. The final exam will be held the week of finals. The exam will be worth 50 points toward your final grade. Be sure to read the book and learn to apply in-class concepts to various scenarios. This includes learning key words and ideas and being able to apply them.

Tests: There will be 4 tests given throughout the semester. Each test will consist of 25 multiple choice/true-false questions derived from the text, and 2 short answer questions. These tests will be given in class, and will occur after each unit.

Online Reading Quizzes: Each reading quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice/true-false questions derived from the text. This will assess how well you are reading the chapters and digesting the information. Reading quizzes will be worth 10 points per quiz and cannot be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances. There is one reading quiz for every chapter covered this semester, and will occur on a weekly basis. There will be 3 attempts for each quiz, and the highest score will be recorded in the gradebook.

Online Activities: Each module you will be required to complete an online activity that corresponds with the materials presented in lecture for the module. You will be provided with instructions for each activity, and they will differ based on what is required for the module. Each activity, no matter the assignment, will be worth 25 points toward your final grade. Please refer to the course schedule to see the format in which these activities will take place.

In-Class Activities: Each week, aside from the weeks where you have an online activity or test, you will be required to complete an in-class activity that corresponds with the materials presented in lecture for the module. You will be provided with instructions for each activity on the day of the activity. Each in-class activity will be worth 10 points each.

Grading Scale:

Your grade will consist of points awarded to the successful completion of the following components:

- Syllabus quiz 20 points
- Plagiarism tutorial 25 points
- Tests (50 points each) 200 points
- Final Exam 50 points
- Online reading quizzes (10 points each) 140 points
- Online Module activities (25 points each) 125 points
- In Class activities (10 points each) 40 points

600 total points

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

Total Points	Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points
600 – 540	100 – 90%	A	4.0
539 – 480	89.9 – 80%	B	3.0
479 – 420	79.9 – 70%	C	2.0
419 – 360	69.9 – 60%	D	1.0
359 – below	59.9% and below	F	0.0

Additional Policies

Late Assignment Policy

As a general rule, I do not accept late assignments. I never spring any last-minute assignments on you – from the first day of class, you will know what is due and when it is due to me. It is up to you to plan accordingly as you have ample time to complete these assignments. If you do not turn in your assignments on time, it is a zero in the gradebook and I will not grade the assignment. If you have a documented excuse (death in the family, illness, car accident, etc...), you must inform me of your situation within 2 days of the missed assignment and it is mandatory for you to provide documentation to me in order to be eligible for a make-up. Please note that having to work is not an excused absence. While I am sympathetic and understanding to your work schedule, you have made a choice to enroll in this class and it must be considered a priority. First responders and military personnel will receive exemptions from the work policy in this class on an individual basis.

Email Policy

I like to keep open lanes of communication between students and myself. If you need to ask any questions or discuss anything class related, please do not hesitate to email through Canvas.

Please include CRIJ 1301 in the subject line so I know that it is class related. While you may email me through Canvas, please do not leave comments in the assignments themselves. I do not go back and check for those. My preferred method of contact is through Canvas, please try that first.

You are responsible for checking your email daily. I frequently email students individually or as a group – if I send you an email, I assume that you have read it and are informed with the message. It is a pet peeve of mine when students do not check their email – I will not hound you trying to get you to reply to my emails. At most, I will send you two emails and if I do not have a response in a reasonable amount of time then I will assume you have chosen not to reply to me, and I will act accordingly.

Instructor Expectations

Just as I have certain expectations of you, you should have certain expectations of me. I will be available by appointment and if I am unavailable, you will be notified. If you email me, you will receive a response within 48 hours during the business week and business hours. Email responses during late hours and the weekend are not a guarantee, so last-minute questions for assignments may not receive answers if they are sent during those times. As for grading, you will receive feedback on all assignments. Please do not email within a day or two of the assignment submission looking for a graded assignment. If there is a technological issue, please get in touch with the university IT department. I am unable to fix Canvas issues that are system based.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

University Policies and Information

Please see the section on **University Policies and Information** in Canvas for all relevant university policies, information, and student rights and responsibilities.

Fall 2023 Semester Schedule

	Date	Topic	Due
Module 1	8/21 – 8/27	Syllabus Chapter 1: Introduction to the Course	Online Syllabus Quiz Online Plagiarism Tutorial Chapter 1 Online Reading Quiz
Module 2	8/28– 9/3	Chapter 2: How Crime is Measured	Chapter 2 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity #1
Module 3	9/4 – 9/10	Chapter 3: Criminal Law	Chapter 3 Online Reading Quiz Test #1
Module 4	9/11 – 9/17	Chapter 4: History of Law Enforcement	Chapter 4 Online Reading Quiz Online Activity #1
Module 5	9/18 – 9/24	Chapter 5: Police Organization	Chapter 5 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity #2
Module 6	9/25 – 10/1	Chapter 6: Policing Innovations	Chapter 6 Online Reading Quiz Test #2

Module 7	10/2 – 10/8	Chapter 7: Courts	Chapter 7 Online Reading Quiz Online Activity #2
Module 8	10/9 – 10/15	Chapter 8: Courtroom Work Group	Chapter 8 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity #3
Module 9	10/16 – 10/22	Chapter 9: The Disposition	Chapter 9 Online Reading Quiz Test #3
Module 10	10/23 – 10/29	Chapter 10: History on Control and Punishment	Chapter 10 Online Reading Quiz Online Activity #3
Module 11	10/30 – 11/5	Chapter 11: Prisons and Jails	Chapter 11 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity #4
Module 12	11/6 – 11/12	Chapter 12: Community Corrections	Chapter 12 Online Reading Quiz Test #4
Module 13	11/13 – 11/19	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13 Online Reading Quiz Online Activity #4
Module 14	11/27 – 12/3	Chapter 14: Criminal Justice in the Future	Chapter 14 Online Reading Quiz Online Activity #5

Module 15	12/4 – 12/9	Finals Week!	Final Exam
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* Please note that this course schedule is tentative and could change at the discretion of the professor. If changes do occur, you will be notified and an updated version of the syllabus will be uploaded to Canvas.