

CRIJ-1301.001, Introduction to Criminal Justice

The University of Texas at Tyler
Fall, 2024 | 3 Semester Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Michael Ferguson

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Office location: CAS 134

Office hours: MWF 9:20a-10:00a; T/Th 1p-1:45p; or by appointment

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

8:00a-8:55a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

08/26/2024 - 12/14/2024

Ratliff Building South, room 1031

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. *Design* policy recommendations based on crime trend data (Critical Thinking)
2. *Design* written arguments that use high-quality and credible sources to support your opinion (Written Communication)
3. *Construct* tables, graphs, and other visuals to explain crime trends (Quantitative Reasoning)
4. *Evaluate* criminal justice practices in the United States from the perspective of diverse international cultures (Social Responsibility)
5. *Describe* the history, philosophy, and structure of the American criminal justice system
6. *Explain* the nature and extent of crime in America
7. *Compare* American criminal justice practices with those of global partners
8. *Assess* criminal justice policy developments and their applications
9. *Communicate* empirical findings from criminal justice policy research to appropriate laypersons

Objectives one, two, three, and four are tied to the UT-Tyler Core Curriculum. For more information about the University's core requirements, see the UT-Tyler Catalog.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Fuller, J. R. (2021). *Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Brief Edition - With Access* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press, USA.

ISBN10: 0197504043 | ISBN 13: 9780197504048

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- Documents: .docx, .doc, .pages, or.pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- Presentations / graphs: .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. **Attendance in this class is mandatory.** University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topics at hand. As such, attendance at lecture will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of criminal justice. Additionally, attendance will improve your quiz, project, and final exam grades. You will be allowed one unexcused absence. ***Your attendance in class counts as a quiz grade; each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade.***

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quizzes, assignments, or tests will translate into a score of zero. There will be no extra credit or extensions to complete a quizzes, assignments, or tests.

1. **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate:** You must complete the free, online [anti-plagiarism course](#) from the School of Education at Indiana University - Bloomington. Upon completion of the IU course, you must earn at least 90% on the course's exam and upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. **This certificate is worth 5% of your grade.**
2. **Quizzes:** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action during each end-of-module laboratory activity. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete a short quiz each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quizzes are timed. You may take each quiz two times; your highest score earned will count towards your class average. Note that your attendance counts as a quiz grade. **Quizzes are worth 35% of your grade.**
3. **Online Activities:** Your textbook consists of five units. You will complete an online activity at the end of four of the five that synthesizes the course material into a cohesive project, activity, or writing assignment. **These activities are worth 35% of your grade.**
4. **Final Exam:** The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. **Your final exam is worth 30% of your grade.**

ONLINE ACTIVITIES DETAILS

Below are the learning objectives for each online activity. More detailed instructions, including grading rubrics, are provided to you on the respective assignment page in Canvas.

1. **Crime Trends Infographic.** During this activity, you will:
 - A. Interpret crime trend data from official data sources
 - B. Construct tables, graphs, and other visual aids to explain crime trends
 - C. Design an infographic that summarizes crime trend data for policymakers
 - D. Design a policy recommendation based on crime trend data
2. **A Day in the Life of a Cop.** During this activity, you will:
 - A. Summarize normal duties for law enforcement officers in the United States
 - B. Appraise law enforcement duties to determine risk level
 - C. Design a poster that depicts the work life of a typical law enforcement officer
3. **Perspectives on the Death Penalty.** During this activity, you will:
 - A. Research the history and application of death penalty in the United States
 - B. Summarize death penalty sentencing and historical practices in the United States
 - C. Using the perspective of a person who either supports or does not support the death penalty (your choice; I don't care which you choose!), create and submit a written critique of capital punishment in the United States. Support your written analysis with high-quality and credible sources from your research
4. **Juvenile Justice Timeline.** During this activity, you will:
 - A. Locate relevant Supreme Court of the United States ("SCOTUS") rulings and organize those decisions chronologically
 - B. Read and interpret the rulings of the chosen SCOTUS cases relating to juvenile justice
 - C. Hypothesize the impact of those United States Supreme Court rulings on the structure and functioning of the juvenile justice system in the future

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Students who attend a National Night Out Block Party (the evening of Tuesday, 10/01/2024 in your neighborhood) and who submit to the instructor photographic proof of such will earn five extra points on the final exam grade. Note that for those who do not want to attend an NNO Block Party, attending an NNO Block Party is **not** required. Click [HERE](#) to see a short video about National Night Out.

CENSUS DATE

The census date for the Fall, 2024, semester is **September 9th**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript. For more information on withdrawing from classes, see [THIS SECTION](#) of the UTT Catalog.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal,

philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler’s Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler’s Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

COURSE SCHEDULE

This table contains the weekly schedule of activities for the course.

Week No.	Chapter	Topic(s)	Assignments
1	1	Crime and Criminal Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and review Course Syllabus 2. Anti-Plagiarism Certificate due by Sunday at 11:59p. You must score $\geq 90\%$ on the APC exam and upload your certificate to earn credit for this assignment.
2	2	How Crime is Measured and Whom it Affects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NO CLASS ON MONDAY – University closed for the Labor Day holiday 2. Chapters One and Two Quizzes due by Sunday at 11:59p
3	3	Criminal Law	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p 2. Crime Trends Infographic due by Sunday at 11:59p
4	4	The History and Organization of Law Enforcement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
5	5	Police Organization, Operation, and the Law	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p

6	6	Policing: Innovations and Controversies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p "A Day in the Life of a Cop" project due by Sunday at 11:59p
7	7	The Courts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
8	8	The Courtroom Workgroup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
9	9	The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, and Sentencing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
10	10	A Brief History of Prisons and the Death Penalty in the United States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
11	11	Prisons and Jails	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p "Perspectives on the Death Penalty" project due by Sunday at 11:59p. Papers must be properly formatted in APA7 style. If you're not familiar with APA7, or if you need a refresher, the American Psychological Association has a fantastic (free!) resource HERE.
12	12	Community Corrections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
13	13	Juvenile Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
14	N/A	Thanksgiving Break	No class -- enjoy your holiday!
15	14	Criminal Justice in the Future: Issues and Concerns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p Juvenile Justice Timeline project due by Sunday at 11:59p
16		Final Exam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam (comprehensive)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COURSE MATERIAL

The material presented in this class covers concepts from the mundane to the contentious. It is imperative that all participants understand the importance of keeping discussions civil and appropriate. We will not have a class where individuals are belittled or berated because of a particular opinion on a topic. Ad hominem attacks are the refuge of those who are unable to discuss a position in a scholarly manner. Remember former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's take on this issue: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." One of my favorite quotes on this topic is from [Larry Winget](#). He wrote,

To College Students: You don't need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego. You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking. You need ideas that will offend you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad. This is necessary for growth and learning. So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up.

I'm not asking you to agree with one another; I'm asking you to be civil, thoughtful, and willing to listen. One of the primary ways you learn during your university education is by being exposed to multiple points of view and ideas other than your own. I encourage a spirited, lively, and scholarly discussion of the myriad topics we'll cover. I believe that groupthink is a horrible thing, so I encourage you to research the topic and present your ideas. Don't agree with others simply because it's the easy thing to do. Be yourself and be willing to stand up for your beliefs. Having written the paragraphs above, though, I need to make sure you understand something very important: if you make an assertion of fact, you need to check your source of information and be able to cite the source(s). [Just because something is on the Internet doesn't mean it's true](#). Where did you find your information? Is it a valid, scholarly source? Did the author have a political or personal agenda? Did he or she play fast and loose with the facts? In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "trust, but verify!"

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)