

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Instructor: Michael Ferguson
- UTT email: mferguson@uttyler.edu
- Office telephone: 903.730.3927
- Office location: CAS 134
- Office hours: MWF 9:20a-10:00a; T/Th 1p-1:45p; or by appointment

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

CRIJ-1301, Introduction to Criminal Justice. 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 RATIONALE

This course analyzes the basic structure, functions, and relationships of the components of the criminal justice system (i.e., police, courts, corrections). Current issues in criminal justice are emphasized.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:10AM to 11:05AM
- 01/13/2025 - 05/03/2025
- WT Brookshire Hall, Room 136

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

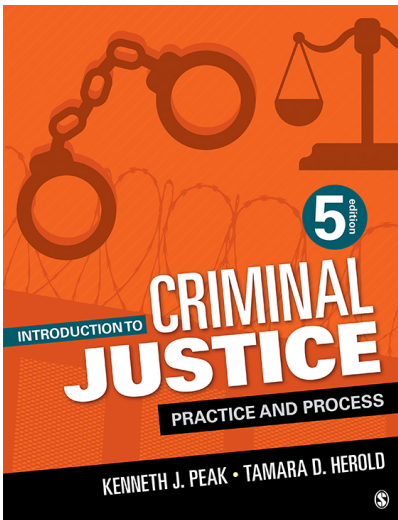
Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Design policy recommendations based on crime trend data (*Core Curriculum: Critical Thinking*)
2. Design written arguments that use high-quality and credible sources to support your opinion (*Core Curriculum: Written Communication*)
3. Construct tables, graphs, and other visuals to explain crime trends (*Core Curriculum: Quantitative Reasoning*)
4. Evaluate criminal justice practices in the United States from the perspective of diverse international cultures (*Core Curriculum: Social Responsibility*)
5. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.
6. Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.
7. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.
8. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
9. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.

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.

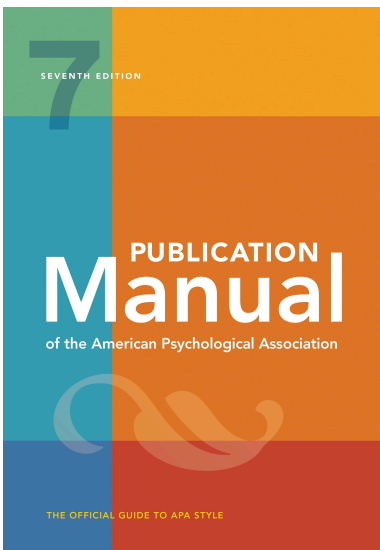
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Peak, K.J. & Herold, T.D. (2024). *Introduction to criminal justice: Practice and process* (5th ed.). Sage Publishing. ISBN: 9781071848982



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. Your grades and some assignments will be handled through Canvas. **Students are also required to bring with them to class a #2 pencil for use on SCANTRON forms.**

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 grades. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. **Each unexcused absence above the two "freebies" permitted will lower your final course grade by one point.** Because this is a traditional, face-to-face course, you may **not** attend via Zoom. You must be **physically** present in order to get credit.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- **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.
- **Quizzes:** A large portion of your grade (30%) will be based on quiz scores. You have two types of quizzes over the semester: "pop" quizzes given in class and longer, more detailed chapter quizzes given via Canvas. The in-class quizzes will be given via SCANTRON and you're not permitted to use your book or your notes. The longer, chapter quizzes on Canvas are more in-depth, so you are permitted to use your book, your notes, any handouts, etc.
- **Unit Exams:** You will have three major exams. The exams will come at the end of each unit and will be given via SCANTRON in class. You are not permitted to use your book or your notes on these exams. Unit exams make up 30% of your overall grade.
- **Assignments:** You will have several assignments (e.g., a case brief over Mapp v Ohio) this semester. These assignments are to be submitted via Canvas. These assignments make up 20% of your overall grade. Any written assignment will be checked via Turnitin to ensure there has been no plagiarism.
- **Final Exam:** You will have a comprehensive final exam at the end of class. The final exam will be given via SCANTRON and will be completed in the classroom. You are not permitted to use your book or your notes on the final. The final makes up 15% of your overall grade.

Policy on Late Work or Missed Quizzes/Exams

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests must be completed on the listed due date; missing quizzes, assignments, or tests will translate into a score of zero for that particular assignment. Barring any significant extenuating circumstances (e.g., a giant snow storm that closes down campus), there will be no makeups given for missed work or quizzes/exams. PLEASE submit your work on time.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This 15-week, one-semester course is divided into four distinct sections. Each section covers a different aspect of the CJ system. The final exam is comprehensive and, thus, will contain material from all four sections. The sections are:

1. Criminal Justice as a System: The Basics
 - Chapter One
 - Chapter Two
 - **EXAM ONE**
2. The Police
 - Chapter Five
 - Chapter Six
 - Chapter Seven
 - Chapter Eight
 - **EXAM TWO**
3. The Courts
 - Chapter Nine
 - Chapter 10
 - Chapter 11
 - **EXAM THREE**
4. Corrections
 - Chapter 12

- Chapter 13
- Chapter 14
- **FINAL EXAM**

University Policies and Information

Use the following link to review important university policies and information: [University Information](#)

Student Resources

Resources to assist you in this course: [Resources](#)