

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### POLITICAL SCIENCE 324: Criminal Law and Procedure FALL 2021 (3 semester hours)

#### Online Course

**Live Lecture: Wednesdays, 7:20 –10:00 PM**

**Instructor:** Noble Walker, Hunt County District Attorney  
**Office Hours:** Available for Consultation upon Request.  
**Office Phone:** (903) 408-4180 – Office Number  
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#### Required Text

Criminal Law and Procedure for the Paralegal A Systems Approach, Fourth Edition  
Author – McCord, McCord, Bailey  
ISBN: 9781435440166  
Publisher: Delmar Cengage Learning

#### Course Description

This course focuses on legal principles governing criminal law including culpability/mental state, defenses to criminal responsibility, punishments, offenses against person and property, offenses against public order and decency, offenses against public health safety and morals, organized crime, and drug offenses. Additionally, the course will focus on criminal procedure principles including courts and criminal jurisdiction, habeas corpus, venue, arrests with/without warrants, search warrants, 4<sup>th</sup> amendment search and seizure issues, bail, grand jury proceedings, and indictments/informations.

#### Course Objectives

To provide students a general overview of criminal law and procedure and to expose students to the role and ethical obligations of Judges, Courts, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Peace Officers. Students should be able to demonstrate comprehension/understanding of these areas through class room discussion, writing assignments, and test results. Students will also research criminal issues/cases to be presented by the instructor then draft office briefs/memos/pleadings concerning the same.

## **Attendance/Participation Policy**

You are expected to know how to navigate and use the D2L platform by utilizing the trainings made available to you by the University. You are expected to attend and participate in the online live lectures each week. Unless you experience technological difficulties, you are expected to use earphones and a microphone to participate in each of the live lectures.

In addition, you are required to participate in the discussion each week you have assigned readings. You must prepare for the discussion by reading ALL of the material assigned. Questions may be posted related to each topic the week readings are assigned. You must thoughtfully respond to any posted questions. Short posts unsupported by information in the readings may be given ZERO points.

## **Grading Policy**

**Lectures and Discussion:** This class will be taught using the Socratic Method as well as lecture. You may be called on at any time and are expected to be fully prepared to discuss the assigned reading material during the online discussions. This is a cumulative grade over the course of the semester.

**Assignments:** You are also responsible for completing the assignments listed in this syllabus. The assignments may be found within the chapters of the textbook and in handouts that I will provide to you.

All assignments must have a cover page indicating the following: your name, class, chapter, name of the assignment, and date the assignment is due. A deduction of 10 points will be assessed to all assignments turned in without a cover page. You will submit your assignments in the dropbox provided to you in the D2L platform and/or via email to the instructor.

All written work must be submitted before the deadline provided to you. All written work will be graded not only on content, but also on writing style, **including punctuation and grammar**. Written work turned in late will receive a deduction of 10 points for each day it is late.

**Exams:** The examinations will primarily consist of multiple choice, short answer questions and essay. Any collaboration with other students with regards to the substance of the exams will result in a failing grade.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Attendance/Participation	10 points
Assignments	30 points
Midterm Exam	30 points
Final Exam	<u>30 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

Grade Distribution is as follows:

A = 90-99

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

*(No extra credit work will be allowed)*

### **Classroom Etiquette**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) You are expected to exhibit respect for the instructor and fellow students at all times. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in removal from the online course. Please be respectful of others' opinions even if you do not agree with them. I look forward to reading a variety of thoughts and opinions and I want you to express yourselves, but please be respectful. Remember, all caps means you are yelling.

### **Disability Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University – Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone: (903)886-5150 or (903)886-5835**

**Fax: (903)468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

Texas A&M University - Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> (and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or call 9-1-1.

## **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling (903) 886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel).

## **Plagiarism Statement**

"Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

### **According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means**

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

### **But can words and ideas really be stolen?**

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

### **All of the following are considered plagiarism:**

- turning in someone else's work as your own

- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized.” ([www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org))

**If you plagiarize, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment in question. I also reserve the right to give you an F in the course. The matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts.**

***As Instructor, I reserve the right to amend, modify, or alter this syllabus as the situation may require.***

### Tentative Course Reading Assignments

#### Week 1

09/01            First Day of Class: Discuss syllabus, text book, course overview

#### Week 2

09/08            Chapter 1:      Foundation of Criminal Law

#### Week 3

09/15            Chapter 2:      Administration of Criminal Justice & Role of the Paralegal

#### Week 4

09/22            Chapter 3:      Components of a Crime

#### Week 5

09/29            Chapter 4:      Crimes Against Person and Habitation  
First Writing Assignment Due

#### Week 6

10/06            Chapter 5:      Crimes Against Property, Public Order, et al...

Week 7

10/13 Chapter 6: Inchoate and Organized Crimes  
Review for Midterm Exam

Week 8

10/20 **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

10/27 Chapter 7: Defenses

Week 10

11/03 Chapter 9: Search and Seizure, et al...  
Second Writing Assignment Due

Week 11

11/10 Chapter 10: Search and Seizure, Warrant Exceptions

Week 12

11/17 Chapter 11: Confessions and Pretrial ID Procedures

Week 13

11/24 NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Week 14

12/01 Chapter 13: Pretrial: Grand Jury, Pretrial Conference  
Third Writing Assignment Due

Week 15

12/08 Chapter 14 & 15: Trial: Rights, Procedure, Tasks and Sentencing, Punishment &  
Review – Review for Final Exam

12/15 **Final Exam**