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COURSE SYLLABUS

CJ 480-71E: Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice

Spring 2022

Instructor: Heath Oakley
Office Location: Bain Center
3200 W. 7th Ave., Corsicana, Texas 75110
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Phone: 903)875-7617
Cellular Phone: 903)654-9036
Email Address: heath.oakley@tamuc.edu
Class Location: Bain Center – Room 304
Class Time: 5:00PM – 7:29PM

Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Refer to the Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

Maguire, M., Okada, D., & Sardina, A. (Eds.). (2019). *Critical issues in crime and justice: Thought, policy, and practice*. (3rd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

Required Reading(s) and Activities:

Alexander, M. (2012). *The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. New York, NY: The New Press.

Supplement Reading(s):

Note: As supplemental readings or alternative readings are needed or utilized, the instructor will provide students with the material.

Course Description

This course will provide a review and discussion of significant current research and case studies in the criminal justice field. Students will also examine and apply methods of transferring theoretical perspectives, knowledge, and skills from academics, to the work environment. An overview of career opportunities, resume preparation, and job interviewing skills are also developed during this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1.) The student will learn how to synthesize knowledge of the criminal justice system.
- 2.) The student will understand important issues and concerns in criminal justice and how these issues/concerns impact each other.
- 3.) The student will improve their ability to communicate (oral and written) effectively.
- 4.) The student will take part in job preparation activities that will prepare them for a position/career in criminal justice or a related field.

Note: The student learning outcomes (SLOs) will be reviewed and refined, as needed, to reflect the materials presented.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

This course will provide a variety of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives for this course. Each week you will work toward achieving these outcomes through in-class discussions, lectures, assignments and exams.

A core competency of this course is critical thinking. There are numerous texts and articles that articulate and define critical thinking that students can locate and review to improve in this area. Critical thinking requires students to think through situations, facts, and issues with an open mind and in an objective way to analyze and evaluate information in an informed manner. Critical thinkers consider all points of view and carefully consider other's perspectives.

Student Responsibilities

This course is designed so that the majority of the material will be covered during the class meeting dates and times. Attendance is required. However, eCollege will also be utilized, and the course shell should mirror the face-to-face schedule. The grade book will be maintained on eCollege. It is recommended that you check your official university email daily. Please be sure to read and review the course outline/calendar for important due dates. Course deadlines are firm, and no late work will be accepted without prior approval.

The course is designed so that each week begins on Monday (12:00AM) and ends on Sunday (11:59PM), with the exception of the first and last week of the course.

Students are expected to have properly formatted papers/assignments. The format standard for this course is the American Psychological Association (APA) style format. To aid in properly formatting written work for this course students can purchase:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

...or students can review the online manual locate at:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Discussion Forums

No on-line (D2L Brightspace) discussions.

Assignments

Three assignments valued at 100 points each for a total of 300 points (30% of the overall grade) will be assigned in this course.

Capstone Assignment

You are required to write a capstone paper valued at 250 points (25% of the overall grade) for this course. A capstone paper is exactly what it sounds like. It is a paper that will encapsulate all that you have learned as a CJ major at Texas A&M University-Commerce. This paper should be approximately 10-12 pages in length with a hard minimum of 10 pages. Papers can be longer, but if you are approaching the 15-page mark, then you need to narrow the scope of your paper. The paper must be typed, double spaced in 12-point font. A title page with your name on it must be included. Full references must also be provided (APA Format) in your paper. The title page, reference page or abstract page will not be inclusive of the page count. This paper must adhere to APA format as it relates to citations.

Exams

This course will have two exams. The mid-term will be valued at 150 points (15% of the overall course grade). The final exam will be valued at 250 points (25% of the overall course grade).

The mid-term exam will cover the material (class lectures and assigned readings) from Week 1-7 in the course outline. The mid-term exam will be taken in-class.

The final exam will cover the material (class lectures and assigned readings) from Week 9-15 in the course outline. The final exam will be taken in-class.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

900-1000	points = A or 90%-100%
800-899	points = B or 80%-89%
700-799	points = C or 70%-79%
600-699	points = D or 60%-69%
0-599	points = F or 59% or Below

Assessments

3 Assignments	300 points (30%)
Mid-term	150 points (15%)
Final	250 points (25%)
Capstone paper	250 points (25%)
Class Attendance	50 points (5%)
Total:	1000 points (100%)

Lack of participation will result in the deduction of points from your overall course grade.

I have been asked in the past how one can calculate grade percentages based on the point system. I have included an example below:

To figure the percentage for a single grade, multiply the fractional grade by 100.

Points earned divided by Points available multiplied by 100

$$\frac{12}{15} \times 100 = 80\% \\ = 78.6\%$$

$$\frac{30}{35} \times 100 = 85.7\%$$

$$\frac{55}{70} \times 100$$

To figure out a numerical grade, add up all your earned points (total earned points), add up all the possible points (total possible points available), and write that as a fraction:

Total earned points	$12 + 30 + 55 = 97$
Total possible points	$15 + 35 + 70 = 120$
Multiply this fraction by 100	$97/120 \times 100 = 80.83333$

In this example the grade would be a "B".

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My primary form of communication with the class will be through announcements and email. Any changes in the syllabus or important information critical to this class will be disseminated to students via your official university email address. It is your responsibility to check your university email on a regular basis. Students who email me outside of regular office hours can expect a reply within 24 hours Monday through Friday. Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply by the end of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA 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 an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

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 Concealed 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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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 9-1-1.

Counseling Center Services

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Part I

- Maguire, M. & Okada, D. (2019).
 - pp. 1-92

Week 1 (Jan. 12 – Jan. 16)

- Jan. 10 – No meeting – Classes begin Jan 12.
 - Begin reading Part 1

Week 2 (Jan. 17 – Jan. 23)

- Jan. 17 – TAMUC Closed

Week 3 (Jan. 24 – Jan. 30)

- Jan. 24 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Assign Assignment #1
 - Resume
 - Due Date: Monday, February 7

Part II

- Maguire, M. & Okada, D. (2019).
 - pp. 93-170
- Assign Capstone Paper
 - APA format
 - Grading Rubric
 - Due Date: Monday, April 11

Week 4 (Jan. 31 – Feb. 6)

- Jan. 31 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture

Week 5 (Feb. 7 – Feb. 13)

- Feb. 7 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Assignment # 1 Due

Part III

- Maguire, M. & Okada, D. (2019).
 - pp. 171-248

Week 6 (Feb. 14 – Feb. 20)

- Feb. 14 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture

Week 7 (Feb. 21 – Feb. 27)

- Feb. 21 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Assign Assignment #2
 - Interview Preparation
 - Due Date: Monday, March 21
- Midterm Review

Week 8 (Feb. 28 – March 6)

- Midterm

Week 9 (March 7 – March 13)

- March 7 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture

Spring Break (March 14 – March 20)

- TAMUC is closed

Supplement Reading

Alexander, M. (2012).
pp. 1-261

Week 10 (March 21 – March 27)

- March 21 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Assignment # 2 Due

Part IV

Maguire, M. & Okada, D. (2019).
pp. 249-335

Week 11 (March 28 – April 3)

- March 28 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Assign Assignment # 3
 - Portfolio/Presentation
 - Due Date: Monday, April 25

Week 12 (April 4 – April 10)

- April 4 – Meet in BC 202 at 5:30PM
 - Lecture

Part V

Maguire, M. & Okada, D. (2019).
pp. 336-438

Week 13 (April 11 – April 17)

- April 11 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture
- Capstone Paper Due

Week 14 (April 18 – April 24)

- April 18 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
 - Lecture

Week 15 (April 25 – May 1)

- April 25 – Meet in BC 304 at 5PM
- Assignment # 3 Due
- Final Review

Week 16 (May 2)

- Final Exam