



## **CJ 1301-01E CRN 21955**

### **INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Course Syllabus: Spring 2024  
Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm-1:45pm  
Ferguson 310

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** James A. Purdon, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson 229

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:00am-2:00pm.

**Office Phone:** (903) 886.5332

**University Email Address:** James.Purdon@tamuc.edu

**Communication Response Time:** Emails are answered within 24 hours Monday-Friday during business hours (9am-5pm).

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

##### ***Required Text***

Owen, S. S., Fradella, H. F., Burke, T. D., & Joplin, J. (2019). *Foundations of criminal justice* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system, including an examination of the major sub-areas within the criminal justice system, such as law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. In exploring these areas, the course addresses the history, theory, research, legislation, and policy implications related to the criminal justice system.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Define critical terms and concepts, including deviance, crime, criminal justice, criminology, law, and justice.
2. Explain measurement of crime and its shortcomings.

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3. Discuss what law is, why we utilize it, and how the law shapes the criminal justice system.
4. Critique the various perspectives on law, morality, and justice.
5. Analyze different viewpoints on deviance, crime, and social control.
6. Summarize the major theoretical approaches to crime causation.
7. Explain how competing perspectives of justice shape criminal justice system policies and outcomes.
8. Describe the nature and use of criminal law, criminal procedures, and criminal punishment in the United States.
9. Explain the history, structure, and functioning of major criminal justice institutions, including law enforcement, courts, and correctional systems.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- **Computer System:** Windows or Macintosh desktop or laptop computer purchased within the last 5 years. Chromebooks and mobile devices may not provide full online access.
- **Operating System:** Windows-based computers must be running Windows 10 or newer. Macintosh computers must be running OS 10.13 (High Sierra) or higher.
- **Required Software:** Microsoft Office 365; Adobe Acrobat Reader DC
- **Web Browser:** Use a recently updated internet browser.
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** See below for requirements.

### INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course is designed to be an in-person, lecture, and discussion based class that meets twice a week. While this will incorporate traditional methods, such as lectures based on weekly readings, this class will also emphasize class discussions based on hypotheticals and media, group activities and exercises based on related concepts, and introduce expert speakers on the related material. In essence, this course relies on active learning as you will be tasked with developing critical thinking through a variety of metrics. Therefore, your attendance and participation in class is vital to your success in this course.

This course contains a variety of assessments in order to judge your mastery of the material. This includes weekly quizzes, a case study paper and presentation, a movie reflection, a policy paper, and three (3) exams (see the Assessments section of this syllabus for more details). Importantly, exams are based on lecture slides, class discussion, guest speakers, and relevant media shown in class. I will provide you with my slides after each class.

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## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE**

1. **Review** the **Syllabus** and the **Course Schedule** to keep up to date on requirements for the course.
2. **Read announcements and check email!** I will send updates about the courses through D2L, so check regularly.
3. Create a **personal organization system** to keep track of specified due dates.
4. **Communicate regularly** with your instructor and peers.
5. **Create a study and/or assignment schedule** to stay on track.
6. Set aside **regular times** in which you can do your classwork with minimal interruptions or distractions. Avoid multitasking while studying.
7. Learn about and use the student resources available to you! You can get free assistance from the [A&M-Library](#), [IT Support](#), [the Writing Center](#), and more.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### ***Attendance and Participation***

Attendance and participation in class activities is an essential part of the learning process; thus, students are expected to attend class. You are expected to have completed all required readings and to be prepared to contribute to class discussions. While some absences are unavoidable, you are responsible for making up missed absences and notifying the professor. Three (3) or more unexcused absences will result in a low grade for this portion of the class.

### ***Exams***

There will be three (3) exams over the course of the semester that coincides with the three parts of this course. These exams include a variety of objective questions, such as true/false and multiple choice, as well as written components, such as short-answer and/or full-length essay questions. Exams will be administered in-person on an assigned day according to the course schedule. Students will only be allowed to use a writing instrument and will have the full class time to complete the exam.

### ***Case Study Paper***

The final project for this class will include a case study research project. This project requires students to find a case of their choice, summarize the background facts of the case, and then explain what the three different criminal justice institution's role (i.e., law enforcement, courts, and corrections) were in the case. I recommend choosing a case that has at least completed the court process, so you can effectively complete this assignment. Contact me if you have trouble picking a case to research. This paper

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should be three (3) to four (4) pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, and conform to APA norms.

### ***Case Study Presentation***

Students will prepare and deliver a 10 minute professional presentation on the case they are researching. This presentation should cover relevant items such as background facts of the case, the outcome of the case, and how each pillar of the criminal justice system (i.e., police, courts, and corrections) was involved in the case. Students are encouraged to use any relevant aids to facilitate the presentation, such as visuals (i.e., PowerPoints, GoogleSlides, or Prezi), brief segments or video clips, and pictures. Presentations are tentatively scheduled for week 15 and students will sign up accordingly.

### ***Movie Reflection***

Students will need to choose a movie or crime-drama of their choice and critique the show on the accuracy of the portrayal. In particular, students will analyze the show based on the principles learned in class (e.g., how policing is portrayed in the show compared to how policing actually functions). I have created a short recommendation list on D2L for potential movies/shows that students might be interested in reviewing. This paper should include the name of the movie/show, a short summary of the episode, and a comparative analysis on the movie/show. This assignment should be two (2) pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and Times New Roman.

### ***Policy Project***

Students will need to assess the issues and merits of a criminal justice policy. This paper should explain what the issue is, how the policy is attempting to address the issue, and conclude whether the policy has any support or validity. Students will need to use official governmental statistics and/or primary sources (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles) to accurately assess the policy. The purpose of this project is to introduce students to a variety of criminal justice related issues while also exposing students to critical research practices. The final paper should be between two (2) and three (3) pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, and conform to APA norms.

### ***Weekly Quizzes***

To make sure students keep current with the assigned reading, students must complete weekly quizzes. These quizzes will be brief, often taking up less than 10 minutes of class time. They may contain open-ended questions (i.e., short answer) or objective questions (i.e., multiple choice or true/false questions). Missed quizzes will be counted as a zero (0) for unexcused absences. If the absence is for good cause (see the late assignment policy below) then you will be given an alternative assignment. Importantly, I will drop the lowest two (2) quizzes.

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## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale (see Table 1):

Table 1: Grade Cut-Offs		
Grade	Points	Percentage
A	450-500	90.00% – 100%
B	400-449	80.00% – 89.99%
C	350-399	70.00% – 79.99%
D	300-349	60.00% – 69.99%
F	Below 300	Below 60.00%

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades (see Table 2):

Table 2: Assessments and Their Values		
Assignment	Points	Percentage
Attendance and Participation	50	10%
Case Study Paper	50	10%
Case Study Presentation	25	5%
Movie Reflection	50	10%
Policy Project	50	10%
Weekly Quizzes (lowest 2 will be dropped)	50	10% (1% each)
Exams 1-3	225 (75 each)	45% (15% each)

Grades can be accessed on D2L.

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## 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](mailto: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

**Communication** will be held either in-person, email, or through D2L.

**What to call me** – Please refer to me as Professor or Dr. Purdon.

**Look for the answer first.** When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these two sources for an answer *before* you contact me:

- Course Syllabus
- Announcements in D2L

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### ***Attendance and Participation***

Class attendance is a vital part of class participation, and ensuring your success in this course. Come prepared to participate and attend regularly.

**Excused absences** for classes will be given without penalty to the grade in the case of any of the following reasons: (1) Participation in a required/authorized University activity; (2) Verified illness; (3) Death in a student's immediate family; (4) Obligation of a student at a legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen; and (5) Others determined by individual faculty to be excused (e.g., elective University activities, etc.).

#### ***Citation Style***

Students are required to use the citation style and format of the American Psychological Association (APA). Review the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) or similar APA Citation Style online resource. It is acceptable to cite legal materials (cases, statutes, regulations, etc.) in accordance with the style specified in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed.) in all papers.

#### ***Extra credit***

Please do not ask for extra credit. Although an extra credit assignment may be offered to the whole class for attending a talk or participating in a learning experience beyond those anticipated in this syllabus, no individualized extra credit work will be permitted. Why? Extra credit is unfair to the students who do their work diligently all semester long.

#### ***Late or Missed Assignments***

Written assignments are to be submitted on the due date by the times specified (Central Time). Late submissions can be accepted for good cause if: (1) an extension was granted by the professor in advance of the due date; or (2) documentation of an unforeseeable excused absence (as assessed in the professor's sole discretion) is provided (see excused absences above). Late submissions without good cause will be reduced by a full letter grade (i.e., 10%) for each calendar day the assignment is late.

### **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.

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## 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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

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## **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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.

### **A&M-COMMERCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH**

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

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **AI Use IN COURSES**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS	PERCENTAGE	DUE DATE
WEEK 1: Introduction to the class		
Readings: Syllabus and Introduction	--	11-Jan.
WEEK 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice		
Readings: Chapter 1	--	16-Jan.
Readings: Chapter 1	--	18-Jan.
WEEK 3: Concepts of Law, Morality, and Legal Philosophy		
Readings: Chapter 2	--	23-Jan.
Readings: Chapter 2	--	25-Jan.
WEEK 4: The Social Control of Deviance		
Readings: Chapter 3	--	30-Jan.
Readings: Chapter 3	--	1-Feb.
Week 5: Crime and Criminological Theory		
Readings: Chapter 4	--	6-Feb.
Readings: Chapter 4	--	8-Feb.
<b>Assignment 1: Movie Reflection</b>	10%	<b>8-Feb.</b>
WEEK 6: Penal Social Control		
Readings: Chapter 5	--	13-Feb.
<b>Exam 1</b>	15%	<b>15-Feb.</b>
WEEK 6: Concepts of Justice		
Readings: Chapter 6	--	20-Feb.
Readings: Chapter 6	--	22-Feb.
WEEK 7: Concepts of Justice Policy		
Readings: Chapter 7	--	27-Feb.
Readings: Chapter 7	--	29-Feb.
WEEK 8: Criminal Procedure		
Readings: Chapter 8	--	5-Mar.
Readings: Chapter 8	--	7-Mar.
<b>Assignment 2: Policy Project</b>	10%	<b>7-Mar.</b>
Week 9:	<b>SPRING BREAK March 11-15</b>	
Week 10: Criminal Law		
Readings: Chapter 9	--	19-Mar.
<b>Exam 2</b>	15%	<b>21-Mar.</b>

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<b>WEEK 11: Policing</b>		
Readings: Chapter 11	--	26-Mar.
Readings: Chapter 11	--	28-Mar.
<b>WEEK 12: Courts</b>		
Readings: Chapter 12	--	2-Apr.
Readings: Chapter 12	--	4-Apr.
<b>WEEK 13: Punishment</b>		
Readings: Chapter 10	--	9-Apr.
Readings: Chapter 10	--	11-Apr.
<b>WEEK 14: Corrections</b>		
Readings: Chapter 13	--	16-Apr.
Readings: Chapter 13 and Presentation Guide	--	18-Apr.
<b>WEEK 15: Presentations</b>		
<b>Case Study Presentation Day 1</b>	5%	<b>23-Apr.</b>
<b>Case Study Presentation Day 2</b>	5%	<b>25-Apr.</b>
<b>WEEK 16: Extra Material and Final Review</b>		
<b>Final Review Session</b>	--	30-Apr.
<b>Assignment 3: Case Study Papers</b>	10%	<b>30-Apr.</b>
<b>Reading Days – No Class</b>	--	1-May
<b>WEEK 17: FINAL EXAM</b>		
<b>Exam 3</b>	15%	<b>9-May</b>

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