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COURSE SYLLABUS

CJ 480-71W: Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
Fall 2024

Instructor: Heath Oakley
Office Location: 3200 W. 7th Ave., Corsicana, Texas 75110
Office Hours: Online
Office Phone: 903)654-9036
Office Fax: N/A
Email Address: heath.oakley@tamuc.edu

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:

None assigned.

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 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 material will be covered during an on-line forum. 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), apart from 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. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
ISBN: 9781433832161*

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

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

Discussion Forums

Five discussions will be presented in this course (10% of the overall grade).

Assignments

Three assignments will be presented in this course (30% of the overall grade).

Capstone Assignment

You are required to write a capstone paper (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 (15% of the overall course grade). The final exam (15% 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 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 during Finals Week.

GRADING

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

90%-100%	= A
80%-89%	=B
70%-79%	= C
60%-69%	=D
59% or Below	= F

Assessments

3 Assignments	(30%)
5 Discussions	(15%)
Mid-term	(15%)
Final	(15%)
Capstone paper	(25%)
Total:	(100%)

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

This class is an on-line course. 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

Week 1 (August 26 – August 31)

- Class introductions (Discussion board - due 8/30/24 by 11:59PM).
- Syllabus review.
 - Expectations for the class.
 - Review forms required for internship (host agency)

Week 2 (September 1 – September 7)

- Labor Day – Holiday – Campus Closed – September 1
- Assigned Reading (pp. 1-92)

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.

Week 3 (September 8 – September 14)

- Discussion.
- Reading Assignment.

Harness the power of LinkedIn. (2016). *Journal of Financial Planning*, 29(7), 11.

Joyce, S. P., & Smith-Proulx, L. (2016). How the unemployed can leverage LinkedIn. *Career Planning & Adult Development Journal*, 32(2), 131.

Power, A. (2015). LinkedIn: Facebook for professionals?. *British Journal of Midwifery*, 23(3), 196-198.

Week 4 (September 15 – September 21)

- Reading Assignment (pp. 93-170).

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.

- LinkedIn Assignment
 - Initial set up and connect with instructor.
 - Due 9/21/24 by 11:59PM
 - Continue to add to LinkedIn throughout the course.

Week 5 (September 22 – September 28)

- Discussion.
 - Due: September 28, 2024

Week 6 (September 29 - October 5)

- Reading Assignment (pp. 171-248).

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.

Week 7 (October 6 – October 12)

- Assigned reading:

Guisseppi, M. (2016). Mind your online reputation: The personal branding social proof paradigm and two little-known ways to master it. *Career Planning & Adult Development Journal*, 32(2), 101.

Akpan, J., & Notar, C. E. (2012). How to write a professional knockout resume to differentiate yourself. *College Student Journal*, 46(4), 880.

Roberts, C. C. (2016). How to identify and implement keywords into USAJOBS (federal) resumes. *Career Planning & Adult Development Journal*, 32(2), 66.

- Assignment #2 - Resume
 - Due on 10/19/24 by 11:59PM

Week 8 (October 13 – October 19)

- Mid-Term
 - Due 10/19/24 by 11:59PM

Week 9 (October 20 – October 26)

- Reading Assignment (pp. 249-335).

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.

Week 10 (October 27 – November 2)

- Assignment
 - Due: November 2, 2024

Week 11 (November 3 – November 9)

- Reading Assignment (pp. 336-438).

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.

Week 12 (November 10 – November 16)

- Discussion
 - Due: November 16, 2024

Week 13 (November 17 – November 23)

- Capstone Assignment
 - Due by 11/23/24

Week 14 (November 24 – November 30)

- Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (December 1 – December 7)

- Discussion
 - Due: December 7, 2024
- December 6 – Last Day of class
- Final Review

Week 16 (December 8 – December 14)

- Finals Week Exam (Note: Finals week is December 8-13)
- Final Exam
 - Due: December 13, 2024

