



East Texas A&M University

CJ 577 Criminal Justice Planning & Evaluation

COURSE SYLLABUS

June 1, 2026 – July 2, 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Willie Edwards, Professor
Office Location:	Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217
Office Hours:	Please make an appointment
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5331
Office Fax:	(903) 886-5330
University Email Address:	willie.edwards@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email - willie.edwards@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time:	(within twenty-four hours during the weekday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbooks:

Rossi, Peter H., Lipsey, Mark W., & Henry, Gary T. 2019. *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach*. CA: Sage. ISBN 978-1506307886

Supplementary Readings:

Brough, P., Brown, J., & Biggs, A. 2016. *Improving Criminal Justice Workplaces: Translating theory and research into evidence-based practice*. New York: Routledge.

Langley, G.J., Moen, R.D., Nolan, K.M. Nolan, T.W., Norman, C.L., Provost, L.P. 2009. *The Improvement Guide: A practical approach to enhancing organizational performance*. 2nd Edition. CA: Jossey-Bass.

Stojkovic, S., Klofas, J., & Kalinich, D. 2010. *The Administration and Management of Criminal Justice Organizations: A book of readings*. 5th Edition. IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

Require Readings:

Bardin, A., Verma, S., Wagner, J., Ruffier, A. & Morse, D.S. 2022. FOCUS on women: Program evaluation of a pilot probation and primary care transitions clinic collaboration. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 92(), 1-9.

Braga, A.A., & Weisburd, D. L. 2013. Editors' Introduction: Advancing program evaluation methods in criminology and criminal justice. *Evaluation Review*, 37(3-40). 163-169.

[This article should be read; it will not be a part of the three research articles student will be questioned over during this class, but this article put in perspective a reason for understanding evaluation and planning.]

Nagin, D. S., & Weisburd, D. 2013. Evidence and Public Policy: The example of evaluation research in policing. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 12(4), 651-679.

Palumbo, D. J., & Petersen, R. D. 1994. Evaluating Criminal Justice Programs: Using policy as well as program theory. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 17(2), 159-164.

Associated Journals

American Journal of Evaluation

Criminal Justice and Behavior

Criminal Justice Policy Review

Evaluating and Program Planning

Journal of Policy and Analysis and Management

Justice Evaluation Journal

Policy and Politics

Course Description

This class will acquaint students with scientific techniques used for analyzing criminal justice problems and developing solutions, especially in the realm of creating policies and programs for various conditions that components of the criminal justice system deal with. It is expected and practiced from this course that students develop skills and create/identify tools to analyze and evaluate criminal justice policies and programs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students attending and passing this class should be able to do the following and demonstrate what they gained from this class:

1. Students should be able to discuss and explain some of the more pressing issues being dealt with by any one of the components within the criminal justice system
2. Students should be familiar with several policies and their construction as they relate to the criminal justice system
3. Students will be able to perform various evaluation techniques, and understand their importance in creating a successful atmosphere within a criminal justice component
4. Students will have an increased ability to communicate and conduct research projects as they relate to criminal justice

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L Learning Management System. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

Course Requirements & Assignments

1. Presentation of Self (10 pts)

Every student must introduce him- or herself by the second day (no later than 11:59pm, June 2, 2026) of class during Week One. This information will be entered as a discussion. Each student should provide the information below at the site of the assignment in Week One. Each student's presentation should cover the following information:

- Name
- Occupation/career and length of time
- Share how this course is expected to help or aid your career, separate from the entire degree
- Discuss whether you now have or have had a position in which you managed, supervised, or had to evaluate subordinates
- Describe how you expect this degree to enhance your career

2. Chapter Discussions

Each student will be responsible for selecting a topic or idea from each chapter assigned to the class during these five weeks and writing their thoughts and reaction to that topic, ideas or concept. The student's writing is expected to be informative, have some qualitative value, and contribute to the overall understanding of that chapter. Your comment must be substantive and informative even though you are likely to share ideas in a chapter that the authors have addressed rather well. There will be no need for your classmates to comment or make a post on another classmate's work or writing. Every student's chapter discussion will be read and graded for its own worth and contribution. Each student's discussion will be evaluated on content, clarity, adequate reflection of the chapter and organization of your thought(s). There is no word count or length requirement. A student must determine his or her appropriate response. Brevity will not earn you maximum points. If quotes are addressed either from the textbook or other resources, proper citation using APA style must be employed. Students will be responsible for reading nine chapters of this textbook (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, & 12). There will be nine chapter discussions. During each week two chapters must be read (Chapter 1 & 2) and two chapter discussions written, one on each chapter. Chapter Discussions will be worth 15 points each, and they must be placed within the appropriate space in D2L marked respectfully Chapter 1 Discussion and Chapter 2 Discussion, and so on. Each student will be able to see what other students have written. Again, there is no need to

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comment on your classmates' posting. Each student will be graded simply on what she/he wrote. Chapter discussions are due every Sunday by 11:59pm for those five weeks, and the last (week five) the chapter (12) discussion is due on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

3. **Research Article Reading**

Students will have the opportunity to read at least four selected research articles pertaining to evaluation, planning and/or programing. Students will read these identified research articles during a specified week and respond to a question written by the professor addressing some aspect or idea located in the research article. A student's answer must indicate that he/she read the designated article. Before the beginning of the class each student will be given a copy of each research article. Each answered question will be worth 20 points. The selected research articles and the due date for each answer to be submitted to D2L in its proper place is identified as follows:

Week Two (Response to question **due 6/9/2026**) Palumbo & Petersen. (1994). Evaluating criminal justice programs: using policy as well as program theory. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 17(2), 159-164.

Week Three (Response to question **due June 16, 2026**) Bardin et al (2022). FOCUS on women: Program evaluation of a pilot probation and primary care transitions clinic collaboration. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 92(), 1-9.

Week Four (Response to question **due June 23, 2026**) Nagin & Weisburd (2013). Evidence and public policy: The example of evaluation research in policing. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 12(4) 651-679.

4. **Actual Program Reviewed**

Each student will be responsible for finding an actual existing program which he/she may review and be situated to answer some questions about that specific program indicating how much he/she has come to understand about evaluation and planning. The securing of such a program should be initiated early, before the final week of this class. Questions will be prepared by the professor which then will be graded by the professor. A copy of the program is to be submitted along with the student's answers. The program is expected to address some aspects, conditions or problems associated with a criminal justice agency. This assignment will be worth 100 points. **This actual program review is due July 3, 2026 by 11:59pm.**

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

By now each student should know their study habits and especially if they are professionally employed. They should be prepared to spend whatever amount of time they need to complete the assignments in an acceptable manner and with the intention of earning whatever type of grade they anticipate. These graduate online courses require a large amount of reading and individual concentration. Students ought to be very familiar with due dates so as not to miss them or be late submitting assignments.

GRADING

Course Possible Points:

1 Presentation of Self	= 10 pts.
9 Chapter Discussions (@ 15pts., each)	= 135 pts.
3 Research Article Readings (@ 20pts., each)	= 60 pts.
1 Actual Program Review (100pts.)	= <u>100</u> pts.
Total	305 pts.

The following grade scale will be used:

A = 305 – 274pts.
B = 273 – 244pts.
C = 243 – 214pts.
D = 213 – 183pts.
F = 182 or below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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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

Students desiring to speak or contact the professor should use the email address and if necessary, then arrange to speak with him by telephone. Since this is an online class that is the best method, but if the student desires to have a face to face meeting that should be arranged by creating an appointment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. East Texas A&M University does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or

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<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

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).
<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>

East Texas A&M University Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/attendance.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/attendance.aspx>

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

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<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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

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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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETA&MU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections 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

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas 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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University 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

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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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Date (Mon – Sun)	Activities
Week One	June 1, - June 7, 2026	Presentation of Self due 6/2/2026 by 11:59pm This week both Chapter 1 & 2 Discussions are due by Sunday, 6/7/2026
Week Two	June 8, - June 14, 2026	Chapter 3 & 4 Discussions due by 6/14/2026 Research Article Reading # 1 Palumbo & Petersen (1994) Question due 6/12/2026
Week Three	June 15, - June 21, 2026	Chapter 5 & 9 Discussions due by 6/21/2026 Research Article Reading # 2 Bardin et al (2022) Question due 11/14/2024
Week Four	June 22, - June 28, 2026	Chapter 10 & 11 Discussions due by June 28, 2026 Research Article Reading # 3 Nagin & Weisburd (2013) Question due 6/26/2026
Week Five	June 29, - July 2, 2026	Chapter 12 Discussion due by 7/1/2026 Actual Program Reviewed due 7/2/2026

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