



# **CJ 1301 (01.E): INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Fall 2026

**Meets 8/20/2026 through 12/11/2026**

**Mon, Wed, Fri 12:00 noon -12:50pm    Campus: Ferguson: SS    Room: 150**

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

|                                  |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Instructor:                      | Mike Tapia, Ph.D.                                                    |
| Office Location:                 | SS 231                                                               |
| Office Hours:                    | M/W/F 3:00pm – 5:00pm                                                |
| University Email Address:        | <a href="mailto:michael.tapia@etamu.edu">michael.tapia@etamu.edu</a> |
| Preferred Form of Communication: | email                                                                |
| Communication Response Time:     | Normally within 24-48 hours                                          |

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

\*Suggested Textbook: Schmallegger, Frank. 2024. *Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction*, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson. ISBN: 9780138185312.

\*\*\*\*\*Older versions of the textbook are also acceptable.\*\*\*\*\*

\*Summaries of relevant chapters and sections are posted as slides on the course webpage, and most test items come from there unless otherwise indicated. Test items appear in red font on the slides.

### **Course Description**

We examine the development, organization, and administration of American justice agencies (police, the courts, & corrections). We also study crime statistics and trends, due process for suspects and defendants, and their justifications.

### **Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes**

- 1) To gain an understanding of the general scope of the American Criminal Justice System;
- 2) To learn to apply the terminology, rationale, and mechanical procedure of the American Criminal Justice System;
- 3) To become prepared for more advanced courses in crime and justice by mastering basic elements & principles.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

### Exams

- There are four (4) in-class or online tests based on readings, lectures, and other relevant materials.
- Each test is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

Tests are a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Bring the green Scantron form (882-E) and a Blue Book to test dates (items available at the bookstore). Make-up exams are allowed only for verifiable emergencies and you must contact me prior to the regularly scheduled test date to be eligible to take one. Make up exams are all essay-format.

### Presentation Project

On three specific dates in Weeks 2 and 3 of the class, students can volunteer to make a Presentation on Crime Stats or Court Cases. See the course *D2L* page for detailed guidelines. The presentation project & writeup is worth 20 percent of the final grade & can be used in lieu of the term paper requirement, also worth 20 percent of the final grade.

\*\*\*\*\**Presentation Projects start on Friday, 8/28/26*\*\*\*\*\*  
*with write-ups due at any point in the term after the presentation.*

### Term Paper (Alternative to Presentation Project)

The term paper should be 3 to 4 pages in length plus cover sheet and references. You will use library & web-based research to write about a topic of your choosing in the area of police, courts, or corrections. See the course *D2L* page for a handout with detailed guidelines. The term paper is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

*\*\*Term Papers and Presentation Write-Ups Due in class on Friday 12/4/26. (Last Regular Class Meeting)\*\**

The final exam (Test #4) is an in-class, non-comprehensive test based on readings, lectures, and other relevant materials presented in the final part of the term.

To summarize, course requirements are weighted as follows:

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| In-Class Exams                     | 80%        |
| Presentation Project or Term Paper | <u>20%</u> |
| TOTAL                              | 100%       |

Final grades are determined as follows:

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

## **Minimal Technical Skills Needed:**

1. Ability to use Microsoft Office (Word, .ppt, etc.)
2. Ability to navigate the D2L Learning System
3. Ability to navigate ETAMU Library Resources
4. Ability to navigate the internet and presentation applications.

## **Instructional Methods**

- This is an in-person lecture course with online components and activities to be discussed in class.
- Exams are based on lecture slides, class discussion, guest speakers, tours, and media items presented in the class.
  - 1-page study guides for exams are provided no less than one week before the date of the exam.
- All slides are made available in clearly labeled modules in D2L, organized into four major sections of the course.
  - Material on the exam is emphasized in the slides and in lecture.

## **Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course**

1. Read this syllabus with great care and pay attention to its details. Mark test dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. Students should attend each class or as often as possible. We meet on Mon-Wed.-Fri.
3. Before each class, students should review slides and skim sections of the textbook chapter(s) scheduled for coverage in class per the weekly schedule (below).
4. To prepare for exams, students should use lecture slides to locate all items appearing on the study guide. Use the textbook's index to locate test items and skim those sections. Also review the notes you take during class.
5. To do well on the Presentation or Term Paper requirement, select a topic as early in the term as possible and run it by the instructor for approval if the student is unsure about its suitability.
6. Do not wait until the end of the term to begin writing papers. Your instructor is always willing to provide feedback on early drafts. Finally, stick closely to guidelines on the Presentation or Term Paper handout on D2L for best results, grade-wise & heed the info and warnings in item 7. below.
7. Avail yourself of resources at the ETAMU Writing Center for proofreading and advice:  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiessocialsciencesarts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx> As freshmen or sophomores, you probably haven't written many

term papers in your life. As such, please take your paper drafts to the writing center for help. **Do not plagiarize or purchase term papers off of the internet or rely on Artificial Intelligence (A-I) apps like Chat GPT, Gemini, etc. to present as your own work. This never ends well for the student or the instructor, as filing paperwork for academic misconduct with the university takes time out of everyone's busy schedule. Please see the info on Academic Dishonesty on p. 5 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

## 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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### 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

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. His preferred method of contact is ETAMU email: [michael.tapia@etamu.edu](mailto:michael.tapia@etamu.edu), or via D2L's messaging program.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Modifications to the syllabus are nearly guaranteed to occur 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>

## ETAMU 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 & Dishonesty

Students at East 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>

<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:

### Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East 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

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

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### Tentative Reading, Lecture, & Test Schedule (Subject to Minor Changes)

#### Part I: *Definitions, History, and Philosophy on Crime in America and System Response*

| <u>Date</u>                  | <u>Topic</u>                                                                             | <u>Reading</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>8/21        | Course Introduction<br>"What is Criminal Justice?"<br>Submit Personal Bio/Intro in class | Chapter 1      |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>8/24 – 8/28 | Crime Data and Crime Types<br>Frequency and Form of Crime<br>Crime Data Presentations    | Chapter 2      |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>8/31 – 9/2  | Criminal Law<br>Case Law Presentations<br>9/4/26: Labor Day Weekend, NO CLASS            | Chapter 3      |

|                             |                                                                                                        |             |
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| <b>Week 4</b><br>9/9 - 9/11 | 9/7/26: Labor Day: NO CLASS<br><b>Test #1 (Friday 9/11)</b><br>Over Chapters 1-3, Lectures, & Readings | Test Review |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

**Part II: *Policing***

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| <b>Week 5</b><br>9/14 – 9/18 | Test 1 RESULTS Review in Class<br>Police Management: Purpose and Organization | Chapter 4 |
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| <b>Week 6</b><br>9/21 – 9/25 | Legal Aspects<br>Guest Speaker: Mesquite PD on 9/23<br>Guest Speaker: Hunt County Sheriff on 9/25 | Chapter 5 |
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| <b>Week 7</b><br>9/28 - 10/2 | Special Issues & Challenges in Policing<br>Guest Speaker: Greenville PD | Chapter 6<br>See Term Paper Option #1 |
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| <b>Week 8</b><br>10/5 – 10/7 | Test 2 Review 10/5/26<br><b>Test #2 (Wednesday 10/7):</b> Ch's 4-6, Lects., Readings, & Speakers<br>Fall Break, NO CLASS, 10/9 |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

**Part III: *Adjudication: Court Processing***

|                                |                                                                      |           |
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| <b>Week 9</b><br>10/12 – 10/16 | Test 2 RESULTS Review in Class<br>American Court Structure & History | Chapter 7 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

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| <b>Week 10</b><br>10/19 – 10/23 | Courtroom Dynamics<br>Visit to Hunt County District Court (Fri 10/23)<br>Calvin Grogan, Hunt County District Attorney's Office, | Chapter 8<br>See Term Paper Option #2 |
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| <b>Week 11</b><br>10/26 – 10/28 | Criminal Sentencing<br>Speaker, Defense Attorney, TBA<br>NO CLASS on FRIDAY, 10/30 | Chapter 9<br>See Term Paper Option #3 |
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| <b>Week 12</b><br>11/2 – 11/6 | <b>Test #3 (Friday 11/6)</b><br>Over Chapters 7-9, Lectures, Readings, Tours & Speakers | Review |
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**Part IV: *Corrections: Punishment, Supervision, and Rehabilitation***

|                                |                                                                     |            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Week 13</b><br>11/9 – 11/13 | Test Results Review<br>Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections | Chapter 10 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

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| <b>Week 14</b><br>11/16-11/20 | Incarceration: Jail and Prison<br>Hunt County Jail Tour, Monday 11/16<br>**No Class on 11/18 -11/20; instructor conference travel** | Chapter 11 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

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| <b>Week 15</b><br>11/23 – 11/27 | Jail and Prison Life<br>Texas Prison Tour. Choice Moore Unit, Monday, Nov. 23<br>Thanksgiving Holiday No Class 11/25 – 11/27 | Slideshow |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

**Week 16**  
11/30 – 12/4

Final Projects Due  
Wrap up and Review for Final Exam

**Term Papers and Presentation Write-Ups Due: Last Regular Class Meeting, FRIDAY, 12/4/26.**

**Final Exam:** Friday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*Final is Not Cumulative: It Covers Chapters 10-12, Lectures, Speakers, & Tours\*\*\*\*\*