



# Ranger College

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**

**CRIJ 1301**

**3 credit hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**John Galloway**

INSTRUCTOR: John Galloway  
EMAIL: [jgalloway@rangercollege.edu](mailto:jgalloway@rangercollege.edu)  
HOURS: TBD

### Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

#### **I. Course Description**

This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.

#### **II. Required Background or Prerequisite**

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, permission is required of the instructor, department, and/or advisor to enroll in this course. It is strongly recommended that students have dedicated internet access, a working knowledge of Blackboard, and a keen interest in the criminal justice system.

#### **III. Required Textbook and Course Materials**

Schmallegger, F. (2019). *Criminal justice today: An introductory text for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. (15<sup>th</sup> ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

A student is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may be also available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Additional required reading material may be posted when class is in session.

#### **IV. Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of the various dimensions of the criminal justice system. Further, the course will emphasize issues within the context of contemporary policing.

## V. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate writing skills appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
- Understand and value the ethics of criminal justice.
- Demonstrate multi-cultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the core elements of the criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections.
- Identify possible ethical challenges within the criminal justice system.

## VI. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## VII. Methods of Instruction

### Discussion

Each learner will be responsible for posting 1- an individual response to a weekly discussion question and 2- posting one response to another student's answer. Participation in the weekly discussion is essential. Discussion questions will be posted on Sunday evenings prior to the work week. The work week runs Monday-Sunday.

Discussion questions will be based on the readings requiring you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the concepts covered each week. You are encouraged to post an initial response to the discussion question no later than **Thursday** each week and post **at least one** response to other student's post no later than Sunday.

Participation in discussion is expected on **at least three days each week**. Your initial response to the discussion question counts toward the weekly requirement.

All responses must be substantive. Initial discussion question responses must contain at least 200 words and address all parts of the question. Responses to other posts must contain at least 100 words. Your writing mechanics, grammar and referencing must reflect collegiate standards.

**Late policy-** All discussion posts must be made during the working week. Students will be penalized 10% for late posts. If you find that you are unable to post during the week, please notify me to avoid late penalties.

## **VIII. Methods of Assessment**

This course includes five quizzes, ten class discussion postings, a midterm exam, and a proctored final exam. Quizzes and mid-term exam will be in multiple choice format.

You can earn up to a total of fifty points each discussion week. Up to forty points are awarded for substantive individual posts, and ten points for a substantive post to another student.

Each quiz will be worth a total of 30 points.

### **Point Totals:**

10 Discussion Questions @ 50 points each= 500  
5 Quizzes @ 30 points each = 150  
Mid Term Exam= 200  
Proctored Final Exam= 150  
Total = 1000

### **Grading**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 900-1000  | A |
| 800-899   | B |
| 700-799   | C |
| 600-699   | D |
| Below 600 | F |

## **IX. Course/Classroom Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is mandatory. Discussion posts and responses will be recorded each week. Do not fall behind in the required number of posts each week.

Students are responsible for reading chapters prior to each class meeting in preparation for class discussions and quizzes. In addition, students are asked to review current news items (newspaper, magazines, online news services, journals) pertaining to policing topics for use in weekly class discussions.

### **Class Policies**

You are expected to read the assigned chapters. I strongly encourage a proactive strategy. Read ahead of the posted due dates on the schedule and post discussion responses on time. This is an online class that requires self-direction and motivation. If you do not keep up with assignment and appear disinterested, you will simply be asked to drop the course. Your preparation for reading assignments, weekly involvement, and examinations should reflect your academic commitment.

### **Statement on plagiarism and academic irregularities**

The following shall constitute academic irregularities:

- 1) The use of materials and devices such as notes, books, calculators, etc., while taking an examination unless specifically authorized by the instructor or assistance from or to other persons while taking an examination unless specifically authorized by the instructor -- acts defined as cheating.
- 2) The presentation of words or ideas from any other source as one's own -- an act defined as plagiarism.
- 3) Unauthorized obtaining, distributions or receiving material which is purported to be an examination, or part of an examination, without the consent of the instructor.
- 4) Taking of an examination for another person or having another person take an examination and presenting or having same presented as one's own exam.
- 5) Other activities which interfere with the educational mission within the classroom.
- 6) Submission of the same or essentially the same paper, project, assignment or finished product to an instructor which has been submitted to another instructor unless specifically authorized and consented to by both instructors.

#### Important:

It is important that you distinguish clearly between your own words and ideas and the words and ideas of other authors. Failure to do so may not only cause confusion for the reader, but may also result in PLAGIARISM - a serious violation of academic ethics.

**IMPORTANT:** To copy material (word-for-word) from a source without using quotation marks or using quotation marks without indicating exactly the source of your material is UNACCEPTABLE.

To paraphrase another author's material - namely, putting it in your own words - without indicating exactly the source of this paraphrased material is also UNACCEPTABLE. Using another author's words or ideas and not giving that author credit is PLAGIARISM.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Getting help from a fellow student to solve a problem or to complete an assignment is not cheating. However, copying a major portion of an assignment from someone else (to get it done on time) or using someone else's work in any way is cheating in the form of plagiarism.

If two or more students each turn in an assignment that is essentially a copy of another's work, this will be considered cheating. Instances of outright copying will result in no credit for the assignment for both the individual(s) who copied and the individual who was copied from (if known about).

## X. Course Outline/Schedule

### Tentative Schedule

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Details/Core Objectives</b>   | <b>Points</b> |
|--|--|---------------|
| Week 1<br>August 23 <sup>rd</sup> -<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | Course Introduction; Post brief introductions in Blackboard Discussion   |               |
| Week 2<br>August 30 <sup>th</sup> -<br>Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>    | Chapter 1- What is Criminal Justice? Chapter 2- The Crime Picture;<br>Discussion Question and post one response to others  | 50            |
| Week 3<br>Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> -Sept<br>12 <sup>th</sup>       | Chapter 3- The Search for Causes; Chapter 4- Criminal Law; Discussion<br>Question and post one response to others- <b>Quiz Part 1 (Chapters 1-4)</b>                   | 50/30         |
| Week 4<br>Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> -Sept<br>19 <sup>th</sup>      | Chapter 5- Policing: History and Structure and Chapter 6 Policing: Purpose<br>and Organization<br>Discussion Question and post one response to others                  | 50            |
| Week 5<br>Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> -Sept<br>26 <sup>th</sup>      | Chapter 7 –Policing: Legal Aspects and Chapter 8- Policing: Issues and<br>Challenges: Discussion Question and post one response to others-<br><b>Quiz Part 2</b>       | 50/30         |
| Week 6<br>Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> -Oct<br>3 <sup>rd</sup>        | Chapter 9- The Courts: Structure and Participants; Chapter 10- Pretrial<br>Activities and the Criminal Trial; Discussion Question and post one<br>response to others   | 50            |
| Week 7<br>Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>            | <b>MID TERM EXAM (CHAPTERS 1-10)</b>   | 200           |
| Week 8<br>Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> -Oct<br>17 <sup>th</sup>        | Chapter 11- Sentencing<br>Discussion Question and post one response to others;   | 50            |
| Week 9<br>Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> -Oct<br>24 <sup>th</sup>        | Chapter 12- Probation. Parole, and Reentry and Chapter 13- Prisons and<br>Jails; Discussion Question and post one response to others- <b>Quiz (Chapters<br/>11-13)</b> | 50/30         |

|   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| Week 10<br>Oct 25 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> | Chapter 14- Prison Life; Discussion Question and post response to others   | 50    |
| Week 11<br>Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> -Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Chapter 15- Chapter 15 Discussion Question; <b>Quiz (Chapters 14 &amp; 15)</b>   | 50/30 |
| Week 12<br>Nov 8 <sup>th</sup> -Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Chapter 16- Drugs and Crime; Discussion Question and post one response to others   | 50    |
| Week 13<br>Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> -Nov 21 <sup>st</sup> | Chapter 17- Terrorism, Multinational Criminal Justice, and Global Issues and Chapter 18 High-Technology Crimes; <b>Final Discussion Question; Quiz (Chapters 16- 18)</b> | 30    |
| Week 14<br>Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> | <b>NO CLASS Thanksgiving</b>   |       |
| Week 15<br>Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> -Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>PROCTORED FINAL EXAM</b>  | 150   |
| Week 16   |  |       |

## **XI. Non-Discrimination Statement**

Admission, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability and national origin.

## **XII. ADA Statement**

### **Statement of Reasonable Accommodation for Disabled Students**

*It is the policy of Ranger College to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (<http://www.ada.gov/>) and other applicable laws. If you are a student with a disability seeking accommodations for this course, please contact the Ranger College Counselor. ADA Statement: Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. The student is responsible for making the initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor. It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.*