



RANGER COLLEGE
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fundamentals of Criminal Law

CRIJ 1301

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR:

Jesus Hernandez

Instructor:	Jesus (Jesse) Hernandez
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Office Hours:	By Appointment
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Office:	Tuesday/Thursday 11:05-12:20

I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundational knowledge of the Criminal Justice System, it's historical basis on English Common Law and develop an understanding of how the criminal justice system governs behavior and personal interactions in our society.

II. Course Description:

The course is an introduction to the American Criminal Justice System. Topics include a history of crime in America, criminal law, history of policing and police organization and purpose, court structure and purpose, adjudication and sentencing, juvenile crime and terrorism and emerging issues.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

There are no prerequisites for this course, but a strong ability to read and a desire to learn about our system of our criminal justice system prove extremely helpful.

IV. Required textbook and Course Material

Schmallegger, F.J. (2014). *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century* (15th ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN #9780134749754

V. Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the American Criminal Justice System, including the issues involved in managing the competing goals and expectations of the various agencies/organizations that comprise the system.

VI. Learning Outcomes

The Criminal Justice System is comprised of interrelated agencies including police, courts and corrections. The common goals are to provide public safety and respect individual rights. The agencies must learn to balance these two, often competing interests, to serve society. Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical development of the American criminal justice system.
2. Discuss the three traditional components of the criminal justice system: police, courts, and corrections and their respective roles within the system.
3. Discuss the tension between individual rights and public order.

4. Discuss emerging issues that evolve from the struggle for justice and the need for safety.

VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- ☒ **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

VIII. Methods of Instruction

Course topics will be discussed during class meetings. The textbook will be supplemented with video and news stories depicting appropriate current events related to issues in criminal justice.

IX. Method of Assessment

This course includes four quizzes, and a final exam.

Quiz format will vary; multiple choice or short critical thinking essay questions will be used. Each quiz will be worth a total of 100 points.

Grading Scale:

Exam #1	100 pts.
Exam #2	100 pts.
Exam #3	100 pts.
Exam #4	100 pts.
Final exam	100 pts.
Total	500 pts.
A = 90-100%	B = 80-89
C = 70-79	D = 60-69
F = Below 60	

X. Course/Classroom Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Excessive absences (6) will result in the student being dropped from the class with a failing grade.

Class Policies

- 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 criminal justice for use in weekly class discussions.
- I strongly encourage a proactive strategy. Read ahead of the posted due dates on the schedule. Your preparation for reading assignments, class participation, and examinations should reflect your academic commitment.
- Late work will result in a 10% deduction on the first occurrence. Subsequent late submissions will not be accepted and will result in a zero for that assignment.
- No make-up exams will be given unless prior arrangements for missing the exam are made with the instructor.
- **Don't cheat.** Any assignment reflecting cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero. A second instance will result in automatic failure of the class and a report being filed with Ranger College's Vice President of Instruction. The consequences of this report can be quite severe for your academic future. For more details, see the section of the Ranger College Catalog (available at www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf), titled "Student Misconduct," subsection "Academic Dishonesty."
- I am happy to communicate with you by email and will do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week. Messages sent over the weekend will be read on Mondays. In the subject line of any email that you send me, please indicate the content of the email. If you have an emergency and need to contact me immediately you may use the phone listed on the syllabus to call or text.

Statement on plagiarism and academic irregularities

The following shall constitute academic irregularities:

- 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.

- The presentation of words or ideas from any other source as one's own –an act defined as plagiarism.
- Unauthorized obtaining, distributions or receiving material which is purported to be an examination, or part of an examination, without the consent of the instructor.
- 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.
- Other activities which interfere with the educational mission within the classroom.
- 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-or-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).

XI.

**Course Outline/Schedule
Tentative Schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading to Complete	Assignment Due
Week 1	Syllabus/ What is CJ?	Chapter 1	

Week 2	The Crime Picture/Causes of Crime	Chapter 2/3	
Week 3	Criminal Law	Chapter 4	
Week 4	Policing History/Exam 1	Chapter 5	
Week 5	Policing Purpose and organization	Chapter 6	
Week 6	Legal Aspects of Policing	Chapter 7	
Week 7	Issues and challenges	Chapter 8	
Week 8	Court Structure/Exam #2	Chapter 9	
Week 9	Pre-trial and trial	Chapter 10	
Week 10	Sentencing	Chapter 11	
Week 11	Probation/Parole/Exam #3	Chapter 12	
Week 12	Prisons and Jails/Prison life	Chapter 13/14	
Week 13	Thanksgiving Break	No Classes	
Week 14	Juvenile Justice/Exam 4	Chapter 15	
Week 15	Drugs and Crime/Special Issues	Chapter 16	
Week 16	Final		

XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

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

XIII. 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