INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE - CRIJ 1301 / A3

Spring Session – 2010
Tuesday and Thursday 5:40 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

Instructor: Dan German
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Office Hours: The instructor does not have regular scheduled office hours. He will arrive approximately 15 minutes before class and stay approximately 15 minutes after class ends. To ensure an opportunity to meet with the instructor, please call or e-mail him and set an appointment for a particular date and time to meet.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: History and philosophy of criminal justice; ethical considerations, crime defined; crime’s nature and impact; overview of the criminal justice system-, law enforcement, court systems; prosecution and defense; trial process and corrections.

Credit: Three semester hours.

No prerequisite: This course required before enrolling in 2300 level criminal justice courses

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of the course, the student will:

- Describe and explain the philosophy and ethical considerations between community interests and individual rights within the criminal justice process.
- Define the nature and impact crime has on society and what statistics can tell us about crime in America.
- Interpret the relationship between the components of the criminal justice system.
- Examine the nature and purpose of criminal law.
- Explain the basic purposes of American policing.
- Learn the specialized vocabulary of the criminal justice system.
- Describe the various stages of the criminal trial.
- Describe the goals of contemporary criminal sentencing.
Describe the nature of due process and the specific constitutional rights of both the accused and convicted.

List and describe the professional occupations within the criminal justice field.

*TEXT., Criminal Justice Today. 10th edition, Schmalleger*

The majority of lecture material covered in this course comes from information found in the textbook and textbook supplement materials. It is required the students use the textbook and its supplements to properly prepare themselves for the exams and assignments given during the semester.

Course content will be made up from lecture presentations, videos, handouts, power point notes, guest speakers and possible field visits.

If a student misses class: handout material, power point notes or daily assignments will note be given to students by the instructor.

**ATTENDANCE:** Blinn College policy on attendance will be followed. Please refer to the class attendance policy in the Blinn College catalog for more details.

This course is in the Division of Applied Business, Information Technology, and Public Service. Our division attendance policy is that class rolls will be checked at each class meeting. Students must attend the entire class period to be counted as present. If a student is absent, it will be considered as either **Excused** or **Unexcused** absent day.

There are two forms of excused absences recognized by Blinn College.

1. **Observance of religious holy days.** The student must notify his/her instructor, in writing, no later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the date(s) the student will be absent for any religious holy day; and

2. **Representing Blinn College in an official capacity.**

**Student Attendance Policy – Flu Policy**

As the flu season continues, Blinn will take measures to prevent the spread of the virus. We remind you that if you have the flu or flu-like symptoms, you should not come to class.

You must report your illness to the instructor by e-mail within 24 hours of the class period missed so the absence is recorded properly. It is not necessary for you to provide a doctor’s note to be excused or to return to class if you have the flu or symptoms of the flu. Do not return to class until you have been fever free for at least 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication.

If a student has two or more unexcused absences during the semester, the instructor will report the student’s absences to the college administration. The student will be placed on notice of the absent days and should contact his/her instructor immediately to discuss the problem. Should the student accumulate **two weeks worth of unexcused absent days (4 days)**, the student may be administratively dropped from the class.

It is entirely the student’s responsibility to drop a class they are no longer attending. A
grade of “0” will be entered for any missed assignments or exams missed due to absenteeism. To avoid receiving a failing grade for poor academic production, a student should always consider dropping the class with a “W” before the official drop date.

EXAMINATIONS: Four (4) major exams will be given during the semester. A comprehensive final exam will be given during finals week. Exam formats will vary depending on the types of materials covered in class. Students that miss major exams must have an excusable reason for missing the scheduled exam. Generally, make up exams are not offered. In the event an emergency arises and the student documents the emergency to the instructor’s satisfaction, at the discretion of the instructor, a make-up exam may be offered. The make-up exam will likely be made up in a different format than the original exam and will be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

Extra credit and other daily grades will also be given at the discretion of the instructor. If a student misses daily assignments or other daily credit work, this work cannot be made up.

EVALUATING GRADES:

Regular Semester Exams 4 exams 400 points.
Daily assignments* As Per Instructor up to 100 points.
Post Exam 1 exam 50 points.
Final Exam 1 exam 50 points.

* The daily assignment grade will replace the lowest regular semester exam grade.

GRADING:

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

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:
1) No food or drinks in class
2) No tobacco products in building
3) Any student determined to be cheating will be given an F.
4) All of the functions of all personal electronic devices designated for communication and/or entertainment must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn classrooms. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with Blinn College civility policy.

CIVILITY STATEMENT: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words.
Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the dignity, rights and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for college property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

CLASS PREPARATION: Students are expected to report to class on time and to stay alert. Tardiness should be avoided. Sleeping in class will not be tolerated. You should present yourself in a professional and respectable manner during class.

Please be prepared for the lectures, guest speakers and exams during the semester.

TENTATIVE CLASS CALLENDAR: Subject to change by the instructor