



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CRIJ 1307 – Crime in America

Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

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PLEASE USE BLACKBOARD MAIL FOR CLASS CORRESPONDENCE

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	8-6	8-6	8-6	8-6	8-12	Upon Request
The best way to communicate with me is via Bb email. You should hear back from me within 24 hours, excluding weekends/holidays. In addition, I am very welcome to set up a specific time I can “meet” with you via phone, chat, video conference (such as Skype [user id: kevinprose]) or BlackBoard Collaborate.						

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Catalog Course Description:

Topics for this course shall include American crime problems in historical perspective; social and public policy factors affecting crime; impact and crime trends; social characteristics of specific crimes; prevention of crime.

Prerequisites:

No formal course requirements, but students should understand how to access the Internet via a web browser.

Required Textbook(s):

CJ: Realities and Challenges. Masters, Ruth E. et. al.; McGraw Hill Publishing, second edition, 2013.

You must have access to McGraw-Hill CONNECT in order to complete this course. All course content will be delivered through this method. You may purchase an access code through the NTCC College Store or online (click Registration link within the BlackBoard course to access McGraw-Hill purchase site).

Recommended Reading(s):

Weekly reading assignments will be made as part of the weekly notes. These assignments may be external to textbook (i.e. Internet, etc.)

Resources:

Computers and computer labs assistants are available in MS 103. The LRC and the Academic Skills Center have computers available for students but with limited or no assistance. Assignments will be submitted in electronic form through BlackBoard; therefore minimal printing will be required.

Your instructor can be your greatest resource. Your instructor is here to assist you in learning the material and helping you earn the grade you wish to earn in the course. This is a commitment by your instructor. Please utilize this resource by contacting him with any matter you feel he can assist you with, both within this class or your college success in general. It is your responsibility to learn the material, but this can often be best accomplished by initiating contact with the instructor on topics you need clarification or further assistance. Please do this!

Student Learning Outcomes:

Course Level

- Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.
- Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.
- Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.
- Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
- Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes

During this course the student will be able to (Reference from textbook):

- I. Chapter 2
 - A. Identify types of crime
 - B. Explain current professional efforts to measure crime
 - C. Differentiate between crimes against persons and crimes against property
- II. Chapter 4
 - A. Understand purpose and function of law
 - B. Identify key events and issues regarding the history of criminal laws
 - C. Report the key differences between criminal and civil law
- III. Chapter 6
 - A. Understand the roles of policing in America
 - B. Identify current police strategies
- IV. Chapter 8
 - A. Explain the structure of courts and their jurisdiction
 - B. Identify and explain the role of each courtroom participant
- V. Chapter 10
 - A. Understand the context for sentencing in our courts today
 - B. Identify the goals and models of sentencing in America
 - C. Establish and support a position on capital punishment
- VI. Chapter 12
 - A. Understand the difference between prisons and jails
 - B. Identify types of prisons
 - C. Report accurately on the subcultures found in prisons
 - D. Understand the efforts of rehabilitation and treatment
- VII. Chapter 15 Juvenile Justice
 - A. Identify key issues regarding the history of U.S. juvenile justice
 - B. Explain the steps through the juvenile justice system

Exemplary Educational Objectives:

N/A

SCANS Skills:

N/A

Lectures & Discussions:

Due Date		Topic	Text Ref.
Jan 23	Week 1 (Jan 17-23)	Introduction to course	BlackBoard
Jan 30	Week 2 (Jan 23-Jan 30)	Chapter 2 – Types of Crime	Pg. 26-67
Feb 6	Week 3 (Jan 30-Feb 6)	Video 1: Understanding Violence	
Feb 13	Week 4 (Feb 6-13)	Chapter 4 – Criminal Law and Defenses	Pg. 102-131
Feb 20	Week 5 (Feb 13-20)	Video 2: Todd Greenberg Case	
Feb 27	Week 6 (Feb 20-27)	Chapter 6 – Policing Operations	Pg. 168-201
Mar 6	Week 7 (Feb 27-Mar 6)	Video 3: Forensic Science in Action: From Crime Scene to Courtroom	
Mar 13	Week 8 (Mar 6-13)	Chapter 8 – The Courts	Pg. 233-261
	Mar 13-20	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 27	Week 9 (Mar 20-27)	Mid-Term (Chapters 2, 4, 6, 8)	BlackBoard
Apr 3	Week 10 (Mar 27-Apr 3)	Video 4: Due Process - Let's Make a Deal: The Plea Bargain	
Apr 10	Week 11 (Apr 3-10)	Chapter 10 – Sentencing	Pg. 288-313
Apr 17	Week 12 (Apr 10-17)	Video 5: Kids Behind Bars	
Apr 24	Week 13 (Apr 17-24)	Chapter 12 – Jails and Prisons	Pg. 346-385
May 1	Week 14 (Apr 24-May 1)	Video 6: Let the Doors Be Made of Iron: 19th-Century Prison Reform	
May 8	Week 15 (May 1-May 8)	Chapter 15 – Juvenile Justice	Pg. 448-481
May 11	Week 16 (May 8-May 11) Note: May 11 is Thursday	Final Exam (Due on Thursday), Chpt 10,12,15	BlackBoard

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be determined by the student's achievement of a total number of possible points based on the below listed categories.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Pts. Per Assign.</u>	<u>Total Pts. Possible</u>
Weekly discussion questions (BB discussion)	5	40	200
Homework assignments			500
Syllabus Quiz	1	20	20
Reading Worksheets	7	60	420
Video Assignments	6	10	60

Mid-Term Exam	1	150	150
Final exam	1	150	150
Total			1000

The letter grade is based on the following Grading Scale:

Total Pts. Earned	Ltr. Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

Tests/Exams:

Mid-Term Exam: March 20-27, 2016 (Monday – Monday)

Final Exam: May 8-11, 2016 (Monday – Thursday)

This course consists of two exams, a mid-term, and a final. The mid-term will consist of information from the start of the semester, up to the time of the exam. The final will contain information from the mid-term forward. You will be given one week to take each exam. **If you have a conflict with the exam dates**, you must contact the instructor prior to the exam week to attempt to resolve the conflict in a mutually agreeable manner.

****IMPORTANT****

The exams will be offered through the BlackBoard system, and **must be taken in a proctored environment** (i.e. the proctor will have a password to let you into the exam). If you are a student who is local to one of the Northeast Texas Community College campuses, the exams may be taken at the NTCC Testing Center (located in the Business Technology-BT Building on the main campus). **If you are not local to the NTCC main campus**, please contact your instructor to make arrangements to have the exam proctored at a site near you.

The exams may consist of a variety of question types, including, but not limited to multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and essay. The exams will be graded, and your grade will be posted to the BlackBoard grade book after the exam period has ended.

NTCC Testing Center (Business Technology Building; Room 101)

903-434-8273 -or- 903-434-8217

Testing Center Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Closed on Saturdays & Sundays

Assignments:

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Each assignment deadline and its deliverables will be presented at the time the assignment is made.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics to be covered in order to best prepare the student with the above stated learning outcomes. All assignments will be made and collected through BlackBoard.

The instructor will deliver the course in a manner consistent with life-long learning and rapid information acquisition requirements necessary to be successful in today's marketplace. As in today's business climate, the student must constantly stay aware of the environment. **In simple terms** -- What this means is stay "plugged" into the course. *The student should log into BlackBoard (or stay aware of other content delivery methods -- which will be discussed throughout the semester) on a very regular basis.*

BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION POSTING:

One topic per week will be posted by the instructor on the BlackBoard discussion board. The instructor will post discussion prompts on Monday. Postings will be graded for content. Therefore, please make sure you add to the discussion content, not simply agree/disagree with a 'yes, I agree' and hit Submit, but state you agree, and explain why you agree. **The student must post an initial "core" posting. The student must then post a follow up response to two other students.** Therefore all discussions will consist of one week of discussions with each student posting AT LEAST one primary posting **and** two response postings for **a total AT LEAST three postings per week.**

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Online Access: Students must login to the class during the first week of the semester and post to the discussion board through BlackBoard (see first assignment). Submission of assigned work will count as communication.

Class Attendance: Participation on the class website will constitute "attendance." Withdrawal requests **MUST BE** initiated by the student. The last day for a student to drop a course with a grade of "W" is **Thursday, April 13, 2016**. Requests for withdrawal become official and effective the date they are received in the records office. Students who stop coming to class (that is, stop participating on the class website) but fail to drop the course will earn an "F" for the course.

Late Work: To be considered "on time," **all work must be submitted the day it is due**. This means before midnight. Assignments can be submitted for a 10% deduction for one week following the assignment due date. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructor.

No late discussion postings will be accepted. Homework assignments can always be submitted early. Please recognize part of Internet technology is the age old adage of "not if the technology is

going to fail, but when!"; therefore, don't wait until the last minute to complete and submit your work!

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook (see Student Handbook on the student MyEagle Portal).

Academic Ethics

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.