



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CRIJ 1310.021HY – Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Syllabus: Fall 2019

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

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Email
	12:30 – 1:00	11:00 – 11:30	12:30 – 1:00	11:00 – 11:30	N/A	Any Time
The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will answer all questions as quickly as possible, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of your email.						

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: foundation and structure of the Texas legal systems and its historical origins, structure and organization of the criminal justice process, an understanding of the makeup, punishment ranges, and enhancements of the Texas Criminal and Traffic laws.

Prerequisites:

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

Required Textbook(s):

Texas Criminal and Traffic Laws. LexisNexis; Mathew Bender & Company, 2015-2016 Edition.

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.

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

- Explain the foundations, origins, and justifications of Texas laws.
- Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
- Describe the different types, levels, and punishment ranges of Texas Criminal laws.
- Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.
- Understand and evaluate the application of criminal laws with regards to persons or property.

During this course the student will be able to:

- I. Understand the foundation for all Texas Law.
 - A. U.S. Constitutional Law
 - B. Texas Constitutional Law
 - C. Report the key differences between Civil and Criminal law
- II. Understand the process for the formation and application of laws.
 - A. Statutory Laws and the Legislative Process
 - B. Case Law and Court Decisions
 - C. County and Municipal Ordinances
- III. Understand the application of Criminal Law.
 - A. Steps through the Criminal Justice System
 - B. Identify and Explain the various types of Law Enforcement entities in Texas
 - C. Identify and Explain the various types of Criminal Court entities in Texas
- IV. Understand the requirements for a Criminal Act and explain how crimes are classified.
 - A. Mental Culpability States, Criminal Responsibility, Mistake of Fact/Law
 - B. Types and Classification of Misdemeanor Offenses
 - C. Types and Classification of Felony Offenses
- V. Examine different types of Property Crimes and their elements, enhancements and punishments.
 - A. Criminal Mischief and Criminal Trespass
 - B. Theft and Burglary
 - C. Forgery and Fraud
- VI. Examine different types of Crimes against Persons, their elements, enhancements, and punishments
 - A. Assaultive Behaviors
 - B. Sex Crimes
 - C. Crimes Against Family

Exemplary Educational Objectives:

N/A

SCANS Skills:

N/A

Lectures & Discussions:

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 – Aug26/28	BB Familiarization and Syllabus Quiz	Introduction and Syllabus
Week 2 – Sept 2/4	BB Assignment #1: Rights of a Criminal Defendant	U.S./Texas Constitutional Law
Week 3 – Sept 9/11	BB Assignment #2: TX Penal Code Ch. 2: Burden of Proof	Statutory Laws & Case Law
Week 4 – Sept 16/18	BB Assignment #3: TX Penal Code Ch. 6: Culpability	TX Penal Code Ch. 9 Justification Excluding Criminal Responsibility
Week 5 – Sept 23/25	BB Assignment #4: TX Penal Code Ch. 7 & 8: Criminal Responsibility and Defenses	
Week 6 – Sept 30/2	BB Assignment #5: TX Penal Code Ch. 12 & 15: Punishments & Preparatory Offenses	Quiz #1 TX Penal Code Ch. 19 Criminal Homicide
Week 7 – Oct 7/9	BB Assignment #7: Unlawful Restraint	TX Penal Code Ch. 20 Human Trafficking
Week 8 – Oct 14/16	Mid-Term Review	Mid-Term Exam
Week 9 – Oct 21/23	BB Assignment #8: TX Penal Ch. 28: Arson, Criminal Mischief, Prop Damage	TX Penal Code Ch. 21 Sexual Offenses
Week 10 – Oct 28/30	BB Assignment #9: TX Penal Code Ch. 31: Theft	TX Penal Code Ch. 22 Assaultive Offenses
Week 11 – Nov 4/6	BB Assignment #10: TX Penal Code Ch. 32: Fraud	TX Penal Code Ch. 29 & 30: Robbery, Burglary, & Criminal Trespass
Week 12 – Nov 11/13	BB Assignment #11: TX Penal Code Ch. 49: Intoxication and Alcohol Offenses	Quiz #2 TX Penal Code Ch. 31: Theft
Week 13 – Nov 18/20	BB Assignment #12: TX Penal Code Ch. 38: Obstructing Governmental Operation	TX Penal Code Ch. 42: Disorderly Conduct
Week 14 – Nov 25/27	Thanksgiving	Break
Week 15 – Dec 2/4	BB Assignment #13: Other Important Offenses	TX H.S.C. – Drug Offenses Final Review
Week 16 – Dec 9/12	Final Exam Week	

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>
Class Participation	16	3	50
Class Assignments			450
Quizzes	2	100	200
Written Assignments	13	20	250
Mid-Term Exam	1	250	250
Final exam	1	250	250
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: October 16, 2019

Final Exam: December 9, 2019 (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 be comprehensive and contain information from the entire course. **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.

Assignments:**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Each assignment will be 1 – 2 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman #12 font, and is due at the beginning of class on Thursday of the week that it is due.

Each Blackboard Assignment will require a short, written response. The student is required to answer the question, or respond to the statement, made in the assignment by citing the related statute and providing an opinion, if requested. Responses should be no longer than a single type-written page.

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.

QUIZZES:

There will be 2 quizzes for this course. Each quiz will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth a total of 100 points of your total class grade.

Missed quizzes must be made up before the next quiz/test date. Failure to make up a quiz will result in a 0 score for that assignment.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Class Attendance: **Participation in class discussions and assignments is mandatory.** Students' participation grade (100 points of the total Class Grade) will be ***heavily based*** on in-class engagement.

Withdrawal requests **MUST BE** initiated by the student. The last day for a student to drop a course with a grade of "W" is **Tuesday November 19, 2019**. Requests for withdrawal become official and effective the date they are received in the records office. Students who stop coming to class 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 at the beginning of class on the day that it is due.** 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.

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.