

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CRIJ 1301.002 (3:3:0)**

**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology**

**Department of Professional Services & Energy**

**SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**

**Levelland Campus**

**Spring 2024**

**Campus:** Levelland Campus

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE TITLE:** **CRIJ 1301 INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
(CIP Code 43.0107)

**INSTRUCTOR:** John A. Barnes

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**VISION:** SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH  
STUDENT'S LIFE

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### **I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

#### **A. Course Description**

This course is an overview of the criminal justice system and the problems it confronts. It covers the workings of law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system, as well as juvenile justice. It reviews what constitutes crime, how crime is measured, and the theories used to explain crime. Additionally, this course looks to the future and outlines some of the pressing issues that continue to challenge crime control in a democratic society.

#### **B. OBJECTIVES**

- Students will be able to describe how the criminal justice system evolved from its origins to the institution it has now become.
- Students will be able to discuss how law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system engage in the work of social control.
- Students will be able to describe the legal, philosophical, and political issues that constrain the criminal justice system.
- Students will be able to discuss the need for reform in the criminal justice system and describe some of the major reform strategies.
- Students will understand how the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are related.
- Students will understand how crime is measured and how the media influences criminal justice policy.

#### **C. TEXT AND READINGS**

Required: Gaines, Larry K. Miller, Roger L. *Criminal Justice in Action*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage Publishing.

## II. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of specific elements listed in objective required in this course. Any motor skill competency will meet minimum course evaluations and receive a Pass/Fail grade.
- B. Academic Integrity: It is the goal of the SPC Law Enforcement faculty to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity in education and training endeavors. It is a serious offense for any student to presents as his or her own work that he or she has not honestly performed; such action renders the offender liable to serious consequences that may include suspension from the academy. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism. (See “Academic Integrity” as well as “Student Conduct” sections in the college catalog.) In some instances, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS Competencies C-9 through C-14. If any student has a question as to whether he or she may work with other students on any assignments, **SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE INSTRUCTOR** to ascertain whether or not the student is in compliance with course guidelines.
- C. Verification of Workplace Competencies. Successful completion of this course meets one of the TCOLE mandated requirements that permit a student to take the state License Examination to be a Texas Peace Officer. A student who successfully passes the state’s examination does not become a peace officer until he or she is employed by an official law enforcement/criminal justice organization empowered to commission a peace officer in the state of Texas. Successful passing score on the state licensure examination is one of many employment criteria that permit a person to seek employment with law enforcement agencies.
- D. Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. Misses 5 classes in a row and does not contact the instructor.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all

courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. Students must attend and/or participate in all classes for which financial aid is awarded. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the Student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

- E. Assignment Policy: All required work must be turned in “on-time” in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the make-up work is acceptable.

## **F. Tutoring Services –**

Additional information regarding this area will be made available closer to the start of the term. Tutoring Services will be offering face-to-face tutoring one-on-one appointment, one-on-one live virtual sessions with SPC tutors, as well as using services from tutor.com. For additional questions regarding Tutoring Services or scheduling, please contact Ms. Rebecca Grunder at 806-716-2538 or at rgrunder@southplainscollege.edu. Library Resources Access electronic resources, chat with a librarian, get help with your citation, and find short videos to help you get started with using Library services. Visit <https://southplainscollege.libguides.com/> or contact the library at Levelland (806-716-2330 or library@southplainscollege.edu) or at Reese (806-716- 4682 or referencelub@southplainscollege.edu).

- F. **South Plains College permits the lawful carry of concealed handguns in accordance with Texas state law, and Texas Senate Bill 11. Individuals possessing a valid License to Carry permit, or the formerly issued Concealed Handgun License, may carry a concealed handgun at all campus locations except for the following.**
- **Natatorium**
- G. **For a complete list of campus carry exclusions zones by event, please visit <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>**

III. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

Grading Policy/Procedures/or Other Methods of Evaluation: An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the class.

	TOTAL	
Mid-term	250	points
**Final Examination	250	points
Quizzes x 15 (30 point a piece)	450	points
Attendance (0 After 5 Absences)	50	points
	=	
Total Points Possible:	1000	points

The following scale will be used to calculate the final grade based on the accumulation of all other points earned through testing scores:

GRADING GUIDELINE:		
Total Points Accumulated	=	Grade Earned
1000 to 900 points	=	A
899 to 800 points	=	B
799 to 700 points	=	C
699 to 600 points	=	D
599 or fewer	=	F

\*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

\*\* Final Examination is required for all students.

IV. Course Learning Outcomes: Topics covered in the assigned courses will afford students opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the following:

### **TOPICS OF STUDY**

Textbook and Other Materials:

Required: Gaines, Larry K. Miller, Roger L. *Criminal Justice in Action*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage Publishing.

V. Course Learning Outcomes: Topics covered in the assigned courses will afford students opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the following:

<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Required Reading</u></b>
Criminal Justice Today	Chapter 1
Causes of Crime	Chapter 2
The Crime Picture: Offenders and Victims	Chapter 3
Inside Criminal Law	Chapter 4
Law Enforcement Today	Chapter 5
Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing	Chapter 6
Police and the Constitution: The Rules of LE	Chapter 7
Courts and the Quest for Justice	Chapter 8
Pretrial Procedures: The Adversary System in Action	Chapter 9
The Criminal Trial	Chapter 10
Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 11
Probation, Parole and Intermediate Sanctions	Chapter 12
Prisons and Jails	Chapter 13
The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry	Chapter 14
The Juvenile Justice System	Chapter 15
Today's Challenges: Cyber and White Collar Crime	Chapter 16

**G. Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Conceal Carry Statement**  
here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.