

Fall 2025 Course Syllabus
Course: CRIJ-1301 (Section: 71, CRN: 91548)
Introduction to Criminal Justice



Instructor Information

Instructor	Trazarra Stelly
Email	stellytn1@lamarpa.edu
Phone	(409) 984-6102
Office	Educational I - Room: 131
Office Hours	Virtual Office Hours by appointment only. Monday - Thursday (Flexible Times). Contact instructor by email or telephone to schedule an appointment.
Additional Contact Information	Email is the preferred method of contact. You can also contact Ms. Stelly by phone at (409) 984-6504.

Course Information

Description	This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.
Required Textbooks	<i>Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending Lamar State College Port Arthur is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.</i> Introduction To Criminal Justice A Brief Edition John Randolph Fuller Oxford University Press, 2019 ISBN 978-0-19-029817-3
Additional Materials/Resources	None.
Corequisites/Prerequisites	TSIA complete in reading.
Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- 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.

Core Objectives

- Communication skills: Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication.
- Critical Thinking Skills: Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions.
- Teamwork: Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and/or global communities.
- Personal Responsibility: Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Lecture Topics Outline

Lectures will cover all 14 Chapters:

PART I: CRIME: PROBLEMS, MEASUREMENT, AND LAW

Chapter 1: Crime and Criminal Justice

Chapter 2: How Crime is Measured and Who it Affects

Chapter 3: Criminal Law

PART II: ENFORCING THE LAW

Chapter 4: The History and Organization of Law Enforcement

Chapter 5: Police Organization, Operation, and the Law

Chapter 6: Policing: Innovations and Controversies

PART III: THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

Chapter 7: The Courts

Chapter 8: The Courtroom Work Group

Chapter 9: The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, Sentencing

PART IV: FROM PENOLOGY TO CORRECTIONS AND BACK

Chapter 10: The History of Control and Punishments

Chapter 11: Prisons and Jails

Chapter 12: Community Corrections

PART V: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice

Chapter 14: Criminal Justice in the Future: issues and Concerns

**Major Assignments
Schedule**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
8/25-8/30	Introduction/Welcome Week	8/27: Syllabus Review	<p>All Assignments must be submitted before 10 p.m.</p> <p>Initial Discussion must be submitted on Wednesdays and replies to your peers on Saturdays.</p> <p>8/27: Introduction Discussion</p> <p>8/30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Replies • Introduction Assignment • Syllabus Quiz </p>
8/31-9/6	Part I: Crime Problems, Measurement, and Law	9/3: Chapter 1- Crime and Criminal Justice	<p>9/3: Chapter 1 Discussion</p> <p>9/6: Discussion Replies</p>
9/7-9/13		9/10: Chapter 2- How Crime is Measured and Who it Affects	9/13: Chapter 2 Assignment
9/14-9/20		9/17: Chapter 3- Criminal Law	9/17: Final Project Topics DUE

			9/20: Chapter 1-3 Quiz
9/21-9/27	Part II: Enforcing the Law	9/24: Chapter 4- The History and Organization of Law Enforcement	9/24: Chapter 4 Discussion 9/27: Discussion Replies
9/28-10/4		10/1: Chapter 5-Police Organization, Operation, and the Law	10/4: Chapter 5 Assignment
10/5-10/11		10/8: Chapter 6-Policing: Innovation and Controversies	10/11: Chapter 4-6 Quiz
10/12-10/18	Part III: The Role of the Courts	10/15: Chapter 7- The Courts	10/15: Chapter 7 Discussion 10/18: Discussion Replies
10/19-10/25		10/22: Chapter 8- The Courtroom Work Group &	10/25: Final Project outline/draft
10/26-11/1		10/29: Chapter 9- The Disposition: Plea Bargaining, Trial, Sentencing	11/1: • Chapter 8 & 9 Assignment • Chapter 7-9 Quiz
11/2-11/8	Part IV: From Penology to Corrections and Back	11/5: Chapter 10-The History of Control and Punishment	11/5: Chapter 10 Discussion 11/8: Discussion Replies
11/9-11/15		11/12: Chapter 11-Prisons and Jails	11/15: Chapter 11 Assignment
11/16-11/22		11/19: Chapter 12- Community Corrections	11/22:

			Chapter 10-12 Quiz
11/23-11/29 (Thanksgiving Break 11/26-11/28)	Part V: Contemporary Issues	11/25: Chapter 13- Juvenile Justice & Chapter 14-Criminal Justice in the Future: Issues and Concerns	
11/30-12/6	Work on Final Project	Work on Final Project	12/6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13 & 14 Quiz • Work on Final Project
12/7-12/12 (LAST CLASS DAY IS 12/11)	<p>FINALS WEEK</p> <p>There is NO FINAL EXAM! Your Contemporary Issue in Criminal Justice Project will count as your FINAL.</p>		<p>12/7:</p> <p>Final Projects Due before 10 p.m.</p> <p>12/10:</p> <p>FINAL GRADES WILL BE SUBMITTED</p>

Final Exam Date December 3, 2025 - 8:0 AM Through December 7, 2025 - 10:0 PM

Grading Scale 90 - 100=A 80 - 89=B 70 - 79=C 60 - 69=D Below 59 = F

Determination of Final Grade

Discussion posts- 30%

Assignments- 35%

Tests/Quizzes- 15%

Final Project- 20%

Course Policies

Instructor Policies

I **DO NOT** accept late work. All assignments are due as scheduled. There are a few exceptions but those will only be discussed on a case by case basis. (ex. Medical situations such as hospitalization with verification)

Plagiarism is NOT tolerated at Lamar State College Port Arthur. Therefore, plagiarism is NOT tolerated in this class. If plagiarism is discovered, all previously graded work is subject to regrading.

The best way to reach me is by email. I'm not on the campus full time, therefore virtual appointments are best.

I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours.

You must email from your LSCPA email account. I will not respond to personal email accounts.

Attendance Policy

Active participation in this online class is important to your success in this class. You are expected to log into your Blackboard at least 3 times weekly.

"Preparation is the key to success." - Alexander Graham Bell

"Procrastination is the enemy of success." - Unknown

"Success is the sum of small efforts being repeated day in and day out." -Robert Collier

If you want to be successful in this class you must: follow your course syllabi, read your book, take notes, watch the videos, and complete your assignments on time. Always ask for help if you need it! NO QUESTION is a dumb question. If I can't answer it when you ask... I'll get back with you in a timely manner. Here's to an awesome and successful semester in CRIJ-1301!!

Additional Information

TimelyCare

TimelyCare is a virtual health and well-being platform available 24/7 for Lamar State College Port Arthur students. Any enrolled student can use TimelyCare. There is no cost to students. Go to timelycare.com/LSCPA or download the TimelyCare app to access care.

Institutional Policies

MyLSCPA	Be sure to check your campus email and Course Homepage using MyLSCPA campus web portal. You can also access your grades, transcripts, academic advisors, degree progress, and other services through MyLSCPA .
Academic Honesty	Academic honesty is expected from all students, and dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please consult the LSCPA policies (Academic Dishonesty section in the Student Handbook) for consequences of academic dishonesty.
ADA Considerations	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator , Room 117, in the Student Success Center. The phone number is (409) 984-6241.
COVID 19 Information	The Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) Student Code of Conduct COVID 19 Policy requires students who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 to report their condition directly to their local health department. Students should also contact their course faculty to report their quarantine status. In addition, this policy requires all students to wear face coverings when directly exposed to COVID 19 in compliance with the criteria included in the policy. For more information please refer to the COVID 19 link on the LSCPA website.
Facility Policies	No food or tobacco products are allowed in the classroom. Only students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom, except by special instructor permission. Use of electronic devices is prohibited.
HB 2504	This syllabus is part of LSCPA's efforts to comply with Texas House Bill 2504.
Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect	As per Texas law and LSCPA policy, all LSCPA employees, including faculty, are required to report allegations or disclosures of child abuse or neglect to the designated authorities, which may include a local or state law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. For more information about mandatory reporting requirements, see LSCPA's Policy and Procedure Manual .
Title IX and Sexual Misconduct	LSCPA is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment that is free from all forms of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other forms of sexual misconduct. All LSCPA employees, including faculty, have the responsibility to report disclosures of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault (including rape and acquaintance rape), domestic violence, dating violence, relationship violence, or stalking, to LSCPA's Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the college's response to sexual misconduct. For more information about Title IX protections, faculty reporting responsibilities, options for confidential reporting, and the resources available for support visit LSCPA's Title IX website .
Clery Act Crime Reporting	For more information about the Clery Act and crime reporting, see the Annual Security & Fire Safety Report and the Campus Security website .
Grievance / Complaint / Concern	If you have a grievance, complaint, or concern about this course that has not been resolved through discussion with the Instructor, please consult the Department Chair.
Department Information	General Education and Developmental Studies Chair: Dr. Steven Zani Email: zanisj@lamarpa.edu Phone: (409) 984-6431