



Criminal Justice 1310.031IN
Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Fall 2023 (2nd 8-weeks) 10/23/23 – 12/15/23
Online

Instructor Information: Carla Anderson, canderson@com.edu, Ofc (409) 933-8276, Cell (409) 771-2219

Student hours and location: Student hours are Mon-Thurs 7:00-11am and 12:30-2:30pm. If necessary, we can set an appointment for Friday mornings. Another option is setting up a face-to-face call through Teams. My office is located in the Public Service Careers Building across the street from the main campus on Amburn Road, next door to DPS. (Turn in the fire station driveway for our parking lot.)

Required Textbook and Materials: Texas Criminal Law Principles and Practices (3rd edition)
Author: Jerry L. Dowling, Publisher: Starmont Enterprises
Print ISBN: 9780578390376, 057839037X
eText ISBN: 9780578390376, 057839037X

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/texas-criminal-law-principles-and-practices-jerry-l-dowling-v9780578390376?duration=perpetual>

Texas Penal Code (free access online)
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?link=PE>

Course Description: This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses, and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability.

Course requirements: This is an 8-week course. You are required to read the chapters as listed on the course outline and any related lecture notes or outlines. Viewing the respective power point presentations will reinforce your reading. I will post supplemental material in Content on occasion that is considered course material. You are responsible for this material for exam purposes (unless otherwise stated).

You are required to take 3 exams (200 points each), submit 3 assignments (50 points each), a power point project (50 points), and post to 5 discussions (10 points each). Although quizzes are optional and have no point value for your grade, I highly recommend that you take them for self-assessment value. Exams will be taken online and will be open between 4-5 days, including a weekend, to accommodate various schedules. Do not use Wi-Fi when taking an exam, if possible.

Please contact me if you have computer problems while taking an exam. Exams may be accessed through the “Quizzes” link on the menu. Look at the course outline to determine your exam weeks (Week 2 - Exam 1, Week 4 - Exam 2, Weeks 7/8 - Exam 3). All exams are timed.

Discussions: For full credit, postings to a discussion topic should consist of a short paragraph, with a minimum of 200 words. Each discussion topic is worth up to 10 points each. I encourage you to respond to a fellow student for each posting. You are expected to read at least 75% of the postings. Our discussion board takes the place of a live classroom discussion and as such, you may be exposed to many different concepts and beliefs concerning various criminal justice issues. Be respectful of your classmates when posting or responding to a discussion. Your comments and thoughts are part of the learning process. Do not use “text” spelling. Please use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Maximum points will not be given for informal, incomplete, very brief, or not in compliance postings. A post may be deleted from view if it is disrespectful, crude, or contains offensive language. Do not use all caps when typing any words in your postings.

Written Assignments: Detailed instructions for assignments are contained within the individual assignments located in the menu link “Assignments.” All written assignments must be typed and submitted in either Microsoft Word file format (.docx or .doc) or in a PDF format using a font no smaller than 10 points and no larger than 12 points. Please take advantage of the COM Tutoring Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. You submit your written assignments by attaching your document into the respective assignment box. I will attempt to grade and return your assignments within 5 days of the due date. Please feel free to contact me if you have not received a grade. You are responsible for keeping copies of all your assignments turned in for grades.

Power point project: The power point project requires that you prepare a minimum 25-slide presentation on an issue related to Corrections. This is due 11/29/23 (contained in the course outline). Detailed instructions are contained within the Power Point project assignment located in Assignments. Many electronic resources available to you through the COM Library. Use academic search engines such as ProQuest which may be found in LibGuides located on the COM Library website. Wikipedia is not an academic resource and will not be counted as such. If cited, you will receive no credit.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

1 st exam	200 points
2 nd exam	200 points
3 rd exam	200 points
Assignments (3 at 50 pts. ea.)	150 points
Power point project	50 points
Discussions (5 at 10 pts. ea.)	50 points
TOTAL	850 POINTS

A= 850-765 B= 764-680 C= 679-595 D= 594-510 F= 509 and below

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: I accept late work on Assignments 1 and 2. Five (5) points will be subtracted from the grade for each day that it is late past the due date. After five (5) days late work will not be accepted. There is no make-up work. I offer extra credit at the beginning of the course, so please take advantage of that opportunity.

Attendance Policy: Pursuant to college policy attendance is required. Your attendance in this online class will consist of participating in discussions and submitting the required assignments and exams. There may be suggested weekly readings in addition to the assigned chapters. It is expected that you log into the course website twice a week (or more) to view updated announcements, participate in ongoing discussions, take quizzes, and submit the required work. You are expected to commit at least 3-4 hours a week or more in this class.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Student Learner Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify the elements of crime and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
2. Classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
3. Compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
4. Assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
5. Evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310) topic through written communication.
7. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310) topic through visual communication.

General Education Core Objectives: Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

1. Critical Thinking Skills (CT): Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
2. Communication Skills (CS1, CS2, CS3): Students will develop, interpret, and express ideas through written (CS1), oral (CS2), and visual (CS3) communication.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify the elements of crime and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Assignment 3
2. Classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.	Communication skills (CS1)	Exam 2
3. Compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Assignment 1
4. Assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Exam 2
5. Evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.	Communication skills (CS1)	Exam 1
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Criminal Law topic through written communication.	Communication skills (CS1)	Assignment 2
7. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Criminal Law topic through visual communication.	Communication skills (CS3)	Power point project

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and is prohibited. Integrity is very important in your academic and professional career, especially in the criminal justice field. If there is evidence which indicates dishonesty regarding submitted assignments or exams, you will receive a zero (-0-) for that assignment or exam. In addition, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. R. E. Davis, Dept. Chair of Public Service Careers, at (409) 933-8313, rdavis29@com.edu.

Course outline: [Fundamentals of Criminal Law CRIJ 1310](#) [Fall 2023](#) [10/23/23–12/15/23](#)

(Subject to change – read Announcements for updates.)

Date	Wk	Readings*	Discussions	Assignments	Exams
10/23	1	Ch 1 Foundations of Criminal Law Ch 2 Elements of a Crime; Texas Penal Code (TPC)	Introduction Due 10/24	Start optional extra credit due 10/27 (Fri)	Syllabus Quiz (extra credit 3 pts) Open 10/24-10/29
10/30	2	Ch 3 Criminal Law in Daily Practice / Ch 4 Parties to Offenses; TPC Review Chs 1-4 for Exam 1	Disc 1 Due 10/31	Assi 1 due 11/2 (Thurs)	Exam 1 opens 11/3 (Fri)- 11/7 (Tues) (covers Chs 1-4)
11/6	3	Review Chs 1-4 for Exam 1 Ch 5 Criminal Homicide Ch 6 Assault and Sexual Assault	Disc 2 Due 11/7		Exam 1 closes 11/7 (Tues)
11/13	4	Ch7 Kidnapping & Related Offenses; Ch 8 Property Destruction Offenses; TPC Review Chs 5-8	Disc 3 Due 11/14	Assi 2 due 11/16 (Thurs)	Exam 2 opens 11/17 (Fri) – 11/21 (Tues) (Chs 5, 6, 7, 8)
11/20	5	Review Chs 5-8 Ch 9 Theft, Fraud; TPC Ch 10 Robbery, Burglary & Criminal Trespass			Exam 2 closes 11/21 Happy Thanksgiving!
11/27	6	Ch 11 Offenses Against Gov'tl Operations; TPC Ch 12 Public Disorder, Indecency; TPC Ch 13 Intoxication Offenses; TPC	Disc 4 Due 11/28	Power point project due 11/29/23	
12/4	7	Ch 14 Preparatory Offenses & Organized Crim. Activity; TPC / Ch15 General Defenses; TPC Review Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 for Exam 3	Disc 5 Due 12/5	Assi 3 due 12/7 (Thurs)	Exam 3 opens 12/8 (Fri) – 12/13 (Wed) (Chs 9, 10, 12, 13, 14)
12/11	8	Review Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 for Exam 3 Last day of class 12/15/23			Exam 3 closes 12/13 (Wed) Last day–12/15

**** The respective Texas Penal Code (TPC) sections are mandatory reading. The section numbers are in each Module. There is free online access to the most current criminal law statutes. The link is located on page 1 of the Syllabus or on the course menu.**

Technology Outage Policy: There may be times when D2L may be serviced and therefore unavailable. You will see a notice on the D2L website when this occurs. Plan accordingly. If you are taking an exam and have technology issues, take a screenshot and email me immediately. In addition, text me your problems taking the exam at (409) 771-2219 with your name, course, and exam numbers. Contact me before submitting an online request to our Distance Education staff, which is also available to you as an option.

Other times the College may experience emergency campus-wide technology outages. If this occurs and you are taking an exam or quiz, or submitting an assignment, you will need to notify me. The exam or quiz will need to be reset or I will extend the assignment due date after the campus-wide outage is confirmed by Informational Technology. An Announcement will be sent to all students relaying the information about the new due date for the assignment or exam.

In case of a personal technology issue or if you have questions about an assignment or need clarification of requirements, please contact me. The College has a number of [computer labs](#) (Library, Innovations) so access to requisite technology needed to complete assignments should not be an issue. The Innovations computer lab and the library computers are available for use.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland 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.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 2nd 8-week session is December 7, 2023.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Student Success Tips: This is an expedited 8-week course. Please stay aware of due dates for assignments and exams. Always read the Announcements. Make an extra copy of the course outline (above) to stay on track each week. Read all assigned chapters and instructions for assignments and exams. Take the practice quizzes before taking any exam. This could boost your overall score. Call, message, or text me if you have any questions. Ask for help. Remember, online classes require your attention and dedication. Try not to wait until the last minute. Good luck!

IMPORTANT: Eligibility for an occupational license may be impacted by one's criminal history. Students with a criminal history should confer with faculty or the department chairperson. Students have a right to request a criminal history evaluation letter from the applicable licensing agency.