



**Criminal Justice 1301.031|1**  
**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**Fall 2025 (1st 8-weeks) 8/18/25 – 10/9/25 Online**

**Instructor Information:** Mike Bell, [mbell15@com.edu](mailto:mbell15@com.edu), Ofc (409) 933-8683, Cell (713) 591-5957

**Student hours and location:** Student hours are Mon-Thurs 8:30-11am and 1:00-2:30pm. However, I am in the office from 8:00am – 5:00pm so please feel free to stop by during those hours also. If necessary, we can set an appointment for Friday mornings. Another option is setting up a face-to-face call or a meeting through Teams. My office is in the Public Service Careers Building across the street from the main campus, next door to DPS. (Turn in the fire station driveway for our parking lot.)

**Required Textbook:** Criminal Justice, A Brief Introduction (13<sup>th</sup> edition) by Frank Schmalleger; Publisher: Pearson (ISBN-13: E-text 9780135186268) (Loose-leaf paper book 9780135208984) (Book 9780135186268). You may also use the 12th edition (ISBN-0-13-454862-0). Supplementary materials will be posted in D2L.

**Course 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.

**Course requirements:** This is an 8-week course (8/18/25 – 10/9/25). You are required to read the chapters as listed on the course outline and any related lecture notes or outlines located in the modules. Viewing the respective power point presentations will reinforce your reading. I will post supplemental material in the chapter resources section of each module 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) and 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 the exam. Exams may be accessed through the “Quizzes” link on the menu. Review the course outline to determine your exam weeks (Week 2 - Exam 1, Week 5 - Exam 2, Weeks 7,8 - Exam 3. All exams are timed.

**Discussions:** For consideration of full credit, postings to a discussion topic should consist of a short paragraph containing 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.

**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 rich-text format (.rtf) 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 4 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 the criminal justice system. This is due 10/8/25. Detailed instructions are contained within the Power Point project assignment located in Assignments. Do not wait until the last week to start your power point project. Many electronic resources are available to you through the COM Library. Use academic search engines such as EPSCO and 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:**

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

**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 to this class for attendance purposes.

**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. Please use course messages for course related communications.

### **Student Learner Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.	Critical thinking skills	Exam 1
2. Explain the nature and extent of crime.	Critical thinking skills	Assignment 1
3. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.	Critical thinking skills	Assignment 1
4. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.	Critical thinking skills	Exam 2
5. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.	Critical thinking skills	Assignment 2
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on an Introduction to Criminal Justice topic through written communication.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Assignment 3
7. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on an Introduction to Criminal Justice 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 may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for 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. Victor Vega, Dean of Instruction at (409) 933-8179, [vvega2@com.edu](mailto:vvega2@com.edu).

**Course outline: (Subject to change) Introduction to Criminal Justice CRIJ 1301**  
**Fall 2025 – 1st 8-weeks 8/18/25 – 10/9/25**

Date	Week	Readings*	Discussions	Assignments	Quizzes/Exams
8/18	1	Ch 1 What is Criminal Justice? Ch 2 The Crime Picture	Post to Introduction	Start optional extra credit due 8/24 (Sun)	Syllabus quiz (3 pts) opens 8/20 (Wed) – closes 8/24 (Sun)
8/25	2	Ch 3 Criminal Law Ch 4 Policing: Purpose & Org Review Chs 1-4 for Exam 1	Disc 1 (due 8/26)	Assignment (Assi) 1 Due 8/28	<b>Exam 1 covers Chs 1-4 Opens 8/29 (Fri) - Closes 9/2 (Tue)</b>
9/1	3	Review Chs 1-4 for Exam 1 Ch 5 Policing: LA; Ch 7 Courts	Disc 2 (due 9/3)		<b>Exam 1 closes 9/2</b>
9/8	4	Ch 8 The Courtroom Work Group & Ch 9 Sentencing	Disc 3 (due 9/9)		
9/15	5	Review Chs 5,7,8,9		Assi 2 due 9/19	<b>Exam 2 covers Chs 5,7,8,9 Opens 9/19 – (Fri) Closes 9/23 (Tues)</b>
9/22	6	Ch 10 Probation, Parole Ch 11 Prisons & Jails	Disc 4 (due 9/23)		
9/29	7	Ch 13 Juvenile Justice Review Chs 10, 11, 13	Disc 5 (due 9/30)	Assi 3 due 10/2	<b>Exam 3 covers Chs 10, 11, 13 Opens 10/3 (Fri) Closes 10/7 (Tues)</b>
10/6	8	<b><i>Last day of class is 10/9/25</i></b>		Power point due 10/8	<b><i>Last day of class is 10/9/25</i></b>

**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 (713) 591-5957 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.

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## **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://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *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.*

**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 accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN 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 FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN 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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.