

Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIJ 1301)

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

NONE

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. This course is time-bound, structured and completed totally online.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.
2. Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.
3. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.
4. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
5. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Trazarra Stelly

Email: tnstelly@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-247-5224

Office Location: Technology Center #212

Office Hours: Virtual Appointments are available by appointment only. Monday- Friday (Flexible Times). Email Instructor to schedule an appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

CJ5 by Larry K. Gaines and Roger L. Miller, 5th edition, Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 9781337402484

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to log into the course via Blackboard at least 3 times per week. Regular participation is necessary to pass this course.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

Approved:

TNS 05/23/25



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) Submission Deadline is BEFORE 10:00 PM ALL INITIAL DISCUSSIONS Posts are due on Wednesdays BEFORE 10 p.m.
6/2-6/7	Module 1: The Criminal Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Review • Chapter 1: Criminal Justice Today • Chapter 2: The Crime Picture: Theories and Trends • Chapter 3: Inside Criminal Law 	06/04: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Discussion • Introduction Assignment • Syllabus Quiz • Module 1 Initial Discussion 06/05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Discussion Replies 06/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 Discussion Replies • Module 1 Assignment • Module 1 Quiz
6/8-6/14	Module 2: The Police and Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Law Enforcement Today • Chapter 5: Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing • Chapter 6: Police and the Constitution: The Rules of Law Enforcement 	06/11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Initial Discussion 06/14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Discussion Replies • Module 2 Assignment • Module 2 Quiz

6/15-6/21	Module 3: Criminal Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Courts and the Quest for Justice • Chapter 8: Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial • Chapter 9: Punishment and Sentencing 	06/18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 Initial Discussion 06/21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 Discussion Replies • Module 3 Assignment • Module 3 Quiz • Final Project Topic/Outline Due
6/22-6/28	Module 4: Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions • Chapter 11: Prisons and Jails • Chapter 12: The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry 	6/25: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Initial Discussion 06/28: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Discussion Replies • Module 4 Assignment • Module 4 Quiz
6/29-7/5	Module 5: Special Issues	WORK ON FINAL RESEARCH PAPER	WORK ON FINAL RESEARCH PAPER
7/6-7/8	Finals Week	FINAL PAPERS DUE!!!	07/06: Final Paper due BEFORE 10:00 PM. 7/08: FINAL GRADES WILL BE SUBMITTED

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- **Discussions 20%**
- **Assignments 30%**
- **Exams 30%**
- **Final Paper 20%**

GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own

original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

I DO NOT accept late work. All assignments are due as scheduled. There are a few exceptions but those will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. (ex. medical situation such as major hospitalizations)

Preferred means of communication: In the summer the best way to contact Ms. Stelly is by email: tnstelly@lit.edu

Communication Response Time: Expected response time for communication with instructor is 48 hours (except weekends).

Grading Response Time: Assignments should be returned with grades within 1 week.