



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIJ 1301)

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Trazarra Stelly  
Email: tnstelly@lit.edu  
Office Phone: 409-247-5224  
Office Location: Technology Center (TC) #212  
Office Hours: Face to Face or Telephone Appointments available by appointment only. Monday – Friday (Flexible Times)

### **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.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

CJ5 by Larry K. Gaines and Roger L. Miller, 5th edition, Cengage Learning, ISBN 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 by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

### STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

### COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	<b>ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)</b> Submission Deadline is before 10:00 PM <b>ALL INITIAL DISCUSSION</b> Posts are due on Wednesdays before 10 PM (Except for the introduction week and Holiday Weeks)
8/21-8/26	Introduction Week	8/26: Syllabus Review	8/26: Introduction Discussion, Introduction Assignment & Syllabus Quiz
8/27-9/2	Criminal Justice Today	8/30: Chapter 1	8/30: Chapter 1 Discussion
9/3-9/9	The Crime Picture: Theories and Trends	9/6: Chapter 2	9/9: Chapter 2 Assignment
9/10-9/16	Inside Criminal Law	9/13: Chapter 3	9/13: Chapter 3 Discussion 9/16: Chapter 1-3 Exam
9/17-9/23	Law Enforcement Today	9/20: Chapter 4	9/23: Chapter 4 Assignment
9/24-9/30	Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing	9/27: Chapter 5	9/27: Chapter 5 Discussion
10/1-10/7	Police and the Constitution: The Rules of Law Enforcement	10/4: Chapter 6	10/7: Chapter 6 Assignment 10/7: Chapter 4-6 Exam
10/8-10/14	Courts and the Quest for Justice	10/11: Chapter 7	10/11: Rough Draft Due 10/14: Chapter 7 Assignment
10/15-10/21	Pretrial Procedures and the Criminal Trial	10/18: Chapter 8	10/18: Chapter 8 Discussion
10/22-10/28	Punishment and Sentencing	10/25: Chapter 9	10/25: Chapter 9 Discussion 10/28: Chapter 7-9 Exam
10/29-11/4	Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions	11/1: Chapter 10	11/4: Chapter 10 Assignment

11/5-11/11	Prisons and Jails	11/8: Chapter 11	11/11: Chapter 11 Assignment
11/12-11/18	The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry	11/15: Chapter 12	11/15: Chapter 12 Discussion 11/18: Chapter 10-12 Exam
11/19-11/25	The Juvenile Justice System	11/25: Chapter 13	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/26-12/2	The Juvenile Justice System	No Readings Due	11/27: Chapter 13 Discussion
12/3-12/6	Today's Challenges in Criminal Justice	No Readings Due	12/4: Final Paper Due by 10:00 p.m.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Discussions 20%
- Assignments 30%
- Quiz/Exams 30%
- Final Paper 20%

### **GRADING SCALE**

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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **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 hospitalization)

**Preferred means of communication:** Email: [tnstelly@lit.edu](mailto:tnstelly@lit.edu) or phone: (409) 880-8023

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

**Grading Response Time:** Assignments should be returned with grades within 2 weeks.