

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR CJSA 1312
CRIME IN AMERICA**

INSTRUCTOR: _____

OFFICE HOURS: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This course will introduce students to American crime problems in historical perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime.
- B. This course is required for the Associates in Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves in preparation for career(s) in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and Corrections.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, Crime In America, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the psychological, social, and economic impact of crime in society. (C5, C9, C15, F1, F2, F5, F6, F12)
- B. Identify characteristics of major crimes. (C5-C7, C15, F1, F2, F5, F6, F12)
- C. Discuss the impact on society and the prevention thereof. (C5,-C7, F1, F2, F5, F6)
- D. List crimes by definition and classification according to major sub groupings. (C5,-C7, C9, C14, C15, F1, F2, F5-F17)
- E. Discuss the basic theoretical and behavioral models, as well as the historical development of laws and contributions of famous law givers. (C5, C9, C14, F1, F2, F5-F17)
- F. Define selected terms vital to the understanding of the legal terminology which will be encountered in numerous Criminal Justice courses. (C7, F1, F2)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books
- B. References:
 - 1. Black's Law Dictionary
 - 2. Texas Statutes (e.g., Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Health & Safety Code, etc.)
 - 3. U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and latest Amendments, and Texas Constitution
 - 4. www.fbi.gov/ucr

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Your first responsibility is scholarship. The grade you receive for this course will not be the grade of the instructor, but rather the grade you and you alone make.
- B. You should attend class regularly and be prepared to participate in classroom discussions and to take unannounced quizzes relating to text assignments and lecture material presented from the beginning of the course.
- C. You are encourage to give your best effort throughout the semester. From the beginning, you should plan for a steady, organized, and continuous effort, which in the long run will prove more effective for your final grade than a last minute crash-cram policy. Your course grade is not determined solely by exam grade. Such factors as class participation, initiative, attendance, and individual research papers will be considered in grade computation.
- D. From time to time, special library and/or outside assignments will be made to members of the class individually and/or in groups. You are expected to read all assignments and fulfill your responsibilities to any group assignment.
- E. You are expected to read all assigned material and bring your textbook to class. Keep informed on all assignments, especially after an absence.
- F. Good class notes are indispensable for earning a good grade, since both the material assigned and that discussed in class will be the basis for examination material.
- G. Special Work: A writing assignment will be required. The value is indicated in the semester grade computation and has considerable weight on your final average.

V. EXAMINATIONS

- A. There will be a minimum of three major examinations, as follows:
 - 1. Three week exam
 - 2. Mid-Term exam
 - 3. Twelve week exam
 - 4. Final exam
- B. A student must be present for all examinations. Students who know in advance that they will be absent from an examination due to valid reason must arrange to take an early examination. Unexpected absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances will require the student to see the instructor during the instructor's office hours (not during class time) about a make-up exam.
- C. Make-up exams will be modified from the original exam administered to the class during the testing period.
- D. Students without excused absences will be given a zero for the missed examination.
- E. Examinations may consist of objective (true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank) or subjective (short answer and essay) questions, or a combination of both types. Students majoring in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement must be able to communicate both orally and in written form, thus some questions requiring the composition and writing of an essay answer will be required.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

| <u>POINTS</u> | <u>GRADES</u> |
|---------------|---------------|
| 900 – 1000 | =A |
| 800 – 899 | =B |
| 700 – 799 | =C |
| 600 – 699 | =D |
| 0 – 599 | =F |

*Incentive points are earned by participating in class discussions, completing outside assignments, and having a good attendance record. Five (5) points are deducted for each. Military assignments or unavoidable circumstances will be evaluated upon notification of the instructor.

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- A. **Withdrawal from course:** It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an "Application for Withdrawal" or an "Application for Refund." The withdrawal form must be signed by the student.

CTC Form 59 will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16 week Fall and Spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11 Week Session | Friday of the 8 th week |
| 8 Week Session | Friday of the 6 th week |
| 5 ½ Week Session | Friday of the 4 th week |

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the "Schedule Bulletin." Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W," provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application (CTC form 59) with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal. A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" for non-attendance.

- B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the "Administrative Withdrawal Form" for submission to the registrar.
- C. **Incomplete Grade:** The College Catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work, but because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military

orders, is unable to complete all the requirements for a course.” Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of “IP” is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an “F” for the course.

- D. **Cellular Phones and Beepers:** Cell phones or other electronic device use during class is strictly prohibited. Cellular phones, beepers, and other electronic devices will be turned off while the student is in the classroom.

- E. **American’s With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

- F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

- G. **Civility:** Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

Topics covered in this course during the semester will come from chapters of the appropriate text. The order and the specific topics covered will be at the discretion of the individual instructor assigned to teach the course.

- A. Part One: Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology
 - 1. Chapter One: Crime and Criminology
 - 2. Chapter Two: The Nature and Extent of Crime
 - 3. Chapter Three: Victims and Victimization

- B. Part Two: Theories of Crime Causation
 - 1. Chapter Four: Rationale Choice Theory
 - 2. Chapter Five: Trait Theory
 - 3. Chapter Six: Social Structure Theory
 - 4. Chapter Seven: Social Process Theory
 - 5. Chapter Eight: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice
 - 6. Chapter Nine: Developmental Theories: Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory.

- C. Part Three: Crime Typologies
 - 1. Chapter Ten: Violent Crime
 - 2. Chapter Eleven: Political Crime and Terrorism
 - 3. Chapter Twelve: Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar, and Green-Collar
 - 4. Chapter Thirteen: Public Order Crimes
 - 5. Chapter Fourteen: Crimes of the New Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime