

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR CRIJ 2323
LEGAL ASPECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Semester Hours Credit: 3

INSTRUCTOR: _____

OFFICE HOURS: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This course will involve the exploration of police authority. Topics include responsibilities and constitutional constraints, law of arrest, search and seizure, and police liability.
- B. This course is not chronologically dependant upon other Law Enforcement courses. It is an option part of the Associate in Applied Science Law Enforcement degree program.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves in preparation for careers in law enforcement, criminal justice, and corrections.
- D. Prerequisite(s): (None)
- E. Alphanumeric coding used throughout the syllabus denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies (C) and Foundation skills (F).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, the student will be able to:

- A. Define police authority. (C5)
- B. Explain the responsibilities and constitutional restraints as enumerated in the Texas Constitution, the United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights. (C5-C7, F6)
- C. Outline the law of arrest and search and seizure developed through court decisions. (C15, C19, F1, F2)
- D. Describe the criminal and civil liability that result from improper acts and/or the failure to act. (C5, F5-F12)
- E. Define and differentiate between private and public law-contrasting Constitutional law, statutory law, and common law. (C5-C7, F1, F2, F5, F6)

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. U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and latest Amendments, and Texas Constitution
 - 3. U.S. Codes (select Civil and Criminal Codes)
- C. Structured note taking may be provided for relevant lectures from the text and additionally important material. Structured note taking is revised condensed material from the required text book, and may include additional material to supplement the course. Structured note taking does not eliminate the responsibility of the student to acquire and read the text. All testable information will be provided during lectures to complete the structural note taking or specifically identified sections of the required text.

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 encouraged 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.

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 (optional)
 4. Final exam
- B. A student must be present for all examinations. No make-up examinations will be given. Students who know in advance that they will be absent from an examination due to valid reasons must arrange to take an early examination. Unexpected absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances will require the student to see the instructor about individual make-up work.
- C. Students without excused absences will be given a zero for the missed examination.
- D. Examinations may consist of objective (true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching) 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 |

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.

Application for Withdrawal 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 as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 11-week session | Friday of the 8th week |
| 8-week session | Friday of the 6th week |
| 5½-week session | Friday of the 4th 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 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 nonattendance.

- 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 "I" 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:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.
- E. **American's With Disabilities (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. Chapter One: Criminal Trials
- B. Chapter Two: Police Criminal investigations
- C. Chapter Three: Stop and Frisks

- D. Chapter Four: Arrests

- E. Chapter Five: Confessions and Interrogations

- F. Chapter Six: The Fourth Amendment, Search Warrants, and Warrantless Searches

- G. Chapter Seven: Warrantless Searches of People and Their Immediate Area and Things

- H. Chapter Eight: Searches of Houses and Real Property

- I. Chapter Nine: Warrantless Searches and Privacy of Personal Effects

- J. Chapter Ten: Right to Counsel in Pretrial Stages

In addition to the textbook, the Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the United State Constitution and the Bill of Rights, US Supreme Court cases and rulings and other court cases may be used as examples.