

Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIM 1301.901)
Texas A&M-San Antonio, Fall 2024
Meets Tues (12:30-1:45pm) in HALL 102, hybrid

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Office Hours: by appointment

In this course, we will work collaboratively to analyze crime and justice issues using a criminological perspective. In addition to examining the causes and symptoms of crime, we will discuss the criminal justice system from a larger perspective. Further, we will discuss policy responses to crime and how criminal justice agencies work together to accomplish individual and mutual goals.

Pedagogical Approach

This class uses an active, team-based learning approach. This means that you will be assigned to a team with which you will work throughout the semester on activities and assignments. Team-based learning enhances learning and accountability, enhances the quality of class discussion, and fosters student collaboration and integration. Students in team-based learning classes say they get a lot more out of the course and develop lasting friendships. Active learning shifts the dynamic of the classroom from one where I lecture and you passively learn, to one where you are expected to actively engage with the course material and focus on how it can be applied to enhance your understanding of society and social issues. Team-based learning facilitates the development of skills such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication (these are 21st century skills that are necessary regardless of what you end up doing after college!).

Course Catalog Description

Introduction to the administration of justice in American society, with emphasis on the principles of policing, corrections, juvenile delinquency, criminal law, courts, and criminal procedure, as well as policy formulation.

Prerequisites: none

Course Objectives

- Identify and understand key components to the criminal justice system and how they are integrated with each other.
- Understand the connection between criminological theory and the criminal justice system
- Develop conclusions supported by evidence and effectively communicate them orally and in writing
- Develop collaboration skills

Required Textbook:

Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century, 17th Edition
Author: Schmalleger, F. Pearson Publishing. ISBN 0-13-791047-9

Other required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Assigned readings are indicated on Blackboard under the week they are due. You should plan to finish the readings early in the week so that you are able to complete the assignments. Be prepared to critically discuss topics addressed in the reading in relation to the lectures and be able to accurately explain the readings' main points. I recommend taking notes as you read and have them available to help you participate in discussion and activities. We will use additional resources available on the web, such as charts, graphs, and other original sources that I have used in the past. Therefore, you will need to become familiar with these additional sources so class attendance is key to your success in the course.

Class Materials

I will post assigned readings and other activities for you to complete for the online portion of the course. This will consist of short videos, quizzes, and team-based activities.

Communication Plan

- I will post announcements and updates on Blackboard.
- Email is the best way to get in touch with me (dfrantze@tamusa.edu). I try to reply within 24 hours of receiving email.
- Please communicate with me using my university email address or you may reach me on my office phone.

Grade Components

Maximum Points

Team Assignments (Discussion Activities in BB)	11 @ 20 pts ea. (220)
Exams (Midterm and Final)	50 pts ea. (100)
Reflection Statements	3 @ 20 pts ea. (60)
Term Project	80 points (80)
Class Participation	40 points (40)

Total Possible

500 points

Letter Grade Calculation

500-450 points = A

400-449 points = B

350-399 points = C

300-349 points = D

Below 300 points = F

Team Assignments in BB

You will be assigned to a team at the beginning of the semester. The hybrid section of the course will consist of various team assignments in Blackboard. Each week you will be given a topic along with instructions for your team's assignment. The purpose of the team assignment is to collectively evaluate some type of criminal justice process, program, or issue. You will be graded on your individual assessment of the topic. You must write a minimum of 100 words for your main response and you must have at least 1 reply to another one of your team members about their post. That reply must include a critical thinking question. In other words, replies such as "That is a very good idea, I agree with you" are not sufficient. An example of a critical thinking question might be: How do you think AI might be used to improve policing practices? During our in person class meetings, each team will report on what was discussed in their team BB assignment. This reporting out will be part of each student's participation grade.

In the discussion assignments, I am looking for responses that include examples of topics cited in the textbook or any relevant, credible information found on the internet. Sources must be cited using APA format.

Exams (Midterm and Final)

We will have a midterm and final exam, each consisting of multiple-choice questions. The exams will be timed and must be completed during the allotted time frame.

Reflection Statements

These are 1-page written assignments designed for you to reflect on the material covered in the textbook. You are to explain how a specific topic or issue in the textbook is connected to some current event, i.e., something that has occurred in the last 3 years. For example, using the information in the textbook on community corrections, identify something in the media that talks about a rehabilitation program for probationers. How does the information in the news source compare with the information in the book? Is it relatively consistent or what new information is shared? You will be required to turn in the 1-page assignment and give a short overview of your topic, the latter of which will contribute to your participation grade. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Team Term Project

For your term project you will be assigned one of the topics you dealt with as a team during the semester. For this project you will expand on what you found in your initial team assignment using peer-reviewed journal articles. As a team you will need to select 3 journal articles on this topic and explain how the research further informs what is stated in the book about it. The goal of this assignment is for your team to provide feedback to a criminal justice agency director about current trends in the field. You will assume the role as a consultant who has been hired to evaluate and make recommendations on how to

improve current practices. You will submit your final project as a powerpoint presentation for the entire group. You will be given more specific instructions on this assignment at a later date.

Alternative (Experiential) Assignments

In lieu of two of the reflection assignments (you may pick them), you may complete an experiential assignment (e.g., shadow a juvenile probation officer, go on a ride-a-long with a police officer, or go on a field trip to visit a jail or prison). You will need to initiate and set up this experience on your own. The duration of the experience must be at least 4 hours. For a list of possible agencies to contact, go to the internship directory (<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/documents/CRIM-Internship-Directory-Spring-2023.pdf>). You must have my approval before you wish to do this option (there is a waiver of liability you must sign). Once you complete your activity, you will need to submit to me a 1- page reflection of what you learned from it. You will need to provide me with verification of completion (more details on this will be given at the start of the semester). This assignment must be completed by the date of the midterm exam.

Submission Policy

Submit all your work on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ensure that it is submitted successfully. Late work is not accepted for credit and there are no make-ups UNLESS you receive written permission from me before the due date. If you receive permission from me to submit late work, I may mark your work as incomplete (partial credit).

Participation

We will be meeting in person once per week on Tuesdays during our scheduled class time. These meetings are required: I will be taking attendance. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you do not need to show me documentation for your absence. I understand that life happens (caregiving obligations, health, emergency, exhaustion, etc.), so please communicate with me beforehand or within 24 hours of the missed meeting. I may require you to set up a virtual one-on-one meeting with me at another time. Failure to attend and/or participate in class meetings will have consequences on your course grade; missing more than half of the class meetings (either by lack of attendance or participation) will automatically result in failing the course.

Engagement during our class meetings means being attentive and engaged, respecting your peers and professor, and contributing substantively to class and team discussions. If you feel that a perspective or position is not being adequately addressed, you are encouraged to introduce it as a topic for an academic discussion. Keep in mind that the purpose of this class is to crime and the criminal justice system, so it is important to keep our discussions focused (it is easy to get off track at times). Your grade will be based on your overall participation throughout the semester. At the midterm, I will post a progress report in BB for each student for class participation.

If you are hesitant to speak up in meetings for any reason, please discuss this with me at the beginning of the semester.

Course Outline

- 8/26-9/1 Read Chapter 1
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Career Goals”
- 9/2-9/8 Read Chapter 2
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #1”
- 9/9-9/15 Read Chapter 3
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #2”
- 9/16-9/22 Read Chapter 4
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #3”
- 9/23-9/29 Read Chapter 5
- Assignments:
 Reflection Assignment #1 (covers chapters 1-4)
- 9/30-10/6 Read Chapter 6
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #4”
- 10/7-10/13 **Midterm Exam** (covers chapters 1-6)
- 10/14-10/20 Read Chapters 7 & 8
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #5”
- 10/21-10/27 Read Chapters 9 & 10
- Assignments:
 Discussion Board “Team Activity #6”

- 10/21-10/27 Read Chapter 11
- Assignments:
Discussion Board "Team Activity #7"
Reflection Assignment #2 (covers chapters 7-10)
- 10/28-11/3 Read Chapter 12
- Assignments:
Discussion Board "Team Activity #8"
- 11/4-11/10 Read Chapter 13-14
- Assignments:
Discussion Board "Team Activity #9"
- 11/11-11/17 Read Chapter 15
- Assignments:
Discussion Board "Team Activity #10"
- 11/18-11/24 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/25-12/1 Read Chapter 16
- Assignments:
Discussion Board "Team Activity #11"
- 12/2-12/8 Assignments:
Reflection Assignment #3 (covers chapters 11-16)
Term Project Due
- 12/9 **Final Exam** (covers chapters 7-16; dates TBA)

Important Dates

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|-------------------|---|
| August 26 | First day of class |
| November 11 | Last day to drop with an automatic "W" |
| November 19 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University |
| November 28-30 | Thanksgiving Holiday-no classes |
| December 5 | Last day of classes |
| December 7-13 | Final Exam period |
| December 16 | All grades must be submitted by noon |
| December 24-Jan 1 | Winter Break |

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

Class Policies

Controversial Subject Matter

Student participation and class discussion are highly valued and encouraged. We will be exploring several potentially sensitive topics such as prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, violence, and so forth. Mutual respect is key in this class. I will not tolerate disrespect under any circumstance. I ask that everyone is respectful of other people's comments and questions even if you disagree. It is crucial for all of us to work together to create an environment in which we can discuss social issues in a non-judgmental way. If you find a comment another student makes to be insensitive or disrespectful, please speak up and explain your thoughts or feelings in a civil manner or discuss the issue with me in private.

I expect everyone to come to class with an open mind. You are encouraged to raise alternative viewpoints. However, you will be asked to think critically about your (and your classmates') world view, beliefs, and biases in an academic manner. You will be graded on your ability to explain and analyze various perspectives regardless of whether or not you think they are accurate. Keep in mind that the goal of a college education is to learn about different perspectives, how to analyze them academically according to a particular discipline's approach, and how to make arguments supported by scholarly evidence. Rather than dictating what you should think, this course is aimed to enhance your ability to think critically.

Active engagement is highly encouraged and rewarded. I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. If you are having difficulty with participating or feel intimidated in any way, please come and see me early in the semester and we can work together to find a solution.

Syllabus

Adjustments Any modifications to this syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for knowing all in-class announcements and Blackboard announcements/adjustments.

Religious Accommodation

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes. If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, please contact me to make appropriate arrangements within two weeks of the beginning of the semester (or three days before any holidays which fall within the first two weeks of class).

Grades

I maintain course grades on Blackboard and it is possible that I occasionally enter an incorrect grade (i.e., sometimes I make a mistake). Please check the feedback I provide on your assignments and your grades via Blackboard throughout the semester and address any concerns immediately: do not wait until the end of the semester

University Policies & Resources

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Support Services early in the semester. I am not able to provide accommodations without verification from DSS.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment, a failing grade in the course, or possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. If you are unsure about what plagiarism is, please take the plagiarism course offered through the university library. Not understanding plagiarism rules will not be accepted as a justification for plagiarized work. Here are the basics:

- Any time you use ideas or information from any other source, you must add a complete citation (including situations in which you do not use the author's words);
- A citation is made up of two parts: the internal citation (also called an in-text citation) at the point in your paper where the idea or information was used and an end citation (also called external citation) in your works cited or references section at the end of your paper. Both must be present to be considered a citation;
- If you use another person's words, they must be cited, they must be in quotation marks, and the internal citation must include a page number if the source is a book or article; and
- A paper that is substantially composed of quotes does not qualify as independent student work and will be treated as plagiarism, even if properly cited.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784- 1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center located in Modular C,

Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784- 1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331 (select option “2”). Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent. All mental health services provided by the Student Counseling Center are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. The Student Counseling Center SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/> More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Respect for Diversity

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community.

Statement about Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. TAMUSA has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that many A&M-San Antonio employees, including all faculty members, are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. Additional information about your options is also available at <http://www.tamusa.edu/businessaffairs/titleix/index.html>

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct. For more information, please see the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.tamus.edu or at 210-784-4357. If you don't hear back from the within 48 hours, contact them again. They have a lot of requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to check up on them. I will distribute course materials, including announcements and updates, via Blackboard, so I encourage you to log-in to that system at least twice per week.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.