

Texas A&M San Antonio SYLLABUS

CRIM 3350 901 Criminal & Justice Policy Fall 2025

Instructor: Carlos Zuniga
Email: czuniga@tamusa.edu

Office Hours: Virtual by appointment

Class Meets: Wednesdays - 5:30pm – 6:45pm/Hybrid

Phone (Text or Call): 210-601-5882

Class Location: Madla 208

Program Website:

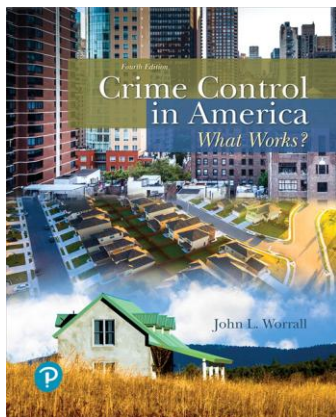
[Texas A&M College of Social Sciences/Criminology web site](#)

Department Chair Info

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Textbook and Materials

Crime Control in America: What Works? Fourth Edition. Author John L. Worrall. Pearson
ISBN 10: 0-13-484818-7 ISBN 13: 978-0-13-484818-1



Course Description

This course covers major policy issues dealing with crime control and the criminal justice system. Law enforcement, corrections, civil liberties, and court processes are main areas in which public opinion and policy are in current controversy and debate.

Other Required Materials: Coursework will be completed online in Blackboard. Students will need 1) computer or device that allows them to access the online class materials; 2) reliable internet access (technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission); 3) access/use of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint applications.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully master course content will:

1. Understand the importance of studying the effectiveness of criminal justice policy from an evidence-based perspective.
2. Know the findings of influential studies concerning the effectiveness of criminal justice policies.

3. Able to differentiate the reality of crime and criminal justice policy from myths.
4. Critically analyze the effectiveness of specific criminal justice policies utilizing an evidence-based perspective.

Course Requirements and Grading System

Late Assignments: Not accepted. Be mindful of all due dates and plan accordingly. Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

Weekly Chapter/Module Assignments: Most chapters will have a chapter/module content quiz (covering the entire chapter and items assigned in the weekly module) and/or a writing assignment. A new Learning Module will be released each Monday to correspond to the content that will be covered that week. The assignments scheduled for the week will be open/available on Monday and will be due by Sunday of the applicable week by 11:59pm.

All assignments open in Blackboard on Monday at 12:00am and remain open for the entire week (close on Sunday at 11:59pm). Once the due date passes you are no longer able to complete the assignments for that week; thus, late submissions are not accepted. Be sure to pace yourself throughout the week and complete all of your assignments by the end of the applicable week.

Exams: There will be 4 exams given throughout the semester. The exams will consist of fill in the blank, multiple-choice and true/false questions. The exam dates are marked on the calendar below. It is expected that all students take their exams on the date listed on the calendar. All exams will cover the assigned reading material as well as other items located in the weekly module (videos, presentations, articles).

Online Discussion Questions/Peer Responses: In applicable weeks, there will be a discussion board question/assignment that will be completed online as well as 2 peer responses. These responses can be to either other class members' posts or the instructor's comments. The discussion question response must be at least 300 words in length. Do not post the discussion question response as a Word attachment. Use the discussion board response area to post your work. Posting Word attachments will be subject to a point reduction. Repeating the discussion question in the body of your response does not count towards the word count. The peer responses must be at least 100 words in length. Anything less will be considered unsubstantive and will have a point deduction rendered. Responses that only compliment another person's response (great job with your response. You did a great job explaining the topic and it helped me understand the content, etc.) and do not offer any substantive commentary on the actual topic of discussion will be subject to point reductions. The online discussion questions will open for the applicable week on Monday at midnight. The discussion questions (your answers to the questions posed in the assignment) must be completed by Wednesday of the applicable week and the peer responses must be completed by Sunday, 11:59pm of the applicable week. If the initial response to the discussion questions is not completed by Wednesday, a 10-point late penalty will be assessed for each day this section of the assignment is posted late. Once the Discussion Assignment window closes, it will not be reopened.

Make-Up Examinations: Make-up exams will not be given unless a student can provide appropriate cause for missing the exam. Examples of this would be: (a) illness that is certified with a licensed physician's note stating that the student should avoid participating in class functions; or (b) certifiable

death or cataclysmic life course event that has an adverse effect on the student and that can be documented and/or verified.

In-Class Assignments (Discussion prompts, Participation, Pop Quizzes, Group Activities – Class

Meetings: The class meetings will be highly interactive. A variety of activities including discussion prompts/questions, active participation, pop quizzes and group activities will be facilitated in our class meetings. In order to receive credit for these assignments, you must be present for the entire class meeting and complete the applicable assignments. It is well-documented that students who attend class regularly are more likely to do better than students who do not. I encourage you to come to every class. I understand that things do happen and you may not be able to attend every class. If you do miss, be sure to keep up with the reading and your assignments in Blackboard. Also, you may want to check with a fellow student or myself for information in covered during class time. For purposes of financial aid, etc., faculty are required to report nonattendance to the registrar's office. If you do not attend class regularly you may be dropped administratively by either myself or the registrar's office. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the end of each class meeting in addition to the applicable in-class assignments being submitted for review and completion verification. If you leave early, you are not eligible to sign the sign in sheet thus you will not receive credit for activities scheduled in the class meeting.

Semester Projects (2) - Written Assignments (Research Paper and Presentation)

Please make sure that your assignments are formatted per APA.

As far as using outside research goes, **all assignments (research paper and presentation) are expected to include (mostly) scholarly or peer-reviewed articles.** Please make sure that you include citations and references for all of your items that are sourced from outside research. Please make sure you are using your scholarly or peer-reviewed articles correctly. If you are unsure how to use outside materials, I recommend the utilization of the Jaguar Writing Center. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to help.

When choosing outside sources, stay away from Wikipedia, Ask.com, eHow, dictionaries and other non-academic/non-peer reviewed sources.

Specific assignment information for the Semester Projects will be posted in the weekly module section. There will be 2 semester projects in this course. This will entail the creation of a research paper and a PowerPoint Presentation regarding a Crime and Justice Policy topic (TBA).

Exams (4)	30%
Weekly Chapter/Module Assignments	20%
Semester Projects – Paper and Presentation (2)	40%
Discussion Board Assignments (DB)/Peer Responses	5%
In-class Participation/Assignments	5%

The grade range for each assignment will be from 0 – 100

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

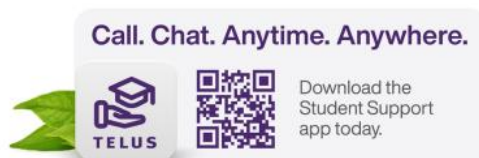
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



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 with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

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.

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 eportfolios, 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://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

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 submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: 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 course 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.

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.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal 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 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, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of

illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

The complete academic calendar is available online: [TAMUSA Academic Calendar](#)

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

CRIM 3350 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates:

August 25	First Day of Class
September 10	Census Date
November 14	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W"
November 25	Last day to withdraw from the university
November 27 – 29	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6 – 12	Final Exam Period (Specific exam date will be provided)

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

Tentative Course Schedule – Fall 2025

NOTE: Any changes to the calendar below will be communicated in class and posted in Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of any changes to the calendar announced by the instructor.

Date (Start of Week)			Assignment/Due Date
August 25	Chapter 1	Identifying and Evaluating Crime Control Week 1 Discussion Board Assignment Week 1 Chapter/Module Assignment	Week 1 DB 8/31 Assignments 8/31

September 1	Chapter 2	Crime Control Perspectives Week 2 Discussion Board Assignment Week 2 Chapter/Module Quiz	Ch 2 Assignments 9/07 Week 2 DB 9/07
September 8	Chapter 3	Traditional Policing Exam 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)	Ch 3 Assignments 9/14 Exam 1 9/14
September 15	Chapter 4	Proactive Policing, Directed Patrol, And Recent Advancements	Ch 4 Assignments 9/21
September 22	Chapter 5	Community Involvement in Policing Week 5 Discussion Board Assignment	Ch 5 Assignments 9/28 Week 5 DB 9/28
September 29	Chapter 6	Prosecutors and Crime Control Semester Project - Research Paper	Ch 6 Assignments 10/05 Paper 10/05
October 6	Chapter 7	Crime Control Through Legislation Exam 2 (Chapters 3 – 6)	Ch 7 Assignments 10/12 Exam 2 10/12
October 13	Chapter 8	Crime Control in the Courts and Beyond	Ch 8 Assignments 10/19
October 20	Chapter 9	Sentencing	Ch 9 Assignments 10/26
October 27	Chapter 10	Probation, Parole and Intermediate Sanctions Week 10 Discussion Board	Ch 10 Assignments 11/02 Week 10 DB 11/03
November 3	Chapter 11	Rehabilitation, Treatment, and Job Training	Ch 11 Assignments 11/9
November 10	Chapter 12	Individual, Family, and Household Crime Control Exam 3 (Chapters 7 – 11) Semester Project – Presentation	Ch 12 Assignments 11/16 Exam 3 11/16 Presentation 11/16
November 17	Chapter 13	Crime Control in the Community and in Schools	Ch 13 Assignments 11/23
November 24	Chapter 14 Chapter 15	Reducing Criminal Opportunities Through Environmental Manipulation Putting It All Together and Explaining Crime Trends Week 14 Discussion Board Assignment	Ch 14 Assignments 12/04 Week 14 DB 12/04
December 6 – 12		Final Exam Week	Final Exam Due (TBA)

*****Content Outlined in This Syllabus is Subject to Change at the Discretion of the Faculty*****