

## Texas A&M San Antonio SYLLABUS

### CRIM 3350 900 Criminal & Justice Policy Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Carlos Zuniga  
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**Office Hours:** Virtual by appointment

**Class Meets:** Online Asynchronously

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

**Class Location:** Madla Room 209

**Program Website:**

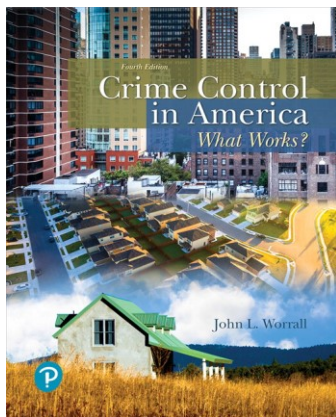
[Texas A&M College of Social Sciences/Criminology web site](#)

**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 (except in Week 1 since the first day of the semester is on Tuesday, January 16) 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 Thursday, 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 scholarly or peer-reviewed articles.** Please make sure that you include citations and references for all of your items that are sourced from the scholarly or peer-reviewed articles. 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 Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA 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 accommodations of their disability. If you have a 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](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

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](mailto: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 (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday, to be seen by a clinician. For after-hours support, please call 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, 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.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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 [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

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](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about 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](mailto:military@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 A&M System 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.

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 classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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, 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. 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 helping create 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 has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. 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.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

*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 procedure 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, genetic information, 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 staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
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.
6. 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. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

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

### Important Dates

January 16	First day of semester (online portion of course begins)
January 31	Census Date
April 13	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
April 20	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University.
May 1-7	Final Examinations (Specific Dates Pending)

### Tentative Course Schedule – Spring 2024

**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.

<u>Date (Start of Week)</u>		<u>Assignment/Due Date</u>	
January 16	Chapter 1	Identifying and Evaluating Crime Control Week 1 Discussion Board Assignment Week 1 Chapter/Module Assignment	Week 1 DB 1/21 Assignments 1/21
January 22	Chapter 2	Crime Control Perspectives Week 2 Discussion Board Assignment Week 2 Chapter/Module Quiz	Ch 2 Assignments 1/28 Week 2 DB 1/28
January 29	Chapter 3	Traditional Policing Exam 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)	Ch 3 Assignments 2/04 Exam 1 2/04

February 5	Chapter 4	Proactive Policing, Directed Patrol, And Recent Advancements	Ch 4 Assignments 2/11
February 12	Chapter 5	Community Involvement in Policing Week 5 Discussion Board Assignment	Ch 5 Assignments 2/18 Week 5 DB 2/18
February 19	Chapter 6	Prosecutors and Crime Control Semester Project - Research Paper	Ch 6 Assignments 2/25 Paper 2/25
February 26	Chapter 7	Crime Control Through Legislation Exam 2 (Chapters 3 – 6)	Ch 7 Assignments 3/03 Exam 2 3/03
March 4	Chapter 8	Crime Control in the Courts and Beyond	Ch 8 Assignments 3/10
<b>March 11 – 17, 2024 – Spring Break (No Classes)</b>			
March 18	Chapter 9	Sentencing	Ch 9 Assignments 3/24
March 25	Chapter 10	Probation, Parole and Intermediate Sanctions Week 10 Discussion Board	Ch 10 Assignments 3/31 Week 10 DB 3/31
April 1	Chapter 11	Rehabilitation, Treatment, and Job Training	Ch 11 Assignments 4/07
April 8	Chapter 12	Individual, Family, and Household Crime Control Exam 3 (Chapters 7 – 11) Semester Project – Presentation	Ch 12 Assignments 4/14 Exam 3 4/14 Presentation 4/14
April 15	Chapter 13	Crime Control in the Community and in Schools	Ch 13 Assignments 4/21
April 22	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 4/28 Week 14 DB 4/28
May 1 - 7	Final Exam Week		Final Exam Due (TBA)

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