

**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
FALL 2020  
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

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I. Course Description.

This course provides an introduction to criminal justice in America. The primary goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of the criminal justice system and its response to crime in society today. Students will consider crime in the U.S., explore the key elements of the criminal justice system (policing, courts, and corrections), and examine a number of special issues relevant to criminal justice today.

II. Required Textbook.

Criminal Justice-A Brief Introduction, 11<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> Edition: Frank Schmallegger: Pearson. The 13<sup>th</sup> Edition may be purchased online. Currently, the Brazosport College Bookstore only has the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition in stock. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. Use the link to access course materials: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/flwdiy>

In addition to the textbook, students may be required to locate specific articles, videos, and reports on the Internet.

IV. Course Requirements.

Because this is an online course, students are expected to use self-discipline to pace themselves and keep current. You should be prepared to devote from 15-20 hours of work to this class per week (the equivalent of three/four hours of class time, plus the “traditional” two hours per class time of study for each unit of credit, plus three hours to answer study questions).

The course is ideally designed for the student who cannot or does not want to attend regularly scheduled on-campus classes. Students can complete course requirements while continuing to meet other responsibilities and demands. When and where you work is not important; what matters is completing the work in a timely fashion while meeting course content requirements.

V. Assignments.

The course is divided into “Weekly” assignments. Before you read the assigned chapter(s), read the “Review Questions” at the end of each chapter in the textbook weekly. When you finish the chapter, look at the “Key Terms” in each chapter. Those are major concepts you should know and be able to define.

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**Online Syllabus**  
**Page 2**

Questions about your readings can be raised (and will be answered) during the online Discussion Board.” Feel free to ask questions. Please check the Discussion Board to be sure that others have not already raised that question and received an answer. All students have access to the Discussion Board; this is where you can best communicate with your instructor or teaching coordinator.

Remember to check the “Announcements” on a frequent basis, as it may be necessary to raise additional issues or clarify assignments. Even if you are a “flash” student intending to complete course requirements as rapidly as possible, you may need the additional information about weekly assignments.

VI. Internet Readings.

Internet readings may be required for each chapter assigned. Click on the URL to locate the assigned readings. We strongly suggest you save the readings electronically, or print them and organize them in a three-ring binder or folder. Exam questions may be derived from internet readings.

VII. Examinations.

There will be two (2) exams, a final exam, and quizzes throughout the semester.

The first exam will cover chapters 1 thru 4; the second exam will cover chapters 5 thru 8; and the final exam will cover chapters 9 thru 13. The exams will consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Availability dates are posted in D2L in the assignment section.

It is important you complete the scheduled examinations. Only in exceptional cases will students be permitted to take an examination late.

Any extra credit work will be in the form of a research paper. Papers will be graded on organization, content, grammar, and currency (recent sources). Observe the minimal requirements above.

IX. Student Exercises.

Exercises may be required for this course. They are to be submitted to your instructor when you finish. In your written answer, be sure to speak directly to the question and use the format indicated.

X. Grading.

The exams will account for 60% of your final grade. The quizzes will account for 20%; and the discussion questions/participation will account for 20%.

Academic Honesty:

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in a grade of “F” in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Students with Disabilities:

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, 979-230-3236 for further information.

**Student Conduct Statement:** The statement below is intended to clarify that students are required to comply with any and all safety requirements implemented on campus, including but not limited to wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, etc. Faculty have the authority to enforce these rules. Please include the following statement in your syllabus, even if you’re not teaching a course that meets on campus. Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they “fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC.” Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services.

**Campus Closure Statement:** Please include the following statement in your syllabus. Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postpone if such orders are given.

**Title IX Statement:** Please include the following statement in your syllabus. Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College’s policy FFDA (Local),

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**Online Course Syllabus**  
**Page 4**

discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are “Responsible Employees” and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at [www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct). Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; [kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu](mailto:kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu) Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303; [mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu](mailto:mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu).

**GRADING POLICY**

Course grade will be determined by the student’s performance on the following objectives:

Mid-Term	30%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion Participation	20%

**Total: 100%**

A=	90-100%
B=	80-89%
C=	70-79%
D=	60-69%
F=	59% and below

**XI. Assignments.**

<u>CHAP. Topic</u>	<u>Textbook</u>	<u>Additional</u>
<b><u>Weeks 1 thru 4 – Aug. 24th thru Sept. 14th</u></b>		
	<u>Reading Assig.</u>	<u>Readings/Assign.</u>
1. What is Criminal Justice	Chapter 1	As Assigned
2. The Crime Picture	Chapter 2	As assigned
3. Criminal Law	Chapter 3	As assigned
4. Policing: Purpose and Organization	Chapter 4	As assigned
<b>Exam #1 (Chapters 1 thru 4)</b>		
<b><u>Weeks 5 thru 8- Sept. 21st thru Oct. 12th</u></b>		

5. Policing: Legal Aspects	Chapter 5	As assigned
6. Policing: Issues and Challenges	Chapter 6	As assigned
7. The Courts	Chapter 7	As assigned
8. The Crt.room Work Group and the Criminal Trial	Chapter 8	As assigned

**Exam #2 (Chapters 5 thru 8)**

**Weeks 9 thru 16- October 19th thru Dec. 10th**

9. Sentencing	Chapter 9	As assigned
10. Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections	Chapter 10	As assigned
11. Prisons and Jails	Chapter 11	As assigned
12. Prison Life	Chapter 12	As assigned
13. Juvenile Justice	Chapter 13	As assigned

**Final Exam (Chapters 9 thru 13)**

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