

**CRIJ 1301**  
**Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
**Western Texas College**

- I. Basic Course Information
  - A. Course Description: This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.
  - B. Prerequisites: None
- II. Student Learning Outcomes
  - A. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.
  - B. Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.
  - C. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.
  - D. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
  - E. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.
- III. Online Testing Requirements
  - A. The midterm and final exam must be proctored by an approved testing organization. (Ask your instructor for more details.)
  - B. Students are not allowed to use their book or notes of any kind while taking their proctored tests and exams.
- IV. Major Course Requirements
  - A. Exams: There will be four major exams spaced throughout the semester. Exam questions may include any combination of the following: True/false, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, short answer, and essay.
  - B. Writing Assignments: There will be two writing assignments spaced throughout the semester.
  - C. Collaborative Exercises: There will be numerous collaborative exercises spaced throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will require you to work with your peers analyzing/discussing documents, articles, and other information relating to the study of Criminal Justice.
- V. Information on Books and Other Course Materials
  - A. Required Book: Criminal Justice in Action, Gaines & Miller 8th, Wadsworth/Cengage. ISBN-10: 1305261070 | ISBN-13: 9781305261075
- VI. Other Policies, Procedures and important dates: Please refer to the WTC Course [Catalog](#) for the following:
  - A. Campus Calendar
  - B. Final exam schedule
  - C. How to drop a class
  - D. Withdrawal information
  - E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
  - F. Class Attendance
  - G. Students with disabilities

## VII. Course Sequence & Content

Chapter 1	Criminal Justice Today
Chapter 2	Defining and Measuring Crime
Chapter 3	Inside Criminal Law
Chapter 4	Law Enforcement Today
Chapter 5	Problems and Solutions in Modern Policing
Chapter 6	Police and the Constitution: Rules for Law Enforcement
Chapter 7	Courts and the Quest for Justice
Chapter 8	Pretrial Procedure: The Adversary System in Action
Chapter 9	Punishment and Sentencing
Chapter 10	Probation and Parole
Chapter 11	Prisons and Jails
Chapter 12	The Prison Experience and Prisoner Reentry
Chapter 13	The Juvenile Justice System
Chapter 14	Today's Challenges in Criminal Justice

Disclaimer: Sequence & Content is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Last Modified/Reviewed: May 9, 2019