

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRIJ 1310

FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology

Department of Professional Services & Energy

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Spring 2024

Campus: Downtown

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: CRIJ 1310 FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW

INSTRUCTOR: John A. Barnes

OFFICE LOCATION: Levelland Campus Law Enforcement Tech. Building 112

PHONE: 806-716-2342

E-MAIL: jabarnes@southplainscollege.edu

FAX: 806 897-5288

OFFICE HOURS: Posted on office door or by appointment only!

**VISION: SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH
STUDENT'S LIFE**

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

- A. Course Description: This course is a study of the nature of criminal law. Topics include philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crimes and penalties, and individual criminal responsibilities. Emphasis will be on the Texas Penal Code and the substantive criminal law.

II. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of specific elements listed in objective required in this course. Any motor skill competency will meet minimum course evaluations and receive a Pass/Fail grade.
- B. Academic Integrity: It is the goal of the SPC Law Enforcement faculty to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity in education and training endeavors. It is a serious offense for any student to presents as his or her own work that he or she has not honestly performed; such action renders the offender liable to serious consequences that may include suspension from the academy. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and

plagiarism. (See “Academic Integrity” as well as “Student Conduct” sections in the college catalog.) In some instances, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS Competencies C-9 through C-14. If any student has a question as to whether he or she may work with other students on any assignments, **SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE INSTRUCTOR** to ascertain whether or not the student is in compliance with course guidelines.

C.

Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. Students must attend and/or participate in all classes for which financial aid is awarded. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the Student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

D. Assignment Policy: All required work must be turned in “on-time” in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is **DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD**

ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the make-up work is acceptable.

E. SPC Syllabus statements

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

III. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

A. Grading Policy/Procedures/or Other Methods of Evaluation: An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the class.

	TOTAL	
*Quizzes 14 @ 30 points each=	420	points
**Final Examination.....	250	points
Attendance (0 points after 5 absences).....	80	points
Mid-Term Examination.....	250	points
 Total Points Possible.....	 1000	 points

GRADING GUIDELINE:

Total Points Accumulated	=	Grade Earned
1000 to 900 points	=	A
899 to 800 points	=	B
799 to 700 points	=	C
699 to 600 points	=	D
599 or fewer	=	F

*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

** Final Examination is required for all students.

B. Textbook and Other Materials:

- Textbook and Other Materials:

1. CRIMINAL LAW TODAY by Frank Schmalleger and Daniel E. Hall. Published by Pearson/ Prentice Hall.
2. TEXAS CRIMINAL LAWS AND MOTOR VEHICLE HANDBOOK, LexisNexis Publications (At instruction discretion)

IV. Course Learning Outcomes: Topics covered in the assigned courses will afford students opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the following:

- A. The Nature and History of Criminal Law
- B. The Legal Essence of Criminal Conduct
- C. Additional Elements of Crime
- D. Extending Criminal Liability: Inchoate Offenses and Parties to Crime
- E. Justifications as Defenses
- F. Excuses: Defenses and Insanity
- G. Legal and Social Dimensions of Personal Crime: Homicide
- H. Legal and Social Dimensions of Personal Crime: Assault, Battery, and Other Personal Crime
- I. Legal and Social Dimensions of Property and Computer Crimes
- J. Offenses Against Public Order and the Administration of Justice
- K. Terrorism and Human Trafficking
- L. Offenses Against Public Morality
- M. Victims and the Law
- N. Punishment and Sentencing