

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRIJ 1306 (3:3:0)

COURT SYSTEMS and PRACTICES

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology

Department of Professional Services & Energy

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Spring 2023

Campus: Levelland, Texas AND Downtown

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: **CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices**

INSTRUCTOR: John A. Barnes

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VISION: **DREAMS PRECEDE REALITIES**

I. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

- A. Course Description: This course examines the history, traditions, and philosophy underlying our system of justice as it played out in the criminal court. It focuses on the prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, and jurors who are involved in the daily decisions about guilt or innocence, probation or prison. In addition, civil law, civil process and civil court practices are addressed.

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. Verification of Workplace Competencies. Successful completion of this course meets one of the TCLEOSE mandated requirements that permit a student to take the state License Examination to be a Texas Peace Officer. A student who successfully passes the state's examination does not become a peace officer until he or she is employed by an official law enforcement/criminal justice organization empowered to commission a peace officer in the state of Texas. Successful passing score on the state licensure examination is one of many employment criteria that permit a person to seek employment with law enforcement agencies.

D. 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 (Student misses 5 consecutive days without notifying the instructor) 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.

- E. 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.
- F. Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) [716-4606](tel:716-4606), or Levelland (Student Services Building) [716-2577](tel:716-2577).
- G. Diversity Statement: Instructors in the program will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourage engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. Promoting diversity and intellectual exchange will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be so that each person may live in harmony with others.

III. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

- B. 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.

The course instructor will give the class specific information of allocation of points and or requirements for course grades.

15 Quizzes @ 30 points each =	450 points
Mid-Term Examination	250 points
Attendance (0 points after 6 absences)	50 points
**Final Examination.....	250 points

Total Points Possible..... 1,000 points

*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.

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

- C. Textbook and Other Materials: Courts and Criminal Justice in America
Authors: Siegel, Schmalleger & Worrall. Publisher: Prentice Hall

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

Foundations:

1. Legal Foundations
2. Who Controls the Courts?

Types of Courts:

3. Federal Courts
4. State Courts
5. Juvenile Courts
6. Specialized Courts

The People Involved:

7. Judges
8. Prosecutors
9. Defense Attorneys
10. Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights

The Court Process

11. Arrest and Beyond
12. Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
13. The Jury and Trial
14. Sentencing, Appeals, and *Habeas Corpus*

Current Issues and the Future of Courts

15. Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
16. Technology, alternatives, and the Future