

CRIJ-1310.001, Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Course Syllabus
Fall, 2024 | 3 Semester Credit Hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Number and Section: CRIJ 1310.001

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:10a to 11:05a

Course Dates: 08/26/2024 - 12/14/2024

Course Location: Arts and Sciences, room 210

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Michael Ferguson

UTT email: mferguson@uttyler.edu

Office telephone: 903.730.3927

Office location: CAS 134

Office hours: MWF 9:20a-10:00a; T/Th 1p-1:45p; or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CRIJ 1310 - Fundamentals of Criminal Law [TCCN: 1310]: This course serves as an introductory examination of criminal law from a fundamental perspective. While Texas Criminal Law will be partially covered, this course examines the foundations of criminal law as they have evolved from British common law through the development of codified law within American society. Students will be exposed to criminal code, case law and the development of legal arguments from a criminal defense perspective. This course serves as a prerequisite to CRIJ 3326, Advanced Criminal Law.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. *Identify* the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
2. *Classify* offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
3. *Compare* culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
4. *Assess* the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
5. *Evaluate* the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

IMPORTANT NOTE: You have access to a FREE e-copy of the required textbook. The e-book is available for you to "check out" through the UTT Library.

1. Carlan, P., Nored, L. S., & Downey, R. A. (2016). *A Brief Introduction to Criminal Law* (2nd ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN 13: 978-1-2840-5611-2

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

1. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- Documents: .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- Presentations / graphs: .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. **Attendance in this class is mandatory.** University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topics at hand. As such, attendance at lecture will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of criminal justice. Additionally, attendance will improve your quiz, project, and final exam grades. You will be allowed one unexcused absence. Your attendance in class counts as a quiz grade; each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and exams will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quiz, assignment, or exam will translate into a score of zero. There will be no extra credit or extensions to complete a quiz, assignment, or exam.

1. **Quizzes:** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action during each end-of-module laboratory activity. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete a short quiz each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quizzes are timed. You may take each quiz twice; your highest score earned will count towards your class average. Your attendance counts as a quiz grade. Quizzes are worth **35%** of your grade.
2. **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate:** You must complete the free, [online anti-plagiarism course](#) from the School of Education at Indiana University - Bloomington. Upon completion of the IU course, you must earn at least 90% on the course's exam and upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. **This certificate is worth 5% of your grade.**
3. **Online Activities:** You will complete several online activities that synthesize the course material into a cohesive project, activity, or writing assignment. These activities are worth **30%** of your grade.

Final Exam: The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. Your final exam is worth **30%** of your grade.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Students who attend a National Night Out Block Party (the evening of Tuesday, 10/01/2024 in your neighborhood) and who submit to the instructor photographic proof of such will earn five extra points on the final exam grade. Note that for those who do not want to attend an NNO Block Party, attending an NNO Block Party is **not** required.

CENSUS DATE

The census date for the Fall, 2024, semester is **September 9th**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COURSE MATERIAL

The material presented in this class covers concepts from the mundane to the contentious. It is imperative that all participants understand the importance of keeping discussions civil and appropriate. We will not have a class where individuals are belittled or berated because of a particular opinion on a topic. Ad hominem attacks are the refuge of those who are unable to discuss a position in a scholarly manner. Remember former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's take on this issue: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." One of my favorite quotes on this topic is from [Larry Winget](#). He wrote,

To College Students: You don't need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego. You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking. You need ideas

that will offend you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad. This is necessary for growth and learning. So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up.

I'm not asking you to agree with one another; I'm asking you to be civil, thoughtful, and willing to listen. One of the primary ways you learn during your university education is by being exposed to multiple points of view and ideas other than your own. I encourage a spirited, lively, and scholarly discussion of the myriad topics we'll cover. I believe that groupthink is a horrible thing, so I encourage you to research the topic and present your ideas. Don't agree with others simply because it's the easy thing to do. Be yourself and be willing to stand up for your beliefs. Having written the paragraphs above, though, I need to make sure you understand something very important: if you make an assertion of fact, you need to check your source of information and be able to cite the source(s). [Just because something is on the Internet doesn't mean it's true.](#) Where did you find your information? Is it a valid, scholarly source? Did the author have a political or personal agenda? Did he or she play fast and loose with the facts? In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "trust, but verify!"

COURSE SCHEDULE

This chart shows the course schedule and assignments.

WEEK	CHAP.	READING / VIDEO ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT(S)
1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Course Syllabus</u> "Substantive Criminal Law: Principles and Working Vocabulary" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction, overview, and syllabus review Anti-Plagiarism Certificate due by Sunday at 11:59p
2-3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Crime and Punishment: Constitutional Limitations and Protections" Watch Annenberg Classroom video: <i>Mapp v Ohio</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class Monday, Sept. 2 -- Labor Day holiday! Chapters One and Two quizzes due by Sunday, 09/15, at 11:59p ASSIGNMENT: <i>Mapp v Ohio</i> case brief due by Sunday, 09/15, at 11:59p
4	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Theft Offenses and Fraudulent Practices" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Three quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
5-6	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Crimes Against Habitation, Robbery, and Assault" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Four quiz due by Sunday, 10/06, at 11:59p
7	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Criminal Homicide" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Five quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
8	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sex Offenses" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Six quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p ASSIGNMENT: Criminal Homicide Infographic due by Sunday at 11:59p

9	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Crimes Against Moral Values" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Seven quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
10	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Crimes Against the Administration of Justice and Public Order" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Eight quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
11	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Inchoate Offenses and Party Liability" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Nine quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
12	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Defenses to Criminal Responsibility" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10 quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
13	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Organized Crime and Terrorism" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11 quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
14	N/A	Thanksgiving Break	No class this week!
15	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "White Collar Crime" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12 quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
16	N/A	Final Exam Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam (comprehensive)

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)