



CRIJ 1310.08 MP | Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Syllabus: Fall 2025 – Mount Pleasant Dual Credit

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Online
		9a – 11a	9a – 11a	9a – 3p	Upon Request

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Course Description: 3 credit hours.

Topics for this course shall include a study of the nature of criminal law; philosophical and historical development; major definitions and concepts; classification of crime; elements of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; criminal responsibility.

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Student Learning Outcomes: Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law; describe definitions and concepts of criminal law, classifications of crimes, the elements of offenses and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Assignment	20%
Test	40%
Journal	15%
Quiz	25%
Total	100%

Required Instructional Materials: You have already paid for eBook access embedded into Blackboard. **If you prefer a paper copy, the bookstore can provide a textbook for an additional fee.**

Inclusive Access: *Criminal Law, 3rd*

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN Number: 9780135777626

Optional Instructional Materials: None.

Minimum Technology Requirements: Daily high-speed internet access, Internet Browser
Required Computer Literacy Skills: Basic computer usage skills, Email skills

Course Structure and Overview:

All quizzes/assignments/discussions/exams/projects are completed individually and submitted electronically through Blackboard. Each assignment is worth a set number of points. Please pay careful attention to the due dates. Late work will NOT be accepted. 'Forced Completion' Blackboard modules may be utilized during this course; students must open the contents in order before the following content becomes available. Please make sure you have accessed all links.

Communications:

Email: Please check your NTCC email everyday. Email is the official form of communication used here at NTCC. All emailed questions to the instructor will be responded to within 24 hours (Monday-Friday), but usually within a few hours when possible. My email address is ebailey@ntcc.edu

Announcements: These can be found in Blackboard under the course link on your Blackboard homepage.

Blackboard Messages: These can be found in Blackboard under the Messages link in your Blackboard course.

TEAMS: TEAMS is the preferred method of communication throughout this course.

Institutional/Course Policy:

All courses require timely completion of assignments. Many assignments are due weekly. Thus, keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the readings and other assignments. Late work is not allowed in this course- plan your schedule carefully. Blackboard will be used for file submission.

Late Work Policy:

The word "assignments" refers to all work (assignments, quizzes, exams, journals, projects) that is submitted via Blackboard or presented in class. Students are to submit assignments on or before the stated due date/time. Late work is not accepted.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to participate regularly (daily/weekly) and complete all assigned work. **Excessive absences (*two consecutive weeks of no participation or no show in class*) may result in the student being dropped from the class or having their grade average reduced.**

Important Dates:

The final day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W": November 18

Last Class Day (16 Week): December 4

Final Examinations: December 5-11

Religious Holy Days: Refer to the Northeast Texas Community College Student Handbook.

Withdrawal Policy/Date:

It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college. If you stop attending the course without withdrawing, you will still receive a grade, whether passing or failing.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure/Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information. Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards - accessed August 31, 2023)**

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on

the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Timeline: The instructor reserves the right to adjust at any point in the term. All Blackboard modules will open on their perspective Monday and close on the following Sunday at 11:59pm, with the exception of the final exam.

CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law		
Week	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1 August 25	Syllabus Acknowledgment Agreement	Sunday, Aug. 31 @ 11:59p
Week 2 Sept. 1	Chapter 1: The Basics of Criminal Law Journal #1 – Crime Categorization Quiz	Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 11:59p
Week 3 Sept. 8	Chapter 2: Limitations on Criminal Law Journal #2 – Landmark Court Cases Quiz	Sunday, Sept. 14 @ 11:59p
Week 4 Sept. 15	Chapter 3: The Elements of Criminal Liability Journal #3 – Guilty Act and Guilty Mind Quiz	Sunday, Sept. 21 @ 11:59p
Week 5 Sept. 22	Chapter 4: Justification Defenses Assignment # 1- Self Defense Check Quiz	Sunday, Sept. 28 @ 11:59p
Week 6 Sept. 29	Chapter 5: Excuse Defenses Assignment #2 – Insanity Defense in Texas Quiz	Sunday, Oct. 5 @ 11:50p
Week 7 Oct. 6	Chapter 7: Inchoate Crimes Journal #4 – Attempted, Solicited, Conspiracy Quiz	Sunday Oct. 12 @ 11:59p

Week 8 Oct. 13	Mid-Term Exam	Sunday, Oct. 19 @ 11:59p
Week 9 Oct. 20	Chapter 8: Homicide Assignment #3 - Murder Quiz	Sunday, Oct. 26 @ 11:59p
Week 10 Oct. 27	Chapter 9: Assaultive Offenses Journal #5 – Aggravated? Quiz	Sunday, Nov. 2 @ 11:59p
Week 11 Nov. 3	Chapter 10: Property Damage, Invasion, and Cyber Crime Assignment #4 – Cyber Crime Quiz	Sunday, Nov. 9 @ 11:59p
Week 12 Nov. 10	Chapter 12: Public Order, Morality, and Vice Crimes Journal #6 – Why is it bad? Quiz	Sunday, Nov. 16 @ 11:59p
Week 13 Nov. 17	Chapter 13: Terrorism and Offenses Against the State Journal #7 – Terrorism and the Internet Quiz	Sunday, Nov. 23 @ 11:59p
Week 14 Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15 Dec. 1		Sunday, Dec. 7 @ 11:59p
Week 16 Dec. 8	Final Exam Respondus Lockdown Browser	Wednesday, Dec. 10 @ 11:59p