CRIJ 1310 – Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Course Syllabus: December Intersession

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

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Weekday	Office Hours
Online	Upon Request

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities. Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

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:

1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law
2. Describe definitions and concepts of criminal law
3. Classifications of crimes, the elements of offenses and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations
4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
40%	Exams
20%	Assignments
15%	Journal
25%	Quiz

Semester grades will be earned as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Required Instructional Materials:

Inclusive Access: Criminal Law, 3rd
Publisher: Pearson
ISBN Number: 9780135777626
Optional Instructional Materials: None.

Access to the required eBook is included in your course fees and is embedded within your Blackboard Learn course. Students can locate and access the eBook directly through the Blackboard course site. If a printed copy is preferred, a physical textbook may be purchased through the campus bookstore for an additional fee.

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, journals, exams, and projects must be completed individually and submitted electronically through Blackboard Learn. Each assignment will be assigned a specific point value. Students are expected to adhere strictly to all posted due dates; late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. Please note that “Forced Completion” modules may be utilized in this course, requiring students to access all required content in sequence before subsequent materials become

available.

Communications:

Email: Students are required to check their Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) email daily, as it is the official form of communication for the course. All emailed inquiries will receive a response within 24 hours, Monday through Friday; however, responses are often provided sooner when possible.

Announcements: Course announcements are posted in Blackboard Learn and can be accessed through the course link on the Blackboard homepage. Students are responsible for reviewing announcements regularly.

Blackboard Messages: Direct messages may also be sent and received through Blackboard Learn under the "Messages" section within the course.

TEAMS: Microsoft Teams serves as the most efficient method of communication for this course and is recommended for timely responses.

Institutional/Course Policy:

All courses require the timely completion of assignments, many of which are due on a weekly basis. Adherence to the course schedule is essential for academic success. Students are expected to manage their personal schedules effectively to meet all reading and assignment deadlines. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances; therefore, careful planning is required. All assignments must be submitted electronically through Blackboard Learn.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or 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.

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

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:
APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, https://chat.openai.com/.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

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.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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.

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 having their grade average reduced. In addition, 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.

Tentative Course Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust at any point in the term. All Blackboard modules will open no later than the corresponding week date.

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Week	Assignments	Due Date
Start Course Here December 11	❑ Syllabus Acknowledge Agreement ❑ Meet Your Peers Discussion Board ▫ Initial Post ▫ Response to Peer 1 ▫ Response to Peer 2	
Week 1 December 11	Chapter 1: The Basics of Criminal Law ❑ Journal #1 – Crime Categorization ❑ Quiz	Sunday, December 20 @ 11:59p
	Chapter 2: Limitations on Criminal Law ❑ Journal #2 – Landmark Court Cases ❑ Quiz	
	Chapter 3: The Elements of Criminal Liability ❑ Journal #3 – Guilty Act and Guilty Mind ❑ Quiz	
Week 2 December 21	Chapter 4: Justification Defenses ❑ Assignment # 1- Self Defense Check ❑ Quiz	Sunday, December 27 @ 11:59p
	Chapter 5: Excuse Defenses ❑ Assignment #2 – Insanity Defense in Texas ❑ Quiz	
	Chapter 7: Inchoate Crimes ❑ Journal #4 – Attempted, Solicited, Conspiracy ❑ Quiz	
Week 3 December 28	**Mid-Term Exam**	Sunday, January 3 @ 11:59p
	Chapter 8: Homicide ❑ Assignment #3 - Murder ❑ Quiz	
	Chapter 9: Assaultive Offenses ❑ Journal #5 – Aggravated? ❑ Quiz	
	Chapter 10: Property Damage, Invasion, and Cyber Crime ❑ Assignment #4 – Cyber Crime ❑ Quiz	

Week 4 **January 4**	Chapter 12: Public Order, Morality, and Vice Crimes ❑ Journal #6 – Why is it bad? ❑ Quiz	Sunday, January 8 @ 11:59p
	Chapter 13: Terrorism and Offenses Against the State ❑ Journal #7 – Terrorism and the Internet ❑ Quiz	
	Final Exam	