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| ogo Vertical | **CRIJ 1310.021HY – Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  **Course Syllabus:** Fall 2020 | | | | | |
| “Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”  **Robert W. Moore**  **Office:** IA 105  **Email:** [rwmoore209@gmail.com](mailto:rwmoore209@gmail.com) | | | | | |
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| **Office Hours** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Email** |
| 9:30-10:50 | 9:30-10:50 | Email | Email | Email | Any Time |
| The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will answer all questions as quickly as possible, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of your email. | | | | | | |

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

**Catalog Course Description:**

Topics for this course shall include: foundation and structure of the Texas legal systems and its historical origins, structure and organization of the criminal justice process, an understanding of the makeup, punishment ranges, and enhancements of the Texas Criminal and Traffic laws.

**Prerequisites:**

No formal course requirements, but students should understand how to access the Internet via a web browser.

**Required Textbook(s):**

*Texas Criminal and Traffic Laws*. LexisNexis; Mathew Bender & Company, 2019-2020Edition.

**Resources:**

**Computers and computer labs assistants** are available in MS 103. The LRC and the Academic Skills Center have computers available for students but with limited or no assistance.

**Your instructor** can be your greatest resource. Your instructor is here to assist you in learning the material and helping you earn the grade you wish to earn in the course. This is a commitment by your instructor. Please utilize this resource by contacting him with any matter you feel he can assist you with, both within this class or your college success in general. It is your responsibility to learn the material, but this can often be best accomplished by initiating contact with the instructor on topics you need clarification or further assistance. Please do this!

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Course Level

* Explain the foundations, origins, and justifications of Texas laws.
* Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.
* Describe the different types, levels, and punishment ranges of Texas Criminal laws.
* Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.
* Understand and evaluate the application of criminal laws with regards to persons or property.

During this course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the foundation for all Texas Law.
2. U.S. Constitutional Law
3. Texas Constitutional Law
4. Report the key differences between Civil and Criminal law

II. Understand the process for the formation and application of laws.

1. Statutory Laws and the Legislative Process
2. Case Law and Court Decisions
3. County and Municipal Ordinances
4. Understand the application of Criminal Law.
5. Steps through the Criminal Justice System
6. Identify and Explain the various types of Law Enforcement entities in Texas
7. Identify and Explain the various types of Criminal Court entities in Texas
8. Understand the requirements for a Criminal Act and explain how crimes are classified.
9. Mental Culpability States, Criminal Responsibility, Mistake of Fact/Law
10. Types and Classification of Misdemeanor Offenses
11. Types and Classification of Felony Offenses
12. Examine different types of Property Crimes and their elements, enhancements and punishments.
13. Criminal Mischief and Criminal Trespass
14. Theft and Burglary
15. Forgery and Fraud
16. Examine different types of Crimes against Persons, their elements, enhancements, and punishments
17. Assaultive Behaviors
18. Sex Crimes
19. Crimes Against Family

**Exemplary Educational Objectives:**

N/A

**SCANS Skills:**

N/A

**Lectures & Discussions:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tuesday | Thursday |
| Week 1 – Aug 25/27 | Introduction and Syllabus | BB Familiarization and Syllabus Quiz |
| Week 2 – Sep 1/3 | U.S./Texas Constitutional Law | BB Assignment #1: Rights of a Criminal Defendant |
| Week 3 – Sept 8/10 | Statutory Laws & Case Law | BB Assignment #2:  TX Penal Code Ch. 2:  Burden of Proof |
| Week 4 – Sept 15/17 | TX Penal Code Ch. 9  Justification Excluding Criminal Responsibility | BB Assignment #3:  TX Penal Code Ch. 6: Culpability |
| Week 5 – Sept 22/24 | TX Penal Code Ch. 7:  Criminal Responsibility | BB Assignment 4: TX Penal Code Ch. 8:  General Defenses |
| Week 6 – Sept 29/Oct 1 | **Quiz #1**  TX Penal Code Ch. 19  Criminal Homicide | BB Assignment #5:  TX Penal Code Ch. 12 & 15:  Punishments & Preparatory Offenses |
| Week 7 – Oct 6/8 | TX Penal Code Ch. 20  Human Trafficking | BB Assignment #7:  Unlawful Restraint |
| **Week 8 – Oct 13/15** | **Mid-Term Review & Exam** | |
| Week 9 – Oct 20/22 | TX Penal Code Ch. 21  Sexual Offenses | BB Assignment #8:  TX Penal Ch. 28:  Arson, Criminal Mischief, Prop Damage |
| Week 10 – Oct 27/29 | TX Penal Code Ch. 22  Assaultive Offenses | BB Assignment #9:  TX Penal Code Ch. 31:  Theft |
| Week 11 – Nov 3/5 | TX Penal Code Ch. 29 & 30:  Robbery, Burglary, & Criminal Trespass | BB Assignment #10:  TX Penal Code Ch. 32:  Fraud |
| Week 12 – Nov 10/12 | **Quiz #2**  TX Penal Code Ch. 31:  Theft | BB Assignment #11:  TX Penal Code Ch. 49:  Intoxication and Alcohol Offenses |
| Week 13 – Nov 17/19 | TX Penal Code Ch. 42:  Disorderly Conduct | BB Assignment #12:  TX Penal Code Ch. 38:  Obstructing Governmental Operation |
| Week 14 – Nov 24/26 | **Thanksgiving Break** | |
| Week 15 – Dec 1/3 | TX H.S.C. – Drug Offenses  **Final Review** | BB Assignment #13:  Other Important Offenses |
| **Week 16 – Dec 7-10** | **Final Exam Week** | |

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be determined by the student’s achievement of a total number of possible points based on the below listed categories.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **Quantity** | **Pts. Per Assign.** | **Total Pts. Possible** |
| Class Participation | 16 | 3 | 50 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Class Assignments |  |  | 450 |
| Quizzes | 2 | 100 | 200 |
| BB/Written Assignments | 12 | 20 | 250 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Mid-Term Exam | 1 | 250 | 250 |
| Final exam | 1 | 250 | 250 |
| Total |  |  | **1000** |

The letter grade is based on the following Grading Scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Pts. Earned** | **Ltr. Grade** |
| 900-1000 | A |
| 800-899 | B |
| 700-799 | C |
| 600-699 | D |
| Below 600 | F |

**Tests/Exams:**

**Mid-Term Exam: October 18, 2020**

**Final Exam: December 10, 2020 (Monday – Thursday)**

This course consists of two exams, a mid-term, and a final. The mid-term will consist of information from the start of the semester, up to the time of the exam. The final will be comprehensive and contain information from the entire course. **If you have a conflict with the exam dates**, you must contact the instructor prior to the exam week to attempt to resolve the conflict in a mutually agreeable manner.

**Assignments:**

## Written Assignments:

**Each assignment will be Double-Spaced, Times New Roman #12 font, and is due Sunday at 11:59 PM of the week that it is due.**

## Blackboard Assignments:

Each Blackboard Assignment will require a short, written response. The student is required to answer the question, or respond to the statement, made in the assignment by citing the related statute and providing an opinion, if requested. Responses should be no longer than a single type-written page.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics to be covered in order to best prepare the student with the above stated learning outcomes.

## Quizzes:

There will be 2 quizzes for this course. Each quiz will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth a total of 100 points of your total class grade.

**Missed quizzes must be made up before the next quiz/test date. Failure to make up a quiz will result in a 0 score for that assignment.**

**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

*Class Attendance*: **Participation in class discussions and assignments is mandatory.** Students’ participation grade (100 points of the total Class Grade) will be ***heavily based*** on in-class engagement.

Withdrawal requests MUST BE initiated by the student. The last day for a student to drop a course with a grade of "W" is **TBD – Instructor will Announce in Class.** Requests for withdrawal become official and effective the date they are received in the records office.  Students who stop coming to class but fail to drop the course will *earn* an “F” for the course.

*Late Work*: To be considered “on time,” **all work must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day that it is due**. Assignments can be submitted for a 10% deduction for one week following the assignment due date. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructor.

**NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:**

Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook (see Student Handbook on the student MyEagle Portal).

**Academic Ethics**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach.  Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit.  Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action.  Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

**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 arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form.  For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

**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.