



CRIJ 1310.021HY – Fundamentals of Criminal Law

Course Syllabus: Fall 2023

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

Instructor: Elizabeth Bailey, M.S.

Office:

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Email
	1p - 3p	10a – 3p	10a – 3p			Any Time

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, 2021-2022 Edition.
ISBN: 9781637291481

Resources:

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

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:

- I. Understand the foundation for all Texas Law.
 - A. U.S. Constitutional Law
 - B. Texas Constitutional Law
 - C. Report the key differences between Civil and Criminal law
- II. Understand the process for the formation and application of laws.
 - A. Statutory Laws and the Legislative Process
 - B. Case Law and Court Decisions
 - C. County and Municipal Ordinances
- III. Understand the application of Criminal Law.
 - A. Steps through the Criminal Justice System
 - B. Identify and Explain the various types of Law Enforcement entities in Texas
 - C. Identify and Explain the various types of Criminal Court entities in Texas
- IV. Understand the requirements for a Criminal Act and explain how crimes are classified.
 - A. Mental Culpability States, Criminal Responsibility, Mistake of Fact/Law
 - B. Types and Classification of Misdemeanor Offenses
 - C. Types and Classification of Felony Offenses
- V. Examine different types of Property Crimes and their elements, enhancements and punishments.
 - A. Criminal Mischief and Criminal Trespass
 - B. Theft and Burglary
 - C. Forgery and Fraud
- VI. Examine different types of Crimes against Persons, their elements, enhancements, and punishments
 - A. Assaultive Behaviors
 - B. Sex Crimes
 - C. Crimes Against Family

Course Calendar:

	Monday Topics:
Week 1	Introduction and Syllabus
Week 2	U.S./Texas Constitutional Law
Week 3	Statutory Laws & Case Law
Week 4	TX Penal Code Ch. 9 Justification Excluding Criminal Responsibility
Week 5	TX Penal Code Ch. 7: Criminal Responsibility
Week 6	TX Penal Code Ch. 19 Criminal Homicide
Week 7	TX Penal Code Ch. 20 Human Trafficking
Week 8	Mid-Term Review & Exam
Week 9	TX Penal Code Ch. 21 Sexual Offenses
Week 10	TX Penal Code Ch. 22 Assaultive Offenses

Week 11	TX Penal Code Ch. 29 & 30: Robbery, Burglary, & Criminal Trespass
Week 12	TX Penal Code Ch. 31: Theft
Week 13	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14	TX Penal Code Ch. 42: Disorderly Conduct
Week 15	TX H.S.C. – Drug Offenses
Week 16	Final Exam Week

Course Requirements

Expectations: The instructor expects clear writing with adequate style, correct grammar, and proper use of scholarly references. All submitted written assignments must be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced, on standard paper with one-inch margins. All research will be gathered from scholarly articles by utilizing informational databases. **WIKIPEDIA IS NOT A VALID SOURCE.** The instructor reserves the right to utilize plagiarism detection software and any paper found to have a significant amount of plagiarism (i.e., applying zero citations for borrowed work) will result in a grade of 0.

Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience for students by blending lectures, discussions, and appropriate reading assignments. We will be discussing many current, interesting, and often controversial subjects. Thus, a mature attitude is assumed of all students. Do nothing that will interfere with anyone else’s opportunity to learn in this class. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.

Exams: There will be two major exams during the semester: the mid-term (mid-semester) and the final exam (end-of-semester). Both exams will count as a test grade and utilize up to 100 true/false questions, multiple choice questions, and open-ended questions. **BOTH exams will be closed book and closed note.**

Quizzes: Please expect quizzes at the completion of each topic during the semester consisting of 10 true/false questions, multiple choice questions, and open-ended questions. **All quizzes are open book and open note.**

Late Work: I do not accept it. You are aware of due dates for assignments, quizzes, and tests upon the acceptance of this syllabus. If for some reason you are unable to make a scheduled due date, please communicate with your instructor so that a resolution can be made.

Course Outline and Calendar: Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule as noted below. However, circumstances may require changes to the schedule. In that case, changes will be announced in class with viable time to adjust. The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary and depending on the progress of the class. It is highly recommended that the student follows the schedule outlined **very carefully** in order to stay ahead of assignments and readings. Please follow the weekly folders found in Blackboard for additional assignments.

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.