

**Angelina College**  
**School of Business & Technology**  
**CRIJ 1310 – Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  
**Spring 2019 – Tuesday & Thursday – 8:00 am to 9:20 am**  
**Syllabus**

**I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:**

**A. Course Description:**

CRIJ 1310 – Three (3) hours credit. This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability.

**B. Intended Audience:**

Freshman level course.

**C. Instructor:**

Name: Kevin D. Fritze, M.S.

Office Location: Room 158 – Technology & Workforce Building – Angelina College, Lufkin

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. All other times by appointment only.

Phone: 936-633-5417 (instructor's office) or 936-633-5246 (division office)

E-mail Address: kfritze@angelina.edu (best *and preferred* method of contact)

**II. INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

**A. Core Objectives:**

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**B. Learning Outcomes:**

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.

**III. ASSESSMENT MEASURES**

**A. Assessments for the Core Objectives (Tentative)**

1. **Critical Thinking:** Students will engage in assigned readings and will be presented with oral and visual lecture content that explain the nature and structure of Texas criminal laws. Students will be specifically required to read, interpret, and correctly apply various Texas criminal laws to fictional scenarios that

would require legal intervention in the real world. Outcome will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Critical Thinking Skills.

**2. Communication:** Students will research an assigned topic and will write an essay on the assigned topic. Students will present their findings to the class as a whole via an oral presentation. Communication skills will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Communication Skills.

**3. Personal Responsibility:** Students will be required to make choices in the completion of course written assignments and/or exams that demonstrate their ability to connect choices and actions, engage in ethical decision-making, and understand its consequences. A rubric will be used to assess personal responsibility as demonstrated through embedded questions on standardized exams.

#### **B. Assessments for Course Learning Outcomes (Tentative)**

1. Students will be able to identify the elements of crimes and the various defenses to prosecution that exist under Texas law as noted in the Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and interpretations of case law. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, and individual research and application projects will be used to present this information. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of various projects and major exams.

2. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, and individual research / application projects will expose students to the concept of how criminal offenses are classified and how our governmental system articulates penalties for these various criminal offenses. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic via participation in questioning (Socratic) and successful completion of major exams and projects.

3. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, and individual research / application projects will address the importance of defining and understanding the various culpable mental states and how they related to perceived or actual criminal responsibility. Students will show their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of major exams and projects.

4. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, and individual projects will introduce students to the concept of how our current criminal laws are the product of an ever-evolving legal philosophy as applied and analyzed in a broad historical context. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the evolving history and philosophy of law via Socratic questioning and successfully completing major projects and exams.

5. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, and group / individual projects will inform students regarding how the various types of criminal law (substantive, procedural, regulatory, and case law) are applied to and affect the operation of criminal justice agencies; specifically law enforcement and correctional agencies. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and via successful completion of major exams and/or projects.

#### **IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**

Methodologies that may be utilized in presenting course content will include a combination of lectures, small group or individual exercises, written assignments, oral presentations, videos, guest speakers, field-trips, reading assignments, and major exams. Internet research may be required for this course at various times. All criminal justice courses whether online or in-person will have an online Blackboard feature that allows students to access power-point presentations, assignments, the course syllabi and other relevant information.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

### A. Required Textbook(s) and Recommended Readings, Materials and Equipment:

#### Two (2) Required Textbooks:

1. Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, 2017 - 2018 Edition. Blue 360 Media Publications. 2017.
2. Dowling, Jerry L. (2015). Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ. Prentice Hall Publishing. (ISBN: 978-0133512571)

#### Recommended Books:

1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.
2. Current edition of either *Blacks Law Dictionary* or *Oran's Dictionary of the Law*

#### Other Materials:

1. Each student must have a Scantron Form 882-E and number 2 pencil for use on each exam.
2. Spiral notebook or binder for note taking
3. Highlighter for textbook review, etc.
4. Computer with internet access. Familiarity with Microsoft Word and Microsoft Power-Point

### B. Course Policies:

#### Academic Assistance:

Educational Accommodations – If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you may fill out the Educational Accommodations application within your AC Portal, under the “Student Services” tab. A Student Success team member will contact you once the application is received. At a post-secondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability in order to receive services; for questions regarding the application process you can visit the Office of Student Success and Inclusion in the Student Center (205A); text 936.463.8078; or email [access@angelina.edu](mailto:access@angelina.edu). To report any complaints of discrimination related to a disability, you should contact Mr. Steve Hudman, Dean of Student Affairs, in Room 101 of the Student Center. You may also contact Dean Hudman by calling (936) 633-5292 or by emailing [shudman@angelina.edu](mailto:shudman@angelina.edu).

#### Attendance:

The official Angelina College attendance policy will be followed, meaning **a student can be dropped from class by the instructor after 3 consecutive absences or 4 cumulative (total) absences**. This does not include absences for college-authorized activities, but it does include absences for illness or any other reason. If a student obtains their 4th or additional absence after the drop date for the semester, automatic failure of the course will result. Once a student is dropped by the instructor readmission to the course is prohibited....regardless of the reason or excuse the student may or may not have. Additionally, **if you desire to drop the class, you should take the necessary steps to complete the drop**

**on your own. Just because the instructor can drop you from the class, does not mean you can assume a drop will occur. This is a matter of personal responsibility you must take care of on your own.**

For the purposes of all Criminal Justice classes an absence is defined as follows: failure to attend class, failure to sign class attendance log, leaving class early, talking, sleeping, or any other disruptive behavior in class.

Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor:

Student Behavior:

Criminal Justice is an academic discipline and career choice that requires a high degree of professional character and moral conduct. Students are expected to engage in pro-social, ethical, and legal conduct both on campus and in private life. Additionally college is a time for personal growth and personal responsibility. All students who are going to be successful in Criminal Justice courses will be required to display observable qualities that display personal responsibility.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Please see the Student Handbook for Angelina College's definition of and policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students engaging in any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty – which is the unacknowledged use of anyone else's work (published or unpublished) or ***cheating of any kind, will result in immediate and irrevocable failure of the entire course.*** Criminal Justice is not a major or profession for cheaters and such behavior will not be tolerated at Angelina College.

All cell-phones must be turned off upon entering the classroom. If an emergency situation requires the monitoring of a cell phone during class time, prior notice to the instructor is required. **During exams, nothing will be allowed in proximity to the student except the exam and Scantron. If any student is observed using a cell phone, iPod, computer, headphones, or any other unnecessary object/device during an exam, the student will be excused from the classroom and will receive a zero on the exam in question.**

Other Rules:

Students are expected to properly dispose of all trash in the appropriate receptacle adjacent to the door.

It is the policy of this instructor and of Angelina College that you not bring children or other guests to class.

If I am talking or another student is talking as it pertains to class assignments, you do not.

## VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

### A. Grading Criteria:

Grades in this course will be derived from scores earned on three (3) exams, and five (5) study aids discussed as follows:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Exams:</u>     | <u>Point Value:</u>  |
| a. Exam #1           | 100 points (25%)   |
| b. Exam #2           | 100 points (25%)   |
| c. Final Exam        | 100 points (25%)   |
| 2. <u>Study Aids</u> | Five (5) Study Aid assignments during semester worth 20 points each for 100 points total (25%) |

#### What is a Study Aid?

Study Aids are a glimpse at what course exams will be like and offer another valuable opportunity to interpret and correctly apply Texas criminal law to various fictional, but plausible, real-world scenarios related to the criminal laws we are reviewing at a given point in the course. The whole point of this course is to gain and perfect the skills necessary to correctly read, interpret, and apply Texas criminal law as it relates to real world situations.

#### What do Exams and Study Aids consist of?

All study aids will consist of ten (10) multiple choice questions that are worth two (2) points each. A student can earn up to twenty (20) points on each study aid. By semester's end, the scores on all five (5) study aids will be added together to determine an overall Study Aid grade (up to 100 points like an exam). Students will complete each Study Aid within Blackboard according to the dates and times noted on the course schedule (attached). Exams will feature 40-50 multiple choice, true/false, and scenario multiple choice questions (like the Study Aids). Exams will cover only the information covered in class from one exam to the next.

#### Where to find Study Aids?

Each study aid will be made available on the Blackboard site for this course in the "Study Aids" folder in the Course Content section. The student is encouraged to begin work on the study aid as soon as it is available and spend adequate time researching the correct answer. **Study Aids WILL NOT be distributed in class.** Students are however encouraged to work together in debating, analyzing, and completing each study aid. The study aids must be completed electronically within Blackboard. Please follow the dates and times noted on the attached schedule for the course. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO REOPENING OF CLOSED STUDY AIDS WILL OCCUR. Missed Study Aids will result in a zero (0), with no make-up opportunity. Once the due date for the study aid has passed, students will have access to their study aid grade in Blackboard. Correct answers to each question will be discussed in class and made available within Blackboard after the assignment due date and time.

### 3. Late Assignments or Missed Exams / Study Aids: **(IMPORTANT INFORMATION):**

There will be ***no make-up exams given in ANY criminal justice class***. Additionally, in courses where other assignments (Study Aids) are required, ***no late assignments will be accepted for any reason***. There will be no exceptions to this policy, regardless of the reason. Failure to take exams or complete assignments as scheduled, will result in a zero for the exam/assignment in question. All students should pay careful attention to the syllabus, exam dates, and be attentive in class as it relates to the discussion of important dates for assignments and/or exams. **If you intend to be in this class and earn college credit hours upon its completion, you MUST be present on key dates when the exams are given.**

#### **B. Determination of Grade:**

The three (3) exams given throughout the semester will count equally (25% each) toward your final course grade. The remaining 25% comes from the point total of the five (5) Study Aids due at various times throughout the course. The scores from the three (3) exams and the final point total from the five (5) Study Aids will be added together and divided by 4 to determine the overall final course grade. This final average will lead to the following letter grades:

Computation of Course Grade:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 90-100: | A |
| 80-89:  | B |
| 70-79:  | C |
| 60-69:  | D |
| 0-59:   | F |

Additional Information on Determination of Grade:

Your grade will be a strict interpretation of your earned exam / assignment scores. There will be NO extra credit opportunities available in ANY criminal justice course. Your grade will reflect what you earn; this then is a reflection of the work you put into class attendance, class participation, and studying.

#### **VII. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:**

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made. These changes may take place at any time for any reason as determined by the instructor.

#### **VIII. ANGELINA COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY & WORKFORCE DIVISION STUDENT INFORMATION:**

As a student enrolled in a Technology & Workforce program, you will encounter certain risks while you are in a classroom, laboratory experience, or in a clinical or practicum setting. In the event that you sustain an injury and/or require any medical testing or care, all resulting medical expenses (hospital, ambulance, or physician fees), are your financial responsibility and not the responsibility of Angelina College or the clinical/practicum site.

## **IX. COURSE OUTLINE:**

The following is a tentative schedule of topics, assignments, and exams to be covered during the semester. You will be notified in class of any calendar changes. Also, please be sure to log in to Blackboard regularly for additional information regarding this course – such as access to this syllabus, Study Aids, and all in class power-point lectures that supplement each of the following topics:

| <u>Date</u>          | <u>Assignment / Topic</u>   |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday January 15   | First Class Day, Overview, Introductions, and Expectations  |
| Thursday January 17  | History of Law, Discussion of various types of law, jurisdiction, courts in Texas;                            |
| Tuesday January 22   | Foundations of Criminal Law (Dowling Ch. 1, TPC Ch. 1); How to use the Texas Penal Code (Dowling Appendix A)  |
| Thursday January 24  | Elements of Crimes (Dowling Ch. 2);   |
| Tuesday January 29   | Criminal Law in Daily Practice (Dowling Ch. 3, Ch 12, TCCP Ch. 12)  |
| Thursday January 31  | Parties to Offenses (Dowling Ch. 4, TPC Ch. 7)  |
| Tuesday February 5   | Criminal Homicide (Dowling Ch. 5, TPC Ch. 19, TPC Section 49.01, 49.08)                                       |
| Thursday February 7  | Study Aid One Due<br>Wrap up Dowling Chapters 1-5, TPC 1, 6, 12, 7, 19, 49, TCCP Ch. 12<br>Review for Exam #1 |
| Tuesday February 12  | Exam #1   |
| Thursday February 14 | Review Exam #1 Results  |
| Tuesday February 19  | Assault (Dowling Ch. 6 Part 1, TPC Ch. 21 & 22 TPC Sections 42.072, 49.07 and 49.12)                          |
| Thursday February 21 | Sexual Assault (Dowling Ch. 6 Part 2, related sections of TPC)  |
| Tuesday February 26  | Kidnapping and Related Offenses (Dowling Ch. 7, TPC Ch. 20, TPC Section 25.03)                                |
| Thursday February 28 | Study Aid Two Due<br>Theft, Fraud, and Related Offenses (Dowling Ch. 9, TPC Ch. 31 & 32)                      |
| Tuesday March 5      | Robbery (Dowling Ch. 10, TPC Ch. 29)  |
| Thursday March 7     | Burglary and Criminal Trespass (Dowling Ch. 11, TPC Ch. 30)   |
| Tuesday March 12     | SPRING BREAK  |
| Thursday March 14    | SPRING BREAK  |

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday March 19</b>  | <b>Study Aid Three Due</b><br><b>Wrap up Dowling Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11; TPC Chapters 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 31, 32; TPC Sections 25.03, 42.072, 49.07, and 49.12</b><br><b>Exam Review for Exam #2</b>  |
| <b>Thursday March 21</b> | <b>Exam #2</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday March 26</b>  | <b>Review Exam #2 Results</b>   |
| <b>Thursday March 28</b> | <b>Property Destruction Offenses (Dowling Ch. 8, TPC Ch. 28)</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday April 2</b>   | <b>Offenses Against Government Operations (Dowling Ch. 12, TPC Ch. 36, 37, and 38)</b>  |
| <b>Thursday April 4</b>  | <b>Public Order / Safety Offenses; Intoxication Offenses (Dowling Ch. 13, TPC Ch. 42 and 46, TPC Sections 49.01 – 49.02)</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday April 9</b>   | <b>Study Aid Four Due</b><br><b>Finish Public Order and Safety Offenses</b>   |
| <b>Thursday April 11</b> | <b>Preparatory Offenses (Dowling Ch. 14, TPC Ch. 15, TPC Section 16.01)</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday April 16</b>  | <b>Defenses and Justifications</b><br><b>(Dowling Ch. 15, TPC Ch. 2, 8, and 9)</b>  |
| <b>Thursday April 18</b> | <b>Study Aid Five Due</b><br><b>Finish Defenses and Justifications</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday April 23</b>  | <b>View Film</b>  |
| <b>Thursday April 25</b> | <b>View Film</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday April 30</b>  | <b>Wrap up Dowling Chapters 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15; TPC Chapters 28, 36, 37, 38, 42, 46, 2, 8, and 9; TPC Sections 49.01, 49.02, and 16.01</b><br><b>Review for Final Exam (Exam #3)</b>   |
| <b>Thursday May 2</b>    | <b>Final Exam will be given early during this class period.</b><br><br><b>Final Exam for CRIJ 1310 will cover: Dowling Chapters 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15; TPC Chapters 28, 36, 37, 38, 42, 46, 2, 8, and 9; TPC Sections 49.01, 49.02, and 16.01</b> |
| <b>Saturday May 11</b>   | <b>GRADUATION</b>   |

**\*ALL Dates, Assignments, and Topics are subject to change.**