Course Information

Course Title	Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Course Prefix, Num. and Title	CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
Division	Social and Behavioral Science
Department	Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
Course Type	Academic General Education Course (from ACGM, but not WCJC Core)
Course Catalog Description	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.
Pre-Requisites	TSI satisfied in Reading and Writing
Co-Requisites	Enter Co-Requisites Here.

Semester Credit Hours

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): Lecture Hours: Lab/Other Hours	3:3:0
Equated Pay Hours	3
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Lab Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Clinical Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Practicum Hours	0
Other Hours Breakdown	0

Approval Signatures

Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:		
Department Head:		
Division Chair:		
Dean/VPI:		
Approved by CIR:		

Additional Course Information

Topical Outline: Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, and clinical or other non-lecture instruction).

A. The nature and history of criminal law
B. Criminal Liability: Inchoate Offenses and Parties to Crime
C. Justification as Defenses
D. Excuses as Defenses
E. Insanity Defense
F. Crimes Against Persons: Homicide, Assaults
G. Crimes Against Property: Larceny, Theft, Computer Crime
H. Public Order Offenses
I. Model Penal Code
J. Effect of criminal law on policing and corrections

Course Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes – Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

Methods of Assessment:

1. Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions
2. Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions
3. Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper
4. Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper
5. Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper

Required text(s), optional text(s) and/or materials to be supplied by the student:

Schmalleger, Frank, Hall, Daniel E., Criminal Law Today Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall; most recent edition.

Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, current edition, Published by LexisNexis

Suggested Course Maximum:

35

List any specific or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

None

Course Requirements/Grading System: Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course.

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C

0-69 F
Tests/quizzes 40-60%
Legal/systems analysis paper(s) 15-30%
Homework 10-20%
Discussions 10-20%
Attendance 5-10%

Curriculum Checklist:

☒**Administrative General Education Course** (from ACGM, but not in WCJC Core) – No additional documents needed.

☐**Administrative WCJC Core Course**. Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

        ☐Critical Thinking

        ☐Communication

        ☐Empirical & Quantitative Skills

        ☐Teamwork

        ☐Social Responsibility

        ☐Personal Responsibility

☐**WECM Course** -If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix and Competencies Checklist