



Purpose: It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

Course Title – Introduction to Criminal Justice

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1301

Department – Criminal Justice

Division – Social and Behavioral Science

Course Type: (check one)

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
- Academic WCJC Core Course
- WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y or N)

Semester Credit Hours # : Lecture hours# : Lab/other hours # 3:3:0

Equated Pay hours for course - 3

Course Catalog Description - History, philosophy, and ethical considerations of criminal justice; the nature and impact of crime; and an overview of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement and court procedures.

Prerequisites/Co requisites - THEA reading and writing requirements met.

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours
Clinical Hours
Practicum Hours
Other (list)

Prepared by *ghunt* **Date** *12-7-11*

Reviewed by department head *ghunt* **Date** *12-7-11*

Accuracy verified by Division Chair *ghunt* **Date** *12-7-11*

Approved by Dean of Vocational Instruction or Vice President of Instruction **Date**

Leigh Ann Collins *12-15-11*



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

- A. Components (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) of the criminal justice system in the U.S.
- B. Past, present and future operation of the adult criminal and juvenile justice systems in the U.S.
- C. Unique vocabulary of criminal justice
- D. Criticisms of the criminal justice system in the U.S.
- E. Employment opportunities in criminal justice
- F. Work experience information from people currently employed in Criminal Justice field
- G. Extent of crime problem, victimization, causation theories
- H. Basics of criminal law
- I. Criminal court procedure including sentencing

II. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcome	Method of Assessment
Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:	
Explain the crime problem including terrorism in the United States;	Tests, homework, research assignments
Identify the ideological framework and models of crime control;	Tests, homework, research assignments
Describe the criminal justice system and nonsystem; the criminal justice process; costs and myths in criminal justice	Tests, homework, research assignments
Critically evaluate definitions of crime; measurement of crime; costs of crime; fear of crime; victims of crime; perpetrators of crime; due process and police procedure	Tests, homework, research assignments, reports on criminal justice guest speakers and interview assignments, class discussions
Delineate the history of law enforcement including evaluation of the limited authority of American law enforcement; English roots; the development of American law enforcement; the structure of American law enforcement and American private security	Tests, homework, research assignments, reports on criminal justice guest speakers and interview assignments
Describe and explain the American legal system, participants and sentencing procedures	Tests, homework, research assignments
Contrast the components of American corrections and how they relate to crime prevention	Tests, homework, research assignments
Ascertain issues and trends in the Criminal Justice System including the challenges to be faced by those working in the criminal justice system in the future	Class discussions, homework, research assignments
Identify employment opportunities in criminal justice	Guest speaker reports, research assignments, homework

III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be Supplied by Student.

- A. Gaines, Larry K./Miller, Roger LeRoy Criminal Justice in Action; Wadsworth Cengage Publisher
OR a textbook of the department's choosing by reputable authors and published by a reputable publisher that contains information on the topics listed in section I.
- B. Internet access to social science databases and journals
- C. Access to a computer and printer for preparing and submitting assignments

IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

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

Instructor must have access to all appropriate technology for the online section of this course

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

Students in Criminal Justice courses must have a 70% average to receive a passing grade!

Grading System:

A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, F 69-0.

Research projects assessing employment opportunities and real life work experiences of criminal justice personnel. (30% to 40% of grade)

Reading of course textbook – necessary for successful text performance and participation in many class discussions

Research relevant to course topics – necessary for many class discussions, homework assignments and research paper

Participation in class discussions based on the text and outside research (10% to 20% of final grade)

Comprehensive final (minimum of 10% of final grade)

Periodic testing over assigned reading (minimum of 30% of final grade)

Homework assignments – necessary to evaluate reading and research skills (10% to 20% of final grade)

Class attendance – interaction with instructor and other students necessary for success in course and college success in general (5% to 10% of final grade)

VII. Curriculum Checklist

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**
Attach the Core Curriculum Checklist, including the following:
- Basic Intellectual Competencies
 - Perspectives
 - Exemplary Educational Objectives

- **WECM Courses**
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist.