



**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 & 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** - This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes.

**Prerequisites/Co-requisites** – TSI satisfied in Reading and Writing

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

*Prepared by* Linda Clark

*Date* 2-28-14

*Reviewed by Department Head* Linda Clark

*Date* 2-28-14

*Accuracy verified by Division Chair* Amanda Shelton

*Date* 3-6-14

*Approved by Dean or Vice President of Instruction* *gghunt*

*Date* 3-17-14



**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) and operations 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**

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Methods of Assessment</b>
<p><b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the history and philosophy of the American criminal justice system.</li> <li>2. Explain the nature and extent of crime in America.</li> <li>3. Analyze the impact and consequences of crime.</li> <li>4. Evaluate the development, concepts, and functions of law in the criminal justice system.</li> <li>5. Describe the structure of contemporary federal, state, and local justice agencies and processes.</li> </ol>	<p>Tests/quizzes, homework, class discussions</p> <p>Research papers, tests, homework</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p>

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

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**IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35**

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

none

**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**

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

Tests/quizzes 40-60%  
Research paper(s) 15-30%  
Homework 10-20%  
Discussions 10-20%  
Attendance 5-10%

## **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 Review Forms

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

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