



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 – Crime in America

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1307

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 - American crime problems in historical perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime.

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 10-29-13

Reviewed by Department Head Linda Clark

Date 10-29-13

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. Expansive nature of the study of criminology
- B. Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior
- C. Historical perspectives relevant to the study of criminology
- D. Psychological and Biological explanations
- E. Strain and Cultural Deviance Theories
- F. Subcultures
- G. Social Control Theory
- H. Labeling, Conflict, and Radical Theories
- I. Environmental Theory
- J. Violent Crime
- K. Property Crime
- L. White-Collar and Corporate Crime
- M. Public Order Crime
- N. International and Comparative Criminology

II. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of this course, students will:	Methods of Assessment
1. Evaluate the importance of the study of criminology in today's society.	Tests and quizzes; discussions; Paper; homework
2. Measure crime and interpret criminal behavior patterns	Tests and quizzes; discussions; Paper; homework
3. Compare the relationship between perpetrators and victims and between crime and criminal behavior	Tests and quizzes; discussions; Paper; homework
4. Express integration of theories, historical data, crime categories, criminal justice and social response to crime and criminal behavior orally, visually and in writing	Paper, homework; Discussions; Tests, quizzes
5. Utilize comparative criminology information	Paper; homework
6. Evaluate varied schools of thought regarding criminal behavior and crime using an historical perspective incorporating rational choice, biological, psychological and sociological theories	Paper, homework; Discussions; Tests, quizzes
7. Assess crime classification into violent/personal crimes, property crime, organizational criminality, and public order crimes including drug/alcohol and sex-related crimes	Tests and quizzes; discussions; Paper; homework
8. Describe the components and operational dynamics of the criminal justice system and its handling of crime and criminal behavior and compare the criminal justice response to other methods of addressing criminal behavior	Tests and quizzes; discussions; Paper; homework

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

Criminology: The Core 5th Ed. Larry J. Siegel

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 35-50% of grade
Quizzes 10-20% of grade
Discussions 10-20% of grade
Attendance 5-10% of grade
Paper 20-30% of grade
Homework 5-15% of 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 Review Forms

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

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