



**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 –** Fundamentals of Criminal Law

**Course Prefix and Number –** CRIJ 1310

**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 –** Study of criminal law, its philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classifications and elements of crime, penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility.

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

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

**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**

*Lizh 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. 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

**II. Course Learning Outcomes**

Course Learning Outcome	Method of Assessment
1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law 2. Identify definitions and concepts of criminal law 3. Identify the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes 4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes	All learning outcomes are measured by unit exam and successful completion of practical application of case study and scenarios at the conclusion of each unit of study.

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

- A. Schmallegger, Frank; Criminal Law Today; Prentice-Hall 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, journals, and legal documents
- 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 ITV and online sections 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.