Spring 2024 Course Syllabus: CRIJ-3303 Criminal Law
Instructor Jason Rash, M.A.
Adjunct Faculty of Government
Office: Virtual
Office Phone: Please use SFASU email: jason.rash@sfasu.edu

Classroom Meeting Schedule and Location
This course is completely online.

Virtual Office Hours
Available by SFA email or Zoom (through prearrangement) most evenings Sunday through Thursday. It is best to email me to arrange a meeting by phone or Zoom. Please Do Not send me email through D2L/Brightspace.

Course Related E-mail Guidelines
All emails to me concerning class issues should include your name and course number reference (CRIJ-3303). All emails made to you concerning class issues will be directed to your SFASU email address. You are responsible for reading all announcements, course documents and e-mails relating to this course. You are also responsible for making sure emails are read. All emails to me should go to my SFASU email address, NOT D2L/Brightspace.

Course Description
This course introduces students to the basic structure and elements of law and criminal liability in the United States. Topics include elements of law, criminal justification and excuses, and differing types of criminal involvement. The course will also examine definitions of violent and nonviolent crime from both the Model Penal Code and the Texas Penal Code. Prerequisites: CRIJ 1301

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours
Criminal Law (3 credit hours) is an upper-level online course that meets for 16 weeks. Students have weekly reading assignments in which they must read from the assigned text and/or websites and critically analyze the reading(s) for the weeks. Each Module has a short Quiz at the end and a Discussion question. Each requires the student to communicate their knowledge of the material and demonstrate assimilation of the lectures, readings, and discussions. Students are expected to discuss the reading assignments and any other assigned readings or videos as they occur. Students should expect to spend 4-6 hours per week per module, minimum. Some students may require more in completing assigned work.

Text required for the Course
You will be responsible for the assigned readings to respond to discussions and complete the quizzes, as well as for examinations.

Criminal Law, 12e, Cengage Publishing, Joel Samaha

How to Register for Your Section 1 of CRIJ 3303 Criminal Law Course:
1. Go to GetEnrolled.com
2. Enter this Course Key: MTPQRD938NDH
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete your MindTap registration
4. Visit the Cengage Student Registration Page for a step-by-step guide and short video on how to register for your course
Texas Constitution and Statutes-Penal Code  Texas Constitution and Statutes - Home

Program Learning Outcomes Addressed in this Course

- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the court system of the United States in terms of structure, constitutional issues and historical precedents.
- The student will demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues in criminal justice, and how to use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote organizational and professional trust.

Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes

- The student should be able to recognize sources of our criminal law including common law.
- The student should understand the principles and characteristics of the common law and Model Penal Code including the goals of the criminal justice system, i.e. punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation; the different ways of classifying crimes, establishing culpability, and parties to crimes, and defenses to crime and the elements of specific crimes.
- The student should be able to apply all of the above to fact situations.

Student Responsibility

You retain the responsibility to follow the guidelines of the course syllabus; comply with university regulations; read all assigned material and postings specific to this course; comply with due dates, submission guidelines, and my directions. You are an adult and retain the responsibility of regulating your behavior in a manner that will be conducive to learning and attaining a passing grade for the course. You are expected to comply with the following general rules of civility. You are expected to participate in class regularly and complete all activities in a timely manner, demonstrating clear evidence of your effort. You are to actively participate in discussions, and while you are free to express your personal views, you must also respect the views of others. I maintain the right to censor any discussion that is becoming disruptive to the learning process.

You retain the responsibility to make notification of special needs and/or circumstances to the University, Department Chair, and to me. Because you are an adult, it is inappropriate to have your parents calling on your behalf requesting special consideration, complaining about workload, or about course content. The course syllabus is not a menu and you do not have the option of choosing what items to complete and tasks to perform. Failure to submit required material may result in your failure of the course. You are participating in a course designed to prepare you for a career as a public servant. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld higher standards for those involved in public service, particularly those professions related to criminal justice. You are expected to read carefully and to fully comply with the academic honesty policy contained in this syllabus.

Be sure to read the policy contained in the missed examinations section, and please do not ask me to deviate from the policy. Again, you are an adult and should be responsible in your approach to this course – this should reflect how you will behave in your career workplace. Violations of the rules of Student Responsibility may result in a student conduct complaint being filed with the SFA Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
Grading Policy
Grades will be determined using the following composition:

35%  
13 Chapter Quizzes (inclusive of corresponding Texas Penal Code)
35%  
13 Discussion/Application Questions
10%  
Case Brief
20%  
Final Exam

The final grade will be assigned as follows.

A = 90% or above
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = below 60%

Examinations
There will be one exam at the end of the semester which will be based upon the readings in the book and the Texas Penal Code. You are expected to read the chapters and other assigned readings no later than the date assigned in the syllabus. You may read ahead as your time allows. The Final Exam will be cumulative. Make-up exams will be entirely with permission of the instructor. The exam will not be curved.

Chapter Quizzes
Chapter quizzes are taken straight from the textbook. These will include T/F and multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are available only during the period of Monday through Saturday each week and will not be relaunched for any reason.

Module Discussions
There will be thirteen (13) discussion board postings throughout the semester. One for each Course Module which corresponds to each chapter in the textbook. Your initial posting will consist of a minimum of 200 words. The grade will be based on content of posting, inclusion of material from the book, and length. **Demonstrate that you have been reading the book.** You will be required to reply to one other student’s primary posting. A word count for the reply will be kept to a minimum of 100 words. That is not very much, but simply stating you agree or disagree with the other student’s posting is unacceptable. The grade for the replies will be based on content and grammar. I will supply feedback on each of your discussions. This is for your benefit to improve your performance on future discussions.

When you post a discussion, make sure the post is written in a professional manner. It is acceptable to disagree with another’s view. When you disagree with another’s viewpoint, respond in a professional and respectable manner. No personal attacks, racist, profane, or derogatory statements will be accepted. Use of such derogatory statements may result in a failing grade for the assignment or course dependent upon the circumstances of the post. Repeated violations will be reported to proper university officials. The concept of this discussion process is to, in some limited form, require a dialogue among students like what would occur in a regular classroom. **If you have questions about the requirements, ask me.**

Case Brief
See assignment specific instructions inside Brightspace / D2L.
## Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Starting</th>
<th>Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework</th>
<th>Major Assignments and Deadlines</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/22/2024</td>
<td>1st Week of Class-Read Chapter 1 Texas Penal Code (TPC) Chapter 2</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 1/27/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/29/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 2 TPC Chapter 12</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 2/3/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/5/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 2/10/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/12/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4 TPC Chapter 6</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 2/17/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/19/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5 TPC Chapter 9</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 2/24/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/26/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6 TPC Chapter 8</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 3/2/2024</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3/4/2024</td>
<td>Reach Chapter 7 TPC Chapter 7</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 3/9/2024</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3/11/2024</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/18/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8 TPC Chapter 15</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 3/23/2024</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3/25/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9 TPC Chapter 19</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 3/30/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4/1/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 10 TPC Chapters 20-22</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 4/6/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/8/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 11 TPC Chapters 28-31</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 4/13/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/15/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 12 TPC Chapters 42-43</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 4/20/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/22/2024</td>
<td>Read Chapter 13 TPC Chapter 46</td>
<td>Chapter 13 Quiz and Discussion Due Sat 4/27/2024</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>4/29/2024</td>
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<td>Case Brief Due Sat 5/4/2024</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>5/6/2024</td>
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<td>Finals Begin Final Exam Due by May 11, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>5/13/2024</td>
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<td>Grades Due</td>
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Incomplete course work
Late assignments will not be permitted without approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. This is an online course, so proper planning will allow extended periods to prepare and submit work in most situations. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to: Military deployment, religious holidays/observances, court appearances, jury duty, family emergencies, personal or immediate family illness, or participation in student athletics or other university approved activity. Please note the following course policies regarding course work missed because of absences:

- Students who miss exams because of participation in student athletics or other university approved activities will be permitted to take a make-up exam at the professor’s convenience. Student athletes are expected to know their team’s travel schedule and plan accordingly.
- Students who miss assignments for reasons other than student athletics or other university approved activities will need to provide acceptable documentation of the absence. Acceptable documentation includes but is not limited to: Notices from doctors/medical providers on official stationery that include the date(s) of illness; published obituaries that include date of funeral services; copy of military orders; or a copy of jury duty summons or other judicial document supporting a court appearance.

Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)
An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

Academic Integrity (4.1)
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.
Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Please copy and paste the following information regarding Withheld Grades into your syllabus. Add additional information as needed to meet your departmental or course needs.

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/
Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-7