

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CRIJ 1306 (3:3:0)**

**CRIJ 1306.452**

**Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology**

**Department of Professional Services & Energy**

**COURT SYSTEMS and PRACTICES**

**SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**

**FALL 2020**

**Campus:**                    \_\_\_\_\_ Levelland, Texas                    \_\_\_\_\_ Reese Center    \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Online

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE TITLE:**    **CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices**

**INSTRUCTOR:**                    **Kenton J. Burns**

**OFFICE LOCATION:**            Office Number: LE105            Levelland Campus

**PHONE:**                            (806) 716-2357

**E-MAIL:**                            kburns@southplainscollege.edu

**FAX:**                                    \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE HOURS:**                    Posted on office door; hours are:  
   **Mon.            Tues.            Wed.            Thurs.            Fri.**

**VISION:**                                    **DREAMS PRECEDE REALITIES**

---

---

I.    **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:**

- A.    Course Description: This course examines the history, traditions, and philosophy underlying our system of justice as it played out in the criminal court. It focuses on the prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, and jurors who are involved in the daily decisions about guilt or innocence, probation or prison. In addition, civil law, civil process and civil court practices are addressed.

II. **GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- A.    Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of specific elements listed in objective required in this course. Any motor skill competency will meet minimum course evaluations and receive a Pass/Fail grade.
- B.    Academic Integrity: It is the goal of the SPC Law Enforcement faculty to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity in education and training endeavors. It is a serious offense for any student to presents as his or her own work that he or she has not honestly performed; such action renders the offender liable to serious consequences that may include suspension from the academy. Students should refer to the SPC

General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism. (See “Academic Integrity” as well as “Student Conduct” sections in the college catalog.) In some instances, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS Competencies C-9 through C-14. If any student has a question as to whether he or she may work with other students on any assignments, **SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE INSTRUCTOR** to ascertain whether or not the student is in compliance with course guidelines.

- C. Verification of Workplace Competencies. Successful completion of this course meets one of the TCLEOSE mandated requirements that permit a student to take the state License Examination to be a Texas Peace Officer. A student who successfully passes the state’s examination does not become a peace officer until he or she is employed by an official law enforcement/criminal justice organization empowered to commission a peace officer in the state of Texas. Successful passing score on the state licensure examination is one of many employment criteria that permit a person to seek employment with law enforcement agencies.

- D. Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online

account. Students must attend and/or participate in all classes for which financial aid is awarded. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the Student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

E. Assignment Policy: All required work must be turned in “on-time” in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the make-up work is acceptable.

F. Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) [716-4606](tel:716-4606), or Levelland (Student Services Building) [716-2577](tel:716-2577).

G. Diversity Statement: Instructors in the program will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourage engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. Promoting diversity and intellectual exchange will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be so that each person may live in harmony with others.

#### H. 4.1.1.4 Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student’s responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cstraface@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cstraface@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

I. **South Plains College permits the lawful carry of concealed handguns in accordance with Texas state law, and Texas Senate Bill 11. Individuals possessing a valid License to Carry permit, or the formerly issued Concealed Handgun License, may carry a concealed handgun at all campus locations except for the following.**

- **Natatorium**

**For a complete list of campus carry exclusions zones by event, please visit <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>**

III. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

B. Grading Policy/Procedures/or Other Methods of Evaluation: An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the class.

The course instructor will give the class specific information of allocation of points and or requirements for course grades.

\*3 Major Exams @ 100 points each =..... 300 points  
Discussions (4) @ 25 points each =..... 100 points  
Essay/ paper (2) @ 50 points each= ..... 100 points  
\*\*Final Examination @ 100 points=..... 100 points

Total Points Possible..... 600 points

\*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

\*\* Final Examination is required for all students.

**GRADING GUIDELINE:**

Total Points Accumulated	=	Grade Earned
540 to 600 points	=	A
480 to 539 points	=	B
420 to 479 points	=	C
360 to 419 points	=	D
359 or fewer	=	F

C. Textbook and Other Materials: Courts and Criminal Justice in America  
Authors: Siegel, Schmalleger & Worrall. Publisher: Prentice Hall

IV. Course Learning Outcomes: Topics covered in the assigned courses will afford students opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the following:

Foundations:

1. Legal Foundations
2. Who Controls the Courts?

Types of Courts:

3. Federal Courts
4. State Courts
5. Juvenile Courts
6. Specialized Courts

The People Involved:

7. Judges
8. Prosecutors
9. Defense Attorneys
10. Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights

The Court Process

11. Arrest and Beyond
12. Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
13. The Jury and Trial
14. Sentencing, Appeals, and *Habeas Corpus*

Current Issues and the Future of Courts

15. Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
16. Technology, alternatives, and the Future