

MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

SECTION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Fundamentals of Criminal Law, CRIJ-1310 (section number and synonym) Include campus, room, and time of day

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This statement identifies the format in which instruction may occur:

- lecture
- lecture/lab
- laboratory
- practicum
- online
- hybrid
- competency-based

DISTANCE EDUCATION *(for online or hybrid courses only)*

Students will use the Blackboard learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, and collaboration.

Please review the [ACC Distance Education General Information](https://online.austincc.edu/faq/) available at <https://online.austincc.edu/faq/>

COURSE CREDITS & CONTACT HOURS

- Credit Hours: 3
- Classroom Contact Hours per week: 3
- Laboratory Contact Hours per week: 0

PREREQUISITES

No prerequisite required.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Criminal justice instructors will provide an additional 'First Day Handout' with specific courses information to include but not limited to:

- Instructor's name
- Phone number(s) (instructor's office phone or Voice Box for adjunct instructors)
- Office hours and location of office or means of accessing virtual office hours
- Information on how conferences outside of office hours can be arranged
- ACC e-mail address
- Other avenues for contacting the professor, as appropriate (through Blackboard, e.g.)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

Department skills for this course are reading, writing, mathematics, thinking skills, personal qualities, workplace competencies and basic use of computers. Students will demonstrate their mastery of these skills using class discussions, written assignments, demonstrations, and test taking.

COURSE SUBJECT

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A study of the nature of criminal law; philosophical and historical development; major definitions and concepts; classification of crime; elements of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; criminal responsibility.

Transferability of workforce courses varies. Students interested in transferring courses to another college should speak with their Area of Study (AoS) advisor, Department Chair, and/or Program Director.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course will cover information that will assist criminal justice students in continuation of higher education goals and their employment in the criminal justice system.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Please note that schedule changes may occur during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted as a Blackboard Announcement (or other resource faculty is using to communicate).

See Instructors' First Day Handout'.

READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS/SOFTWARE

- First Day Access students do not need a textbook. Please refer to the instructor's orientation for more information.
- Latest edition of 'Criminal Law' by Thomas J. Gardner & Terry M. Anderson, Cengage Publishing is included in your tuition as First Day course materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

See Instructors' First Day Handout.'

OUTLINE OF MAIN POINTS

I. Nature of Criminal Law

A. Criminal Law Theory

1. The goals of criminal law
2. Characteristics of criminal law

B. The Adversary System

C. Sources of Criminal Law

II. Philosophical and Historical Development

A. Origins and Development of American Criminal

Law 1. Impact of common law

2. Constitutional guarantees

B. The Political Setting of Criminal Law

C. The Judicial Role in Criminal Law

III. Major Definitions and Concepts

A. Malum in se vs. Malum prohibitum

B. Substantive vs. Procedural Law

C. Corpus Delicti

- D. Criminal Negligence
- E. Mens Res; Actus Reus
- F. Stare Decisis

IV. Classification of Crime

- A. Felony-misdemeanor Distinction
- B. Petty Offense Distinction
- C. Breach of Peace Distinction
- D. Concept of Lesser Included Offense

V. Elements of Crimes and Penalties (Use Texas statutes as illustrations) A. Offenses Against the Person

- 1. Homicide
- 2. Assault
- 3. Rape
- 4. Robbery

B. Offenses Against Property

- 1. Burglary
- 2. Larceny/theft
- 3. Arson
- 4. Embezzlement
- 5. Receiving stolen property
- 6. Forgery
- 7. Property destruction

C. Morals Offenses

- 1. Drug possession
- 2. Prostitution
- 3. Pornography
- 4. Sex offenses

D. Inchoate Offenses

- 1. Attempted crimes
- 2. Conspiracy
- 3. Solicitation

E. Habitual Criminal Offenses

VI. Criminal Responsibility

- A. Capacity to Commit Crime
- B. Causation
- C. Diminished Responsibility

Students will demonstrate these objectives have been mastered through the use of class discussions, written assignments, demonstrations and test taking. (The instructor may also list additional learning objectives in their 'First Day Handout'.)

GRADING SYSTEM

See Instructors' First Day Handout'.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.

For online courses: Regular and timely class participation in discussions and completion of work is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.

Situations where classes are cancelled because of weather, pandemic, or other emergencies: In the event the college or campus closes due to unforeseen circumstances (for example, severe weather or other emergency), the student is responsible for communicating with their professor during the closure and completing any assignments or other activities designated by their professor as a result of missed class sessions.

WITHDRAWALS

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the rolls should they decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is recorded before the Final Withdrawal Date. You may withdraw from a class at any time before the withdrawal deadlines published in the [academic calendar](#). The student is also strongly encouraged to keep any paperwork in case a problem arises.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact that withdrawal from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans' benefits, and international student status. Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2007 or later at any public Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their undergraduate college education. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor when making decisions about course selection, course loads, and course withdrawals.

NOTE: It should be understood it is the student's responsibility and not the instructors to drop a course. A student that discontinues coming to class and fails to drop a course is subject to receiving a final, permanent grade of "F".

See Instructors' First Day Handout' for final withdrawal date.

MISSED EXAMS & LATE WORK POLICIES

See Instructors' First Day Handout.'

INCOMPLETES

An incomplete (grade of "I") will only be given for extenuating circumstances. What constitutes "extenuating circumstances" is left to the instructor's discretion. If a grade of I is given, the remaining course work must be completed by a date set by the student and professor. This date may not be later than two weeks prior to the end of the following semester. A grade of I also requires completion and submission of the Incomplete Grade form, to be signed by the faculty member (and student if possible) and submitted to the department chair.

Students may request an Incomplete from their faculty member if they believe circumstances warrant. The faculty member will determine whether the Incomplete is appropriate to award or not. The following processes must be followed when awarding a student an I grade.

1. Prior to the end of the semester in which the "I" is to be awarded, the student must meet with the instructor to determine the assignments and exams that must be completed prior to the deadline date. This meeting can occur virtually or in person. The instructor should complete the Report of Incomplete Grade form.
2. The faculty member will complete the form, including all requirements to complete the course and the due date, sign (by typing in name) and then email it to the student. The student will then complete his/her section, sign (by typing in name), and return the completed form to the faculty member to complete the agreement. A copy of the fully completed form can then be emailed by the faculty member to the student and the department chair for each grade of Incomplete that the faculty member submits at the end of the semester.
3. The student must complete all remaining work by the date specified on the form above. This date is determined by the instructor in collaboration with the student, but it may not be later than the final withdrawal deadline in the subsequent long semester.
4. Students will retain access to the course Blackboard page through the subsequent semester in order to submit work and complete the course. Students will be able

to log on to Blackboard and have access to the course section materials, assignments, and grades from the course and semester in which the Incomplete was awarded.

5. When the student completes the required work by the Incomplete deadline, the instructor will submit an electronic Grade Change Form to change the student's performance grade from an "I" to the earned grade of A, B, C, D, or F.

If an Incomplete is not resolved by the deadline, the grade automatically converts to an "F." Approval to carry an Incomplete for longer than the following semester or session deadline is not frequently granted.

POLICY ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In this course, generative AI (such as ChatGPT, DALL·E, Copilot, Google AI, or similar tools) may be used **only for creating personal study materials. Assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed in a proctored environment without AI assistance, using handwritten responses, scantron, or Respondus Lockdown Browser.** The purpose of this class is to prepare you for a career, where AI tools will not always be available—only the knowledge and skills you have truly learned.

You are welcome to use AI to generate practice questions, outlines, or study aids, but you must carefully review and verify any AI-generated content. These tools are not always accurate, especially in areas of statutory law, and relying on them without understanding the material will not help you succeed. Misuse of AI outside these guidelines will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Health & Safety Protocols

Operational areas of ACC campuses and centers are fully open and accessible through all public entrances. The college encourages its staff, faculty, and students to be mindful of the well-being of all individuals on campus. If you feel sick, feverish, or unwell, please do not come to campus.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Austin Community College values academic integrity in the educational process. Acts of academic dishonesty/misconduct undermine the learning process, present a disadvantage to students who earn credit honestly, and subvert the academic mission of the institution. The potential consequences of fraudulent credentials raise additional concerns for individuals and

communities beyond campus who rely on institutions of higher learning to certify students' academic achievements and expect to benefit from the claimed knowledge and skills of their graduates. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, falsifying documents, or the inappropriate use of the college's information technology resources. Further information is available at the [Academic Integrity website](#).

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students at ACC have the same rights and protections under the Constitution of the United States. These rights include freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition and association. As members of the community, students have the right to express their own views, but must also take responsibility for according the same rights to others and not interfere or disrupt the learning environment. Students are entitled to fair treatment, are expected to act consistently with the values of the college, and obey local, state, and federal laws. [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

As a student of Austin Community College you are expected to abide by the [Student Standards of Conduct](#).

Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the faculty and all College employees are required to report any information concerning incidents of **sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking** committed by or against an ACC student or employee. Federal Title IX law and College policy also require reporting incidents of **sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct**. **This means faculty and non-clinical counseling staff cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with them.**

If you would like to talk with someone confidentially, please contact the District Clinical Counseling Team who can connect you with a clinical counselor on any ACC campus: (512) 223-2616, or to schedule online, go to the [Counseling website](#).

While students are not required to report, they are encouraged to contact the Compliance Office for resources and options: Charlene Buckley, District Title IX Officer, (512) 223-7964; compliance@austincc.edu.

If a student makes a report to a faculty member, the faculty member will contact the District Title IX Officer for follow-up.

Student Complaints

A defined process applies to complaints about an instructor or other college employee. You are encouraged to discuss concerns and complaints with college personnel and should expect a timely and appropriate response. When possible, students should first address their concerns through informal conferences with those immediately involved; formal due process is available when informal resolution cannot be achieved.

Student complaints may include (but are not limited to) issues regarding classroom instruction, college services and offices on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.

Further information about the complaints process, including the form used to submit complaints, is available at the [Student Complaint Procedures website](#).

Statement on Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects confidentiality of students' educational records. Grades cannot be provided by faculty over the phone, by e-mail, or to a fellow student.

Grades should be posted on Blackboard for the course.

Recording Policy

To ensure compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student recording of class lectures or other activities is generally prohibited without the explicit written permission of the instructor and notification of other students enrolled in the class section. Exceptions are made for approved accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recording of lectures and other class activities may be made by faculty to facilitate instruction, especially for classes taught remotely through BlackBoard or another platform. Participation in such activities implies consent for the student to be recorded during the instructional activity. Such recordings are intended for educational and academic purposes only.

Safety Statement

Health and safety are of paramount importance in classrooms, laboratories, and field activities. Students are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Emergency Procedures posters and Campus Safety Plans are posted in each classroom and should be reviewed at the beginning of each semester. All incidents (injuries/illness/fire/property damage/near miss) should be immediately reported to the course instructor. Additional information about safety procedures and how to sign up to be notified in case of an emergency can be found at the [Emergency Management website](#).

Everyone is expected to conduct themselves professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual may be immediately dismissed from the day's activity and will be referred to the

Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an emergency situation or an outbreak of illness, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, students will be provided an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

Smoke, Vaping, & Tobacco-Free Environment

ACC provides a smoke/vape- and tobacco-free environment for all College vehicles, facilities and all campuses. The College prohibits the use, distribution, and/or sale of tobacco, smoke, and nicotine vapor products and devices by any person on all premises owned, rented, leased or supervised by the College, including all College facilities, buildings, grounds, and vehicles. This prohibition applies to property owned by others that the College uses by agreement, and further applies to all College and personal vehicles on ACC District property. Campus Managers and Campus Coordinators are required to inform anyone on their campus or in their center who are violating this rule that they are doing so and, if the violator is a student, the Dean of Student Affairs must initiate disciplinary procedures.

Campus Carry

The Austin Community College District concealed handgun policy ensures compliance with Section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code (also known as the Campus Carry Law), while maintaining ACC's commitment to provide a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Beginning August 1, 2017, individuals who are licensed to carry (LTC) may do so on campus premises except in locations and at activities prohibited by state or federal law, or the college's concealed handgun policy.

It is the responsibility of license holders to conceal their handguns at all times. Persons who see a handgun on campus are asked to contact the ACC Police Department by dialing 512-223-1231. Please refer to the concealed handgun policy online at the [Campus Carry website](#).

Discrimination Prohibited

The College seeks to maintain an educational environment free from any form of discrimination or harassment including but not limited to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Faculty at the College are required to report concerns regarding sexual misconduct (including all forms of sexual harassment and sex and gender-based discrimination) to the Manager of Title IX/Title VI/ADA Compliance. Licensed clinical counselors are available across the District and serve as confidential resources for students.

Additional information about Title VI, Title IX, and ADA compliance can be found in the [ACC Compliance Resource Guide](#).

Use of ACC email

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify students of any college-related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Information about ACC email accounts, including instructions for accessing it, are available at the [ACC Email Q&A website](#).

Use of the Testing Center

The Testing Centers will allow only limited in person testing and testing time will be limited to the standard class time, typically one and one-half hours. Specifically, only the following will be allowed in the Testing Centers:

- Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Testing: All approved SAS testing
- Assessments Tests: Institutionally approved assessment tests (e.g., TSIA or TABE)
- Placement Tests: Placement tests (e.g., ALEKS)
- Make-Up Exams (for students who missed the original test): Make-up testing is available for all lecture courses but will be limited to no more than 25% of students enrolled in each section for each of four tests
- Programs incorporating industry certification exams: Such programs (e.g., Microsoft, Adobe, etc.) may utilize the ACC Business Assessment Center for the industry certification exams (BACT) at HLC or RRC

See Instructors' First Day Handout'.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The success of our students is paramount, and ACC offers a variety of support services to help, as well as providing numerous opportunities for community engagement and personal growth.

Student Support

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these campus services and resources is available at the [Student Resources website](#). A comprehensive array of student support services is available online at the [Student Support website](#).

Student Accessibility Services

Austin Community College (ACC) is committed to providing a supportive, accessible, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Each campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Students are encouraged to request accommodations prior to the beginning of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed. Students who have received accommodations from SAS for this course will provide the instructor with the legal document titled "Faculty Notification Letter" (FNL) through the Accessible Information Management (AIM) portal.

Until the instructor receives the FNL, accommodations should not be provided. Once the FNL is received, accommodations must be provided. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is in the student's best interest to request their accommodations as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the semester.

Please contact SAS@austincc.edu for more information.

Student Technology Support

Austin Community College provides free, secure WiFi to students and employees at all campus locations.

Students who do not have the necessary technology to complete their ACC courses can request to borrow devices from Student Technology Services. Available devices include iPads, webcams, headsets, calculators, etc. Students must be registered for a credit course, Adult Education, or Continuing Education course to be eligible. For more information, including how to request a device, visit [Student Technology Access](#).

Student Technology Services offers phone, live-chat, and email-based technical support for students and can provide support on topics such as password resets, accessing or using Blackboard, access to technology, etc. To view hours of operation and ways to request support, visit [Student Technology Access](#)

Academic Support

ACC offers academic support services on all of its campuses. These services, which include online tutoring, academic coaching, and supplemental instruction, are free to enrolled ACC students. Tutors are available in a variety of subjects ranging from accounting to pharmacology. Students may receive these services on both a drop-in and referral basis.

Additional tutoring information can be found here: [Online Tutoring](#)

Library Services

ACC Library Services offers both in-person and extensive online services, with research and assignment assistance available in-person during limited hours of service. Although all college services are subject to change, plans include ACC students signing up for study space and use of computers at open libraries, extensive online instruction in classes, online reference assistance 24/7 and reference with ACC faculty librarians. In addition, currently enrolled students, faculty

and staff can access Library Services online (also 24/7) via the ACC Library website and by using their ACCeID to access all online materials (ebooks, articles from library databases, and streaming videos). ACC Libraries offer these services in numerous ways such as: "Get Help from a Faculty Librarian: the 24/7 Ask a Librarian chat service," an online form for in-depth research Q and A sessions, one-on-one video appointments, email, and phone (voicemail is monitored regularly).

- [Library Website](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#) 24/7 chat and form
- [Library Hours of Operation by Location](#)
- Email: library@austincc.edu

Parent and Family Engagement Services

ACC understands how important parent and family support is to every student's college journey. From parents and siblings to stepparents, grandparents, partners, and loved ones, the Parent and Family Engagement Office at ACC is committed to empowering families to support student success. The office provides a family orientation to ACC, free [workshops](#) explaining the world of higher education (financial aid, student resources, career and transfer services, etc.), a monthly [newsletter](#) full of student success tips, and a website designed to answer family members' frequently asked questions. All students, especially first-generation students, are encouraged to share these resources with their families and invite them to be part of the Riverbat experience. Contact familyengagement@austincc.edu or visit the [Parent & Family Engagement website](#) for more information.

Academic Adjustments for Pregnant Students

ACC works with each student to provide academic adjustments that best meet their needs, including for students who are pregnant. Examples of such adjustments may include but are not limited to:

- Breaks during class, as needed
- Excused absences or a leave of absence
- Making up missed assignments or assessments
- Additional time to complete assignments in the same manner as the institution allows for a student with a temporary medical condition

Additional examples and further information are available at the Accommodations for Pregnant Students [website](#). To request adjustments due to pregnancy, contact equalopportunity@austincc.edu.

Student Organizations

ACC has over seventy student organizations, offering a variety of cultural, academic, vocational, and social opportunities. They provide a chance to meet with other students who have the same interests, engage in service-learning, participate in intramural sports, gain valuable field experience related to career goals, and much else. Student Life coordinates many of these activities, and additional information is available at the [Student Life website](#).

Personal Support

Resources to support students are available at every campus. To learn more, ask your professor or visit the campus Support Center. All resources and services are free and confidential. Some examples include, among others:

- Food resources including community pantries and bank drives can be found here at the [Central Texas Food Bank website](#).
- Assistance with childcare or utility bills is available at any campus [Support Center](#)
- The [Student Emergency Fund](#) can help with unexpected expenses that may cause you to withdraw from one or more classes
- Help with budgeting for college and family life is available through the [Student Money Management Office](#).
- A full listing of services for student parents is available at the [Child Care website](#).

Mental health counseling services are available throughout the ACC Student Services District to address personal and or mental health concerns at the [Counseling website](#).

If you are struggling with a mental health or personal crisis, call one of the following numbers to connect with resources for help. However, if you are afraid that you might hurt yourself or someone else, call 911 immediately.

Free Crisis Hotline Numbers:

- Austin / Travis County 24-hour Crisis & Suicide hotline: **512-472-HELP (4357)**
- The Williamson County 24-hour Crisis hotline: **1-800-841-1255**
- Bastrop County Family Crisis Center hotline: **1-888-311-7755**
- Hays County 24 Hour Crisis Hotline: **1-877-466-0660**
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **988** or **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Crisis Text Line: **Text "home" to 741741**
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline: **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**