

What:

- CRIJ 4395 – *Senior Seminar*, Spring 2021

Who:

- Instructor: Lynn M. Greenwood, PhD

When:

- January 19 – May 14, 2021

Where:

- Online (Canvas)

Why:

- This is a required course for all seniors graduating with a BS or BAAS Criminal Justice degree.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I get in touch with you, Dr. Greenwood?

- Office location: 204D Heritage Hall
- Phone number: 512-525-9173*
- Email: lgreenwood@tamuct.edu **
 - Canvas email also okay
- Office hours: available by appointment – email for appointments. All office hours will be conducted through Webex.

*Please, please, if you call me, recognize that this is my personal phone number and act accordingly. If you leave a message, identify yourself, or I probably won't return your call. *Text messages are preferred to phone calls.*

**Please, please, please, if you email me, identify yourself and the class you are emailing me about! If you don't, I probably won't respond.

So, what's this course all about?

Course Information:

This is a capstone course that will assist the student in completing their knowledge of the criminal justice system through a study of current practices related to operations, recruitment, testing, training, law, and other issues to prepare the student for entry into a criminal justice profession.

- This course is restricted to Senior criminal justice majors. Students should take this course in their last long semester (fall or spring) at the university.

This course is intended for senior-level students. CRIJ 4395 is a study of emerging issues in law, justice policy, operational techniques, human resources flow, and the application of

social and demographic trends to criminal justice operations. Students will be required to demonstrate written competencies appropriate to senior level standing.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Utilize writing skills appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the value of ethics in criminal justice.
4. Demonstrate multi-cultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.
5. Demonstrate understanding of basic theoretical perspectives of criminal justice.
6. Apply theoretical perspectives in justice to create operational strategies and formulate justice policy.

What books do I need for the class?

- There are no required textbooks for this class. All course materials will be in the form of articles/websites provided by the instructor on Canvas. Additional readings may be required for assignments involving research.

Supplementary Materials:

- Students will receive additional reading and viewing materials throughout the semester to enhance, expand on, and aid in assignments.

What is a Writing Instructive (WI) course?

- This is a writing instructive (WI) course so writing will be an integral part of my instruction and our interactions. Writing will also be a fundamental way that I measure student mastery of course content. WI means that you will have several opportunities to work on improving your writing skills.
- Students will complete work on a range of writing assignments, such as discussion boards, journals, annotated bibliographies, and reaction papers. As part of these assignments, you will receive timely written feedback so that you can revise your work and improve on subsequent similar assignments. For example, you will complete three annotated bibliographies; feedback on the first one should be incorporated on subsequent assignments of the same nature.

This is an online course, right?

- Yes. This course uses the TAMUCT CANVAS system. To be able to successfully complete this course, you must have reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. In addition, you must be able to access Canvas. If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, there is a Canvas Student Quick Start Guide found in the Orientation

Module in Canvas. Do not contact your instructor with non-course-related issues regarding Canvas; contact the help desk for Canvas-related issues.

What else do I need to know about an online course?

- This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.
- **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**
 - **Accessing Canvas:** In your web browser go to <https://tamuct.instructure.com>. Log in using your myCT username and password.
 - Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.
 - Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password
- **Canvas notifications:** You should opt in to Canvas notifications. To opt in to notifications (and other items), log in to Canvas, click on your account, click on notifications, and opt in to the items you wish to receive notifications about. At a minimum, you should select announcements, grading, and conversations (this is the Canvas name for mail).
- **University email:** You should claim and use your university email account. All university-level announcements are delivered to your university email. You may miss out on vital announcements and information if you do not check your university email regularly. In addition, you should communicate with professors using your university email.
- **Canvas Support**
 - Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.
- For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.
- **Online Proctored Testing**
 - A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or

headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

- **Other Technology Support**
 - For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
 - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
 - Phone: (254) 519-5466
 - [Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]
 - *Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*
- For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

What should I expect from the instructor?

- This is an online course, so most communication between the instructor and students will be online. Students are welcomed and encouraged to make an appointment for an online video appointment.
- I will be checking and replying to student emails daily - students should expect a response within 24 hours. Emails sent on a weekend will be responded to the following Monday, unless it is a holiday. Any deviations from this will be announced in Canvas. During daytime working hours, emails will be responded to more quickly, and other methods of communication can also be utilized if pre-arranged (e.g., Canvas chat or Webex video chat).
- There will be a discussion board available for students to post general questions that will be checked and responded to on a regular basis – students should expect a response within 48 hours. This is highly recommended for general questions (for example, what chapters will be covered on an exam), so that all students in the class may benefit from the answers.
- Most assignments will be graded within one week of submission. Depending on length, writing assignments will be graded within two weeks of submission. Deviations from this will be announced in Canvas. All grades will be posted in Canvas. Feedback on writing assignments will be provided in Canvas*. Students are encouraged to track their progress in the course through the Canvas gradebook.
 - *You cannot see feedback on the Canvas mobile app; you must use a computer to be able to see feedback on written assignments.
- *Grading of written assignments: I will provide detailed feedback on the first few paragraphs/first page of any written assignment; I will not mark all writing issues. I will provide general feedback for the entire assignment.*

What do I have to do to pass this course?

Letter of Introduction (0-10 points)

- A letter of introduction is required during the first week of class for attendance verification. Details can be found in Canvas.

Journal Entries (0-10 points each; 90 points total)

- The student will be responsible for completing nine journal entries. Each journal entry is a modification of a discussion question. Each student will respond to the prompt provided by the instructor.
- Please read the directions for each entry carefully before responding. Some may require you to watch videos or read articles, while some may require you to locate items on your own.
- Your response will be posted to where the entire class can view the response. HOWEVER, you cannot view ANY responses until you post. This avoids getting answers from another student's post.
- I want all students to benefit from the entries of their classmates. You will be able to respond to each other's entries. You will not directly be graded on the responses. However, you should note that if your response is not adequate, any additional information you give responding to other entries and questions posted to your response can add points to your grade.
- Journal responses should be a minimum of 250 words (1/2 page) to be considered for full credit. These can be written in first person (I, me, my).
- Journal responses are not opinion pieces – your responses should reflect your knowledge and/or research about the topic and what is known in the field of criminal justice.
- See calendar/Canvas for due dates.

Annotated Bibliographies (0-100 points; 300 points total)

- Three (3) annotated bibliographies are required for this course. The student shall locate and read five (5) peer-reviewed journal articles from the online library databases, related to three general topics: *courts, corrections, and law enforcement*.
- The topics of courts, corrections, and law enforcement are very broad – ***the student should identify a specific aspect within each general topic and make that the focus for the annotated bibliography.*** I am including some examples below – these are just a few of the many aspects of each broad topic the student could focus on. If you are unsure of a focus area, email me or request a virtual meeting and we can brainstorm.
 - Law enforcement (e.g., police officers, sheriff deputies, federal agents)
 - Use of force
 - False testimony
 - Job satisfaction
 - Use of technology

- Corrections (e.g., institutional, community (probation/parole), offenders, facilities)
 - Inappropriate relationships between inmates and COs
 - Probation/parole officer discretion
 - Inmates with mental health
 - Reintegration of offenders
- Courts (e.g., judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, juries, sentencing)
 - Judicial decision-making
 - Sentencing disparities
 - Prosecutor discretion
 - Specialized courts
- Once the student has read the articles, he/she will summarize them, succinctly, in one page each (no more than one page, no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page). Thus, each annotated bibliography should not exceed 5 pages. The student will not receive credit for articles that are not peer-reviewed. These are to be summaries, not critiques of the articles.
- Additional details about annotated bibliographies will be posted in Canvas.
- See calendar/Canvas for due dates.

Reaction Essays (0-50 points; 150 points total)

Each student will be required to write three (3) reaction essays. These essays will be written in reaction to the content included in the annotated bibliographies. The reaction essays should reflect a careful consideration about what you think about what you have read and written in the annotated bibliography assignments.

- Details about reaction essays will be posted in Canvas.
- See calendar/Canvas for due dates.

ETS Assessment (0 or 25 points)

Students will complete the ETS Assessment in Criminal Justice. The ETS is a testing program intended to evaluate criminal justice students nationwide. The criminal justice department at TAMUCT uses the ETS as a program assessment tool, to better understand student learning and develop program improvement plans. Students will not be graded on how well they do on the assessment; however, given the importance of the assessment for the criminal justice program, students are encouraged to do their best work. Upon taking the ETS assessment, you will receive 25 points towards the final course grade.

How do I submit assignments?

- All assignments must be submitted through Canvas.
- All annotated bibliographies and reaction essays must be in Microsoft Word format - make sure when you save a final draft of any assignment that it is either a .doc or

.docx document. If you do not know how to do this, I suggest visiting the computer lab.

- Discussion/journal responses should be typed in the discussion board text box. Do not attach a document to discussion boards. Best practice would be to write everything in a Word document first, then copy and paste into the discussion box; save this work.

What about extra credit?

There is no extra credit built into the course. *Do not expect extra credit and do not ask for it.*

Do you accept late assignments?

Late assignments will be accepted past the recommended due date with no penalty. Assignments submitted after the recommended due date will not receive as much feedback as those submitted on time. Feedback is important to improve upon subsequent coursework.

How do I figure out my grade?

Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

Assignment	Points	Percent	My Grade
Introduction	10	2%	
ETS Assessment	25	4%	
Reaction Essays	150 (50x3)	26%	
Annotated Bibliographies	300 (100x3)	52%	
Journal Entries	90 (9x10)	16%	
Total	575		

When are readings and assignments due?

Course Calendar

- **Subject to revision, if necessary, during the semester**
- **Assignments are due before midnight on Sunday each week***
 - ***The exception is the last week of class – that week’s assignment will be due on Friday**
- **No assignments will be accepted after May 14, 2021**

Week of Jan 19

Letter of introduction

Week of Jan 25

Journal 1: Ethics

Week of Feb 1

Journal 2: Delinquency

Week of Feb 8

Annotated Bibliography 1: Law Enforcement

Week of Feb 15

Journal 3: Corrections

Week of Feb 22

Reaction Essay 1: Law Enforcement

Week of Mar 1

Journal 4: Media and Crime

Week of Mar 8

Annotated Bibliography 2: Corrections

Week of Mar 15

SPRING BREAK – NO ASSIGNMENTS

Week of Mar 22

Journal 5: Restorative Justice

ETS Assessment

Week of Mar 29

Reaction Essay 2: Corrections

Week of Apr 5

Journal 6: Trust and Legitimacy

Week of Apr 12

Annotated Bibliography 3: Courts

Week of Apr 19

Journal 7: Probation

Week of Apr 26

Reaction Essay 3: Courts

Week of May 3

Journal 8: Gender and Crime

Week of May 10

Journal 9: Broken Windows