

What: CRIJ 4395 – *Senior Seminar*

Who: Instructor: Lynn M. Greenwood, PhD

When: August 22 - December 9, 2022

Where: Online (Canvas)

Why: This course is required 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 is also okay
- Office hours: available by appointment – email for appointments. All office hours will be conducted through Webex.

*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 capstone course 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 studies emerging issues in law, justice policy, operational techniques, human resources flow, and applying social and demographic trends to criminal justice operations. Students must demonstrate written competencies appropriate to a 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 using 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 an understanding of essential 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 needed for assignments involving research.
- Students will receive additional reading and viewing materials throughout the semester to enhance, expand, 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 measure of 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 various 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 projects. For example, you will complete three annotated bibliographies; input on the first one should be incorporated into subsequent assignments of the same nature.

This is an online course, right?

- Yes. This course uses the TAMUCT CANVAS system. To successfully complete this course, you must have reliable and frequent access to a computer and the Internet. In addition, you must be able to access Canvas. If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, a Canvas Student Quick Start Guide is 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 things you wish to receive messages 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 important 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 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.
- **Other Technology Support**
 - For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
 - 24 hours a day, seven days a week
 - Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
 - Phone: (254) 519-5466
 - **Web Chat:** [<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).
- Most assignments will be graded within one week of submission. Writing assignments will be graded within two weeks of submission, depending on the length. 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 grade book.
 - *You cannot see feedback on the Canvas mobile app; you must use a computer 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 work; I will not mark all writing issues. I will give 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 others may require you to locate items independently.
- Your response will be posted so the entire class can view the response. HOWEVER, you cannot view ANY responses until you publish. 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 answer 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 the first person (I, me, my).
- Journal responses are not opinion pieces – your responses should reflect your knowledge and research about the topic and what is known in the criminal justice field.
- 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 comprehensive – ***the student should identify a specific aspect within each general case and make that the focus of 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, they will summarize them on one page each (no more than one page, no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page). Thus, each annotated bibliography should not exceed five 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 consider carefully 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. You will receive 25 points towards the final course grade upon taking the ETS assessment.

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, 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. The best practice would be to write everything in a Word document first, then copy and paste it 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 essential 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 December 9, 2022**

Week of Aug 22

Letter of introduction

Week of Aug 29

Journal 1: Ethics

Week of Sep 5

Journal 2: Delinquency

Week of Sep 12

Annotated Bibliography 1: Law Enforcement

Week of Sep 19

Journal 3: Corrections

Week of Sep 26

Reaction Essay 1: Law Enforcement

Week of Oct 3

Journal 4: Media and Crime

Week of Oct 10

Annotated Bibliography 2: Corrections

Week of Oct 17

Journal 5: Restorative Justice

ETS Assessment

Week of Oct 24

Reaction Essay 2: Corrections

Week of Oct 31

Journal 6: Trust and Legitimacy

Week of Nov 7

Annotated Bibliography 3: Courts

Week of Nov 14

Journal 7: Probation

Week of Nov 21

Reaction Essay 3: Courts

Week of Nov 28

Journal 8: Gender and Crime

Week of Dec 5

Journal 9: Broken Windows