

CRIJ 3314-110, 80572: Legal Aspects**Fall 2023****Texas A&M University-Central Texas****INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION****Instructor:** Erica Magaña, M.S.**Email:** e.magana@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only. The best way to contact me is via email. Please email me if you wish to set up a zoom meeting.

Student-instructor interaction

I will make every effort to be in the course space several times a week, though the best way to reach me is **via email or through the Questions for the Instructor** discussion board. I cannot stress enough that the best way to reach me is email!

Please check the Announcements section of Canvas for important updates. Any changes to the course schedule or other critical information will be posted here and it is your responsibility to check here for this information (but I will also try and email you the announcements too). When you have questions regarding the syllabus or assignments/exams, please post them in the Questions for the Instructor discussion board. By doing so, I can answer the question and make this information available for all students. If you have individual questions, however, don't hesitate to email me.

**** This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class and my discretion. Any syllabus/course schedule changes will be announced in Canvas. ****

COURSE INFORMATION**Course Credits and Dates**

This is a 3-credit, 16-week course that runs from August 28th through December 15th, 2023.

Course Modality & Location

This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Course Overview and Description

This course examines legal aspects of the criminal justice system. Criminal law and citizen rights will be examined at both the federal and state levels. Topics include applicable amendments, common law and statutory crimes, principles of criminal responsibility, the evolution of U.S. Criminal Law and the functions and development of criminal law.

Course Objectives & Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the nature, purpose, and function of criminal law.
2. Explain constitutional limitations on the enforcement of criminal statutes.
3. Identify and explain the basic elements of mens rea, actus reus, concurrence, and causation.
4. Describe legal defenses to criminal offenses, including circumstances which may eliminate or reduce criminal responsibility.
5. Effectively apply legal reasoning to real world fact patterns including being able to identify legal issues arising in a case or fact pattern, identifying applicable legal rules, critically analyzing those issues to provide a sound conclusion or outcome.
6. Effectively Identify: 1) the procedural posture of the case, 2) the background facts, 3) the legally significant facts, 4) the primary issue(s), 5) the relevant legal rule(s), 6) the holding, 7) the court's reasoning, 8) the reasoning of any concurrence and/or dissent, and 9) the court's disposition.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Lippman, Matthew. (2022). Contemporary Criminal Law: Concepts, Cases, and Controversies (6th ed.). SAGE Publications.

-ISBN: 9781071812990

-Available for purchase or rental at the Central Texas Bookstore and online websites (Amazon, Chegg, etc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments	Link to Student Learning Outcome(s)	Points	% of Course Grade
Weekly Quizzes	15 * 20pts	300 points	30%
Case Briefs	2 * 100pts	200 points	20%
Legal Issues Case Study	1 * 100pts	100 points	10%
Discussion Posts	4 * 25pts	100 points	10%
Midterm & Final Exams	2 * 150pts	300 points	30%
Total Points	-	1,000 points	100%

Assignment Descriptions

All assignments and exams in this course must be submitted through Canvas by the due dates listed on the Fall 2023 Course Schedule. It is your responsibility to manage the time provided for online assignments. If you have any problems accessing or completing an assignment you should contact me immediately upon your realization that you cannot solve the matter yourself. To facilitate a timely response to your request, it is in your best interest to complete your assignments early.

- Weekly Quizzes: There will be 16 quizzes (20 points each) assigned throughout the term to assess your grasp of the chapter material. These quizzes are made up of multiple choice and true/false questions. Only the 15 best scores will count towards your final grade. This means that you may skip one of the reading quizzes or take the 16th to replace your lowest score. Quizzes will be due on Sundays at 11:59pm on Canvas.
- Case Briefs: There will be two case brief assignments. These assignments will require you to answer specific questions that address information contained in a criminal court case, as well as questions that ask you to critically think about what you read.
- Legal Issues Case Study: There will be one legal issues assignment in which you will need to identify and thoroughly describe the potential legal issues in a case scenario and any applicable rules.
- Discussion Posts: There will be four discussion posts throughout the semester. Each discussion is worth 25 points and will require you to read the discussion context and then post your thoughts about a few questions I provide in the discussion area. You will need to post your own original thoughts FIRST, then reply to at least ONE other person to receive full credit for the assignment. While this assignment type is graded, it is intended to get you thinking about the selected topics beyond what your book tells you. In this way, knowing the interpretations of others is important to your learning process.
- Exams: You will complete two course exams: a non-cumulative midterm exam and a cumulative final exam. Both exams are made up of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

All assignment grades and final course grades are based on the grading scale below:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Equivalent Class Points
A	90-100%	900-1000 pts
B	80-89%	800-899 pts
C	70-79%	700-799 pts
D	60-69%	600-699 pts
F	0-59%	599 pts & below

Posting of Grades

All assignment grades will be posted on Canvas. Students can view their grades by going to the “Grades” section in Canvas. Quizzes are automatically grades and grades for those should be available immediately. For other course assignments and exams, grades will be posted within one to two weeks of the assignment due date.

Grading Policies

Late Work: In order to receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met, and every assignment must be completed. Deadlines are firm. Late assignments/papers will not be accepted for full credit. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the instructor to excuse absences or late work. Late assignments will lose 10% for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topics	Required Readings	Coursework Due Dates
Week 1	Aug 28 – Sep 3	The Nature, Purpose, and Function of Criminal Law	Syllabus Chapter 1	Due: Chapter 1 Quiz (Sep. 3 by 11:59pm)
Week 2	Sep 4 – Sep 10	Constitutional Limitations	Chapter 2	Due: Chapter 2 Quiz (Sep. 10 by 11:59pm) Due: Chapter 3 Quiz (Sep. 17 by 11:59pm)
Week 3	Sep 11 – Sep 17	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 3	Due: Discussion Post 1 (Sep. 17 by 11:59pm)
Week 4	Sep 18 – Sept 24	Actus Reus & Mens Rea	Chapter 4 Chapter 5	Due: Chapter 4 & Chapter 5 Quiz (Sep. 24 by 11:59pm)
Week 5	Sep 25 – Oct 1	Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability	Chapter 6	Due: Chapter 6 Quiz (Oct. 1 by 11:59pm) Due: Chapter 7 Quiz (Oct. 8 by 11:59pm)
Week 6	Oct 2 – Oct 8	Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation	Chapter 7	Due: Discussion Post 2 (Oct. 8 by 11:59pm)
Week 7	Oct 9 – Oct 15	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1 - 7)	None	Due: Midterm Exam (Oct. 15 by 11:59pm)

Week 8	Oct 16- Oct 22	Justifications	Chapters 8	Due: Chapter 8 Quiz (Oct. 22 by 11:59pm)
Week 9	Oct 23 – Oct 29	Excuses	Chapter 9	Due: Case Brief 1 (Oct. 15 by 11:59pm) Due: Chapter 9 Quiz (Oct. 29 by 11:59pm)
Week 10	Oct 30 – Nov 5	Homicide	Chapter 10	Due: Chapter 10 Quiz (Nov. 5 by 11:59pm)
Week 11	Nov 6 – Nov 12	Criminal Sexual Conduct, Assault and Battery, Kidnapping, and False Imprisonment	Chapter 11	Due: Discussion Post 3 (Nov. 12 by 11:59pm) Due: Chapter 11 Quiz (Nov. 12 by 11:59pm)
Week 12	Nov 13 – Nov 19	Burglary, Trespass, Arson, and Mischief	Chapter 12	Due: Case Brief #2 (Nov. 12 by 11:59pm)
Week 13	Nov 20 – Nov 26	Crimes Against Property & White-Collar Crime	Chapters 13 & 14	Due: Chapter 12 Quiz (Nov. 19 by 11:59pm)
Week 14	Nov 27 – Dec 3 rd	Crimes Against Public Order and Morality	Chapter 15	Due: Chapter 13 & Chapter 14 Quiz (Nov. 26 by 11:59pm)
Week 15	Dec 4 - Dec 10	Crimes Against the State	Chapter 16	Due: Chapter 15 Quiz (Dec. 3 by 11:59pm) Due: Legal Issues Case Study (Dec. 3 by 11:59pm) Due: Chapter 16 Quiz (Dec. 10 by 11:59pm)
Week 16	Dec 11 – Dec 15	Final Exam	None	Discussion Post 4 (Dec. 10 by 11:59pm) Due: Final Exam (Dec. 14 by 11:59pm)

Important University Dates

For important University dates, please visit the registrar's website. <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linus, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. **Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

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/>] by clicking on the "TAMUCT Online Canvas" tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

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.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app. You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
 - o [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Warrior Center for Student Success

The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

ADA Access and Accommodations: Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit [Access and Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring: Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit [Academic Support](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach [bit.ly/3q7uB50](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html) or visit WH, 111.

Testing Services: We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the [Testing Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/) [https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/].

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services: Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability [bit.ly/43Q6wNz](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring). You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn more please visit [Tutoring Services](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the [student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas), [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSSO&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fsubmit%2fstart%2f53t0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Records and Admissions Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of [Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights](#), the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the [Pregnancy & Parenting webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

[Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html) specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Please be aware that that under [Title IX, Texas Senate Bill 212](#), and [System Regulation 08.01.01](#), [https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Counseling Center](#), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html], 254.501.5955, or swacc@tamuct.edu, located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or ssa@tamuct.edu, located in founder Hall Room 317D.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group workspaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

[https://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M-Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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