Criminal Law 1
Fall 2016

**Course Title:** Criminal Law I  
**Course Prefix:** CRJS  
**Course No.:** 3623  
**Section No.:** P03  
**CRN 13686**

**Department of** Justice Studies  
**College of** Juvenile Justice & Psychology

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Mathai V Mathew, Esq.
**Office Location:** Don Clark 333  
**Phone:** 936-261-5260

**Email Address:** mvmathew@pvamu.edu

**U.S. Postal Service Address:**
P.O. Box 519  
Mail Stop MS 2600  
Prairie View, TX 77446

**Office Hours:** Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm & Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 2 pm.

**Course Location:** Don Clark room 235

**Class Meeting Days & Times:** Tuesday & Thursday from 3:30 pm to 4:50 pm. (Power points are available in e-Courses).

**Catalog Description:**

**CRJS 3623: Criminal Law I** Credit 3. A study of basic principles of substantive criminal law which include definitions of crimes against persons. Emphasis is on the Texas Penal Code as it pertains to murder, capital murder, voluntary homicide, criminal negligence, homicide and sexual offenses.

**Prerequisites:** CRJS 1133 – Principles of Criminal Justice


**Recommended Text/Readings:** Texas Penal Code (Internet)  
Law Dictionary
Access to Learning Resources:

PVAMU Library:
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/

University Bookstore:
phone: (936) 261-1990;
web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d

The Writing Center is in Hilliard Hall.
The Tutoring Center is on the second floor of the library.
Tutoring in criminal justice and statistics is available from Juvenile Justice doctoral students. Visit Don Clark room 342 for the times.

Course Goals or Overview:
The goal of this course is to familiarize criminal justice students with the basic principles of substantive Criminal Law in the United States. Students will focus specifically on crimes of person.

Course Outcomes/Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will
1. Understand the historical and philosophical development of American Criminal law
2. Understand the person offenses content of the Texas Penal Code and its everyday application
3. Understand the elements of person offenses under common law and the Model Penal Code
4. Understand the United States Criminal Code about offenses against persons and other offenses
5. Understand the courts role in the application of law
6. Understand how to think critically, and
7. Understand research methods and statistics

Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcome #</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Understand the historical development of American Criminal law</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Understand the person offenses content of the Texas Penal Code</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Understand the elements of offense under common law and Model Penal Code</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Understand the United States Criminal Code about offenses</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Employ effective teamwork skills with emphasis on listening, responding, and creating a positive climate</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>Teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 7 Cite research correctly according to APA format, both in the text and in the bibliography.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

*Given the compressed nature of this 16-weeks course sequence you must be extra focused and diligent.*
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

**Three exams (Exam I worth 25%; Exam II worth 26%; Exam III worth 27% of the final grade).** Each exam will have approximately 40 questions (more if cumulative). The questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/ false, short answer and short essay items. It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams! Make-ups will be given ONLY in instances of a documented emergency (i.e. death of someone close, hospitalization of oneself or one’s child, or a spouse (near death), surprise work audit, etc.). Expect such tests to be more challenging than regularly scheduled exams.

If most of the class does not pass an examination then the next examination will be cumulative (i.e. on old, plus new materials). The point is that you learn – if not sooner, later.

**Writing two case briefs. This is worth 12% of your final grade.** Each brief should be no more than 250 words or a page, typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. Use Microsoft Word. Note: Both case briefs are due on November 24, 2016 in class. Points will be taken for late submission. The following must be submitted to receive credit: 1) a slip from the Writing Center in Hilliard Hall showing that you visited for consultation on improving your writing, 2) a copy of the typed case briefs that you took to the lab 3) a typed copy of the case briefs indicating your post-visit corrections. * The corrected case briefs must also be uploaded into a program yet to be announced.

As we discuss the cases in class throughout the semester, you will be called upon at any time to present a brief of one of the cases assigned to you (these cases are at the back of your text). Failure to do so satisfactorily or, an unexcused absence on that day will lead to a loss of two points from the final grade – each time that this occurs. The case brief must be from the text book and you need to write the name of the case and its number, facts of the case, legal issues in the case, decision by the court, and significance of the case in your case briefs.

**Participation in a legal issue debate presentation. Topics will be assigned - worth 10% of the final grade.** Please note: This is for a group grade. Thus, if someone in the group fails to pull his/her weight - first try to resolve this amongst yourselves. If this fails, then notify the instructor at least a week before the presentation date. Each member of the group must be present for the presentation itself. The presentation should be compelling as if attempting to convince the US Supreme Court or a jury about your position. While panel members may use cue cards, they will not be permitted to read their presentation or otherwise mercilessly bore the class to tears. Indubitably, a successful class presentation will require a series of rehearsals or meetings outside of class. It should be clear to all in attendance that you carefully researched and prepared your presentation. The presentation should be 10 minutes long:

Two minutes – Team One (clearly state an affirmative resolution; state each of your contentions; support with evidence, logic; conclude).

Two minutes- Team Two (clearly state a negative position on the topic; state each of your contentions; support with evidence, logic; conclude).

One minute - Team One rebuttal.

One minute – Team Two rebuttal.

Professional attire required.

**Professional attire** (that is, conservative clothing and appearance appropriate for an interview for a criminal justice job - such as a dark colored suit) is required for the presentation.

For starters:
Women: Dark colored suits - blue, black, gray (skirts or pants); closed toe pumps, stockings (no mesh); no chipped nail polish, nor nails that look like claws, no dangling earrings, no visible tattoos, no visible body piercings besides the ear, no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth, skirts should not be shorter than the span of your arms, nor too tight; no cleavage, hairdo should be neat and not overly creative; minimize the number of accessories.

Men: Dark colored suit – navy or black preferred (no zoot suits); dress shoes and socks; dress pants (no khaki); white shirt (or other non-bright color shirt – without patterns and well-coordinated with the choice of pants), and a tie; no earring(s); no visible tattoos; no visible body piercings; no gold tooth cap in the front of the mouth; hair and face neatly groomed (no braids; no pony tails; no flowing locks; no dreadlocks except with a religious excuse).

Attire is calculated into your presentation grade. You have been given this sheet prior to your presentation date. Therefore NO excuses about attire will be accepted!

**Grading Matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points or percentages)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination I</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination II</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination III</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two case briefs</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal debate</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Determination:**

A = 100 – 90pts;
B = 89 – 80pts;
C = 79 – 70pts;
D = 69 – 60pts;
F = 59 pts or below

**Course Procedures**

**NOTE:** Syllabi subject to change with advance notice.

**Tardiness and absenteeism are NOT encouraged** a considerable amount of information will be covered each week. Of course, classes will begin on time. If for some reason you will be absent for more than one class during the semester, call the instructor to let her know. **YOU** are responsible for materials covered in any classes that you miss. The instructor will be available for clarification on lecture materials. Please see the latest version of the undergraduate handbook for the university attendance policy.

**Expect no extra credit assignments.** With instructor approval, attending a lecture on campus that is relevant to the course or spending at least a half a day in court observing the proceedings may earn you points toward your final grade (submit proof of attendance, e.g. program and, or summary of the event).

**Late assignments** are discouraged and may result in a grade penalty.

**Incompletes are rarely given.** Please see the university handbook for the university policy on the assignment of “Incomplete” grades. **NOTE:** Students who have a failing average in a course cannot receive an incomplete grade.
**Academic Misconduct:** (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) [see Student Handbook] will not be tolerated!!! Anyone caught engaging in any such activities will receive a grade of F for the course. Criminal Justice demands persons of impeccable integrity.

*If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to utilize my office hours.*

**Submission of Assignments:**
NOTE: If e-mail submissions of assignments are not acknowledged - do not assume that they were received. All work submitted and presented should demonstrate thorough preparation, practice and sound thought of a superior level. Such being the case we should all learn from each other.

**Formatting Documents:**
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you are using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.
The format for the case briefs will be disseminated.

**Professional Organizations and Journals**
Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice
American Society of Criminology
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

**16 WEEK CALENDAR**

**Week One:** August 23 & 25, 2016: Introductions; review of the syllabus; defining crime; elements of a crime; criminal liability.
**Chapter 1:** Defining Crime.

**Week Two:** August 30 & Sept. 1: **Chapter 2:** Principles of Criminal Liability

**Week Three:** Sept. 6 & 8: **Chapter 3:** Capacity and Defenses.
Incapacity; justifications; partial and full excuses; inchoate offenses
Assignment: Begin work on debate
Topics for legal debate will be announced in the class.

**Week Four:** Sept. 13 & 15: **Chapter 4:** Preparatory Activity Offenses.

**Week Five:** Sept. 20 & 22 - Chapter 5: Offenses against persons
**Examination I:** Thursday, September 22, 2016

**Week Six:** Sept. 27 & 29: **Chapter 5:** Offenses Against Persons - Excluding Sex Offenses.
Offenses against persons – excluding sex offenses
Offenses against persons – sex related; The Texas Penal Code.

**Week Seven:** Sept. Oct. 4 & 6: **Chapter 6:** Offenses against Persons-Sex related.

**Week Eight:** Oct. 11 & 13: **Chapter 7:** Offenses against property- Destruction and Intrusion Offenses.
**Week Nine:** Oct. 18 & 20: Chapter 8: Offenses Involving Theft and Deception.

**Week Ten:** Oct. 25 & 27: Chapter 9: Offenses Involving Morality and Decency

**Examination 11:** Thursday, October 27, 2016

**Week Eleven:** Nov. 1 & 3: Chapter 10: Offenses against Public Peace
Offenses against Justice Administration

**Case briefs first draft due on November 1st.**

**Week Twelve:** Nov. 8 & 10: Chapter 11: Offenses against Public Administration

**Week Thirteen:** Nov. 15 & 17: Chapter 12: United States Criminal Code: Offenses against Persons and Property

**Week Fourteen:** Nov. 22 & 24: Chapter 13: United States Criminal Code: Other Offenses
Legal Debate
Case briefs final submission due on November 24

**Week Fifteen:** Nov. 29 & Dec. 1: Legal Debate
November 24, Thursday Thanks Giving Holiday- College Closed

**Week Sixteen:** Dec. 6 & 8: Legal Debate

**Final Examination in December**

**Student Support and Success**

**John B. Coleman Library**

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty.

https://www.pvamu.edu/library/ Phone: 936-261-1500

**The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)**

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563
Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s
ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):** Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Title IX Statement**

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

**Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)**

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University’s attendance policy in each course syllabus.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
• Keyboard & mouse
• Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

• Sending and receiving email
• A working knowledge of the Internet
• Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
• Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
• Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:

Students should go to https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/ if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.