SYLLABUS

CRIJ 4395 Special Topics:
Criminal Justice Reform
Summer 2022

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Catalog Description: This course will examine criminal justice policies and reform that are currently underway in the U.S. criminal justice system; involving law enforcement, prosecution and defense, sentencing, punishment, and reintegration. The course will delve into questions on the roles civil society, media, and the law can play in the contemporary need for reform. The readings, discussions, and assignments will focus on how movements for reform formulate, develop, and eventually succeed.

Prerequisites: N/A
Co-requisites: N/A
Required Texts: List of daily-required readings listed under the Semester Calendar section below but no textbook.

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 Critically examine and analyze the criminal justice system.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Empirical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Determine how social, economic, and political forces have influenced the current problems in the criminal justice system.</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>Communication, Empirical Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Discuss solutions to criminal justice reform and provide innovative answers to the problems identified.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Compare and contrast the various solutions provided for each criminal justice institution and identify the most and least challenging.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Method of Determining Final Course Grade
Course Grade Requirement | Value | Total
---|---|---
Examination I | 15 | 15%
Examination II | 15 | 15%
Examination III | 15 | 15%
Examination VI | 15 | 15%
Assignments | 20 | 20%
Discussions | 20 | 20%
Total: | 100 | 100%

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

If a student has stopped attending the course (i.e. “stopped out”) at any point after the first day of class but did not officially withdraw from the course and has missed assignments and exams, including the final exam, and performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of FN (failed-non attendance) will be assigned for the final course grade to ensure compliance with the federal Title IV financial aid regulations. In contrast, if the student has completed all assignments and exams, including the final exam, but performed below the grade level of a D, a grade of F will be assigned for the final course grade.

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement: Description:

Four exams (each worth 15% of the final grade).
Each exam will have between 15-30 questions. The questions may be but not limited to a mixture of multiple choice, true/ false, short answer and short essay items. Exams will be conducted online via Canvas. Exam instructions and expectations will be posted in Canvas. Students are responsible for all course materials given in class, in Canvas, and in the textbook as such material is testable information. The exams can only be taken once and are scheduled during class time Fridays on the specified weeks (see the course schedule below). These exams will open at the start of class time and will close at the end of class time. 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.). Missed exams with no documented excuse will receive a zero.

Assignments and Discussions. Each is worth 20% of your grade.
I will have assignments and discussions everyday throughout the semester. The assignment and discussions are posted on Canvas and the due dates are listed below.

NOTE: Syllabi subject to change with advance notice.

PANTHER CODE OF HONOR
All members of the Prairie View A&M University community should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for a community of scholars. All students are expected to obey the law, follow regulations and maintain absolute integrity, and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work and personal interaction.

**PVAMU Honor Affirmation Statement**

"I affirm on my honor that I will abstain from dishonesty in all scholastic work and personal interactions."

**Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies**

**Submission of Assignments:**
Written assignments should be typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. Assignments are due as indicated. They may be required to also be submitted electronically into an electronic program – to be announced. Late penalty = 3% points off of the final grade.

**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.

**Department Policy on Mobile Devices and Technology**
It is imperative that instructors be afforded reasonable authority to manage the classroom learning environment. An important component of management of the classroom environment is control of topic and pedagogical method. Empirical data shows that student use of mobile devices and other forms of technology that are not approved by the instructor for the educational endeavor of interest serve as distracters to student attention. When students attempt to divide their time between paying attention to the classroom topic and/or pedagogical method used by the instructor and the use of a mobile device, the student may miss important course content or details. Certain use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course. The instructor of record may and is encouraged to further elaborate his or her own course-specific mobile device policies in writing in the course syllabus. It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during closed book examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible to the student. Consequently, cell phone use during exams in this class is strictly prohibited. Having any electronic device on and visible during a closed book examination will lead to an assumption of cheating and an “F” for the test. However, if there is an urgent need to use a cell phone during any class period not scheduled for testing, you are advised to do so outside (and not inside) the class to limit distractions.

**Cheating:**
The instructor may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and collusion. Cheating or plagiarism in any degree will not be tolerated by Prairie View A&M University and will result in a grade of F in the examination in question. Further proceedings to have the violator suspended from class and/or from the college may be initiated through the current policy of the university on grievances.

Cheating includes:
1. Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report or other report, or computer files, data listings and/or programs.
2. Using materials during a test that are not authorized by the test administrator.
3. Collaborating with another person or persons during an examination or in preparing academic work without authorization.
4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, soliciting, copying or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an un-administered test.
5. Substituting for another student, permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.

6. Purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s work any research paper or writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.

7. Accessing “other” data files during exams, quizzes or other computerized testing programs.

Instructors have the right to proctor and rely on proctors who will walk the room while testing. Your verbal and nonverbal actions, regardless of intention, will be observed and may be suspected while taking the exam. The only allowed items on your desk include: scantron, pencil/pen, and other required test item approved by the instructor. You will be required to put all miscellaneous items including, but not limited to, purses, backpacks, notebooks, coats, hats, cell phones, apple phone, pagers, and textbook away from you and you may not access these items while taking your test. Cell phones and all other electronic communication devices must be turned off. Before the exam, student must provide evidence that a device must be in their possession during the test. No baseball caps or “hoodies” may be worn during the test. If you need to take a jacket/sweater into the testing room, it must be inspected prior to entry into the room. The College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology will NOT tolerate cheating. Without exception, those suspected of cheating will have the test removed and will be dismissed from the class (meet with the instructor after the exam). Besides failing the exam, the instructor may decide if other proceedings will be taken with those caught cheating. Further proceedings may be initiated through the current policy of the university on grade grievances.

**Semester Calendar**

*Please note that this schedule is tentative and may change if we need to spend additional time on certain topics or if there are unforeseen circumstances (i.e. inclement weather).*

**Week 1: INTRO/CONTEMPORARY REFORM & REFORMING LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Readings**


**Discussion 1**


[https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/05/15/13-important-questions-about-criminal-justice-we-can-t-answer](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/05/15/13-important-questions-about-criminal-justice-we-can-t-answer)

**Discussion 2**

**W:** [https://frederickuu.org/sermons/NewJimCrow.pdf](https://frederickuu.org/sermons/NewJimCrow.pdf)

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/USA/CERD_C_USA_CO_7-9_18102_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/USA/CERD_C_USA_CO_7-9_18102_E.pdf)

**Discussion 3**

**R:** [https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/12/19/the-new-new-policing](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/12/19/the-new-new-policing)

[https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/07/13/how-to-fix-american-policing](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/07/13/how-to-fix-american-policing)

**Discussion 4**

**Assignment 1:** Open Monday Due Sunday.

**Week 2: REFORMING PROSECUTION, DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, AND JUDGES**

**Readings**

**M:** [https://californiainnocenceproject.org/issues-we-face/prosecutorial-misconduct/](https://californiainnocenceproject.org/issues-we-face/prosecutorial-misconduct/)

Discussion 5

T: https://www.jstor.org/stable/3052933

Discussion 6

W: https://www.themarshallproject.org/2014/12/11/trial-by-cash
https://justicesystempartners.org/engaging-judges-in-criminal-justice-reform/

Discussion 7

R: Exam 1
Assignment 2: Open Monday Due Sunday.

Week 3: PRETRIAL DETENTION, BAIL REFORM AND THE CHOICE: INCARCERATION vs. SURVEILLANCE

M: https://pretrialreform.org/

Discussion 8

https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice/bail-reform

Discussion 9

https://cicero institute.org/to-fix-rising-crime-reform-parole-and probation/

Discussion 10

R: Exam 2
Assignment 3: Open Monday Due Sunday.

Week 4: MASS INCARCERATION, SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

M: https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html
https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/four-things-we-can-do-end-mass-incarceration

Discussion 11

T: https://prospect.org/justice/eight-principles-reforming-solitary-confinement/
https://communities.nysba.org/blogs/hubert-g-plummer-esq/2020/12/01/prison-reform-solitary-confinement

Discussion 12

W: https://californiainnocenceproject.org/issues-we-face/death-penalty/

Discussion 13

R: Exam 3
Assignment 4: Open Monday Due Sunday.
Week 5: FINAL EXAM – TBA

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 testtaking 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, CampusWide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-2611040

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 cocurricular 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. Alex Boyd, PVAMU’s Interim 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 936-261-2166 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. Assignments and Exams will be graded by the Monday following the due date. I will always have assignments and exams graded during the weekend.

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.

COVID-19 Campus Safety Measures
To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prairie View A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):
- **Self-monitoring** - Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.

- **Face Coverings** - Face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain.

- **Physical Distancing** - Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.

- **Classroom Ingress/Egress** - Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Students should leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded, should not congregate in hallways and should maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- **Face-to-face Class** - To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office for Student Conduct for adjudication. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.

- **COVID-19 Guidelines for Student Conduct Adjudication** - The mandatory COVID-19 Training/Certification taken by all students serves as the 1st Warning for violation of COVID-19 Guidelines.
  - 1st incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Conduct Probation
  - 2nd incident: upon review of Incident Report and finding of responsibility — Suspension
  - Consult the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Planner or [Student Conduct website](#) for additional information on Conduct Probation and Suspension.

- **Personal Illness and Quarantine** - Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities. Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence. To receive an excused absence, students must provide appropriate documentation to the Office for Student Conduct, [studentconduct@pvamu.edu](mailto:studentconduct@pvamu.edu).