



Course Syllabus: CRJU-1113-101 Intro to Criminal Justice

Fall 2026

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:50

Martin Hall Room #108

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Atkins

Office: Martin #101

Office hours: Monday 830-1130 Tues 8-930, Thurs. 8-930 (email for appointment)

Office phone: (940) 397-6295

E-mail: ben.atkins@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course provides students with engaging, comprehensive, and up-to-date coverage of all aspects of the criminal justice system. This course will give students the foundational knowledge that they need to be critical thinkers and active participants within the criminal justice field. By exploring criminal justice from a balanced perspective with an issues-oriented approach, students will understand how decision-making is critical to the criminal justice process. In particular, students will come to appreciate how their own future careers will be shaped by the decisions they make. I chose a textbook that explores criminal justice from a student-centered perspective by presenting research-driven material in an accessible, clear, and succinct writing style.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Exploring Criminal Justice: The Essentials 3rd Edition or newer. by: Regoli.

Hewitt, and Kosloski. (Jones and Bartlett) ISBN: 978-1-284-11297-9

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Percentage Breakdown

Assignments	Percent
Quizzes-Participation (14 at 1.43%)	20%
Writing Assignments (2 at 10% each)	20%
Exams (3 at 20% each)	60%

Grading Scale

Grade	%
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Chapter Quizzes

Chapter Quizzes will account for 20% of the final grade. The quizzes have a specified time limit and will be taken online in D2L. Quiz questions may be in Multiple Choice, True-False, Short Answer, Fill-in-the-blank, and/or short essay. Students will take 14 multiple-choice/true-false quizzes, which will be administered online in the D2L system. The due date for each quiz will be listed in the course calendar in D2L. Each quiz covers one chapter and is worth 10 to 15 pts, depending on the amount of material covered in each chapter. **Mind the due dates in the D2L calendar as quizzes will be docked 2-points (20%) for each day they are late.**

Exams

3 exams will be taken online in D2L. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, true false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions.

Exam 1

20% of Final Grade. Taken online in D2L.

Exam 2

20% of Final Grade. Taken online in D2L.

Exam 3 (Final Exam)

20% of Final Grade. Taken online in D2L.

Writing Assignments

Two short writing assignments will account for 20% of final grade (10% each). Details and instructions for the Writing Assignments will be given in class and posted on D2L. Writing Assignments must be turned in by the due dates to the appropriate Drop Box in D2L.

Late Work

Late work will receive a grade of F unless a prior arrangement exists between the student and Dr. Atkins. Quizzes are the only exception as they are docked 2 points (20%) for each day they are late.

Make Up Work/Tests

Missed assignments not due to a valid excused absence other than Chapter Quizzes will automatically receive a grade of "F" unless a prior arrangement exists between Dr. Atkins and the student.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 27
 Deadline to file for graduation: Sept. 21
 Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Nov. 23 by 4:00pm
 Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Classroom Policy

PUT YOUR CELL PHONES AWAY AND OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS

LECTURES. Cell Phones, headphones, earbuds, games etc. must be turned off and put away during. **EARBUDS must not be in your ears or ear during class, this includes having an earbud dangling from one ear.** Violation of this policy will result in you being counted absent for that day. More than two violations will result in you being administratively dropped from the course. Sleeping, reading newspapers or books is also prohibited.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Attendance is a course requirement. Students who have repeated unexcused absences may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking a hybrid class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

***See the D2L Calendar for chapter quiz due dates.**

WEEK	TOPIC – Assignment – Due Date
Week 1 (Aug. 25-27)	Introduction to Course Chapter 1 American CJ System
Week 2 (Sept. 1-3)	Chapter 2: Measuring Crime Crim-Theories Quiz # 1 & Quiz #2
Week 3 (Sept. 8-10)	Chapter 3: Criminal Law Foundation of CJ - Quiz #3
Week 4 (Sept. 15-17)	Chapter 4: Police History & Organization - Quiz #4
Week 5 (Sept. 22-24)	Chapter 5: Police and the Law - Quiz #5
Week 6 (Sept. 29-Oct.1)	Exam #1 (Ch. 1-5) Take online in D2L Due Oct. 6
Week 7 (Oct. 6-8)	Chapter 6: Critical Issues in Policing - Quiz #6
Week 8 (Oct. 13-15)	Chapter 7: Criminal Courts Process - Quiz #7
Week 9 (Oct. 20-22)	Chapter 8 The Trial - Quiz #8
Week 10 (Oct. 27-29)	Chapter 9: Sentencing - Quiz #9 Writing #1 – Due Oct. 29 to the D2L DropBox located in the Week 10 Module in D2L
Week 11 (Nov. 3-5)	Chapter 10: Correction History - Quiz #10 Exam #2 (Ch. 6-10) Online in D2L Due Nov. 10
Week 12 (Nov. 10-12)	Chapter 11: Prisons - Quiz #11 Chapter 12: Corrections in the Community - Quiz #12
Week 13 (Nov.17-19)	Chapter 13: Juvenile Justice - Quiz #13 Writing #2 – Due Nov. 19 to the D2L DropBox located in the Week 13 Module in D2L
Week 14 (Nov. 24-26)	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Week 15 (Dec. 1-3)	Last week of classes: Chapter 14: Terrorism and Cybercrime - Quiz #14 Review for Final Exam covers Ch. 11-14
Final Exam Week (Due Dec. 8)	Exam #3 (Ch. 11-14) Online in D2L Due Dec. 8