

# Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRJU 1113)

Midwestern State University

## Course Information

CRJU 1113 | Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 10:50 AM | Martin Hall, Room 108

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Michael Alpers

Office: Martin Hall, Room 105

Phone: 940-397-6306

Email: michael.alpers@msutexas.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Thursday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (or by appointment)

## Course Description

This course provides comprehensive, student-centered coverage of the American criminal justice system. Students will explore policing, courts, and corrections through legal, social, and behavioral perspectives. Emphasis is placed on ethical decision-making, critical thinking, and understanding how individual choices shape professional practice within criminal justice careers.

## Course Learning Objectives

- Explain criminal justice as a social science discipline.
- Discuss legal, social, and behavioral perspectives of crime.
- Describe ethical decision-making processes in criminal justice.
- Evaluate crime typologies and their significance.
- Identify major criminological theoretical frameworks.
- Compare and contrast the goals of punishment.
- Analyze the impact of technology on crime and justice systems.

## Instructional Method

This course is delivered online through D2L. Students are expected to participate in weekly modules, complete readings, discussions, quizzes, and written assignments. Students may be required to present or defend work if requested by the instructor.

## Required Text

Regoli, R., Hewitt, J., & Maras, M. (2014). *Exploring Criminal Justice: The Essentials* (3rd ed.). ISBN: 978-1284112979.

## **Graded Assignments and Evaluation**

- Discussion Boards (14): 140 points total
- Quizzes (4): 400 points total
- Writing Assignments (2): 200 points total
- Midterm Exam: 100 points
- Final Exam: 200 points
- Total Possible Points: 1040

Final grades are assigned according to the following scale: A (90–100%), B (80–89%), C (70–79%), D (60–69%), F (below 60%).

## **Attendance and Participation**

Regular participation is essential for success in this course. Students are permitted up to three unexcused absences. Excessive absences may result in administrative withdrawal or failure of the course.

## **Accessibility and Disability Accommodations**

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations should contact the Disability Support Services office and notify the instructor as early as possible. All course materials are designed to be ADA compliant.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to MSU's Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in a grade of zero and formal disciplinary action.

## **Instructor Communication and Expectations**

Students should include the course number in all email subject lines. Emails will be answered within 48 hours during the work week. Discussion and assignment feedback will be provided within 72 hours, excluding weekends.

## **Course Schedule**

This is a 16-week course. Weekly modules, objectives, and assignments are available in D2L. Students are responsible for completing all required work within the designated weekly timeframe.