



The University of Texas at El Paso

Department of Criminal Justice

CRIJ 3311: CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION
CRN: 21037; SPRING 2023

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Office hours: M/W 12:00pm – 1:00pm, or by appointment

Office location: Education building, 111J

Course meeting time: M/W 9:00am – 10:20am MST

Course location: Education Building 112

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the dimensions and causes of the crime problem in America and the uses and limits of the criminal justice system in dealing with it. We will examine crime trends and a number of strategies aimed at preventing and controlling crime, both within our criminal justice system and beyond. The course will provide a broad overview of both past and present policies adopted by the police, the courts, legislators, correctional agencies, and the community. We will read, discuss, and critically evaluate several policy topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

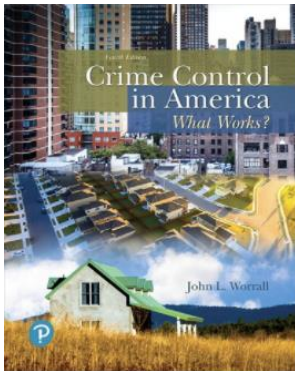
1. Explain the strategies used by the police, the courts, the correctional system and the community in various crime control efforts.
2. Describe and critically evaluate the justification and evidence for specific crime policies.
3. Analyze how scientific information enters into the criminal justice policy making process.
4. Articulate a coherent and persuasive argument for various crime and public policy strategies based on empirical research.

UTEP EDGE

This course is designed with the UTEP Edge in mind. In this class, students will focus on improving several specific Edge Advantages: confidence in your knowledge of crime control and prevention in the U.S., critical thinking, communication skills, and problem solving.

To learn more about the UTEP EDGE: <https://www.utep.edu/edge/>

REQUIRED MATERIALS



John L. Worrall. (2015). *Crime Control in America: What Works?* (4th edition). New York: Prentice Hall.

ISBN-13: 9780133495485 (available through the bookstore or online)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

*Exams (50 points * 3 = 150 points total)*

This course will include three in-class exams, each worth 25% of your final grade. Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. The third (final) exam will not be cumulative. The exams will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer/short essay questions. They will cover material from the required readings and class lectures (including videos). Exams are all closed book and closed notes.

*Short Writing Assignments (10 points * 3 = 30 points total)*

Three short writing assignments will be due during the course of the semester, usually falling at the halfway point in new material prior to each exam. Each assignment will be worth 10 points (graded on a scale of 0-10), collectively making up 15% of your final grade. The goal of these assignments is to ensure you are keeping up with class reading and to give you an opportunity to reflect and respond to course materials. These assignments will be posted to Blackboard and should be turned in on Blackboard.

Participation & Class Contribution (20 points)

Student participation and engagement is essential for a successful classroom dialogue. As such, ten percent of your final grade will be contingent on your individual contribution to class discussions and debates.

Please keep in mind that we will be discussing controversial and polarizing criminal justice policies/practices. If you are in any way uncomfortable reading or discussing any of the material, please let me know and I will try to arrange an alternative assignment. If you are offended by something that is said, please accept my apologies in advance and express your concern to me after class. I will not share your concerns with the class without your permission, but I will try to respond to them. While we will encourage informal discussion, I will insist that you always speak to classmates in a respectful way (especially when their viewpoints differ from your own). Be mindful to avoid comments and behaviors that disparage other students.

Grade Distribution:

Exams	150 points
Short writing assignments.....	30 points
Participation & class contribution	20 points
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>200 points</u>

Grade Scale

Grad	Percentage	Points
A	Above 90%	Above 180 points
B	80% – 89.99%	160 – 179 points
C	70% – 79.99%	140 – 159 points
D	60% – 69.99%	120 – 139 points
F	Below 59.99%	Below 119 points

Policy on Late or Missed Exams/Assignments:

You are required to notify me before the due date if an urgent situation arises and an assignment will not be submitted on time or an exam cannot be completed before the due date. Please follow the appropriate university policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to university-sanctioned activities.

Late assignments/make-up exams will ONLY be permitted at the discretion of the instructor and will be contingent upon three requirements being met:

- a. Valid documentation of an emergency (e.g., physician’s note)
- b. Notification PRIOR to the due date
- c. Immediate arrangements to make up the assignment

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

COURSE POLICIES

General

This class will feature lectures, discussions, and a variety of activities to promote learning. To succeed in the class, it is essential that you keep up with readings, lectures, and assignments.

The grade you earn in this course will be based on the amount of effort you exert. If you need a specific grade for this course, be proactive and contact me as early and often as possible. I will make every effort to assist you in achieving your goals.

Dissemination Policy

All the materials in this course, aside from that in the assigned text, should be considered as my intellectual property and, as such, under copyright protection. This includes my lectures, exams, written assignments, and notes. These are intended for your use during this course and may not be disseminated to anyone outside of the course without my explicit written permission.

Class Recordings

Students may NOT record any portion of the course meetings without first obtaining my permission. This includes audio and video recordings. If permission is granted, these recordings cannot be shared with others outside of this course unless required by UTEP.

Email Policy (Contacting the Instructor)

There are two ways you can contact me in this course. 1) Through your institutional email address. 2) Through the “send email” function under the course tools tab in Blackboard. I expect you to identify yourself within the body of the email. I also expect you to compose emails using standard word and sentence structure (i.e., no acronyms, slang, etc.). In other words, do not email me as if you are texting your friends.

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours under most circumstances from Monday through Friday. I will also do my best to check my email at least once on Saturdays and Sundays; however, at times I may not be able to respond over the weekends. Please plan accordingly.

Course Drop Policy

If circumstances arise to where a student must drop this course, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate the course drop. It is also the student’s responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect his or her financial aid. Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.

- a) If a course is dropped within the first 2 weeks before the “official census date”:
 - a. the course will not appear on the transcript and
 - b. the course will not count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) If a course is dropped after the official census data but before the “course drop date”:
 - a. the student will receive a “W” in the course
 - b. the drop will show on transcripts but will not lower GPA
 - c. the drop will count toward the 6 class drop limit
- c) If the course is dropped after the “course drop date” or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc.:

- a. UTEP requires the instructor to issue an “F” in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
- b. the drop will count against the 6 class drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A “W” will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an “F” will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify me at: tedickinson@utep.edu. Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). If you feel an accommodation is necessary please contact CASS at 915-747-5148 (tel) cass@utep.edu (email), visit them at Union Building East Room 106, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically

dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

A Note about Sexual Misconduct

What you should know about sexual misconduct: UTEP does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report complaints of potential sexual misconduct known to them to their campus Title IX Coordinator(s) to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. Any student who believes that he or she may be experiencing sexual harassment or misconduct is encouraged to consult with or report such conduct immediately to the Title IX Coordinators. Contact information for UTEP's Title IX Coordinators can be found here:

<http://utep.edu/titleix/Title%20IX%20Coordinators%20.html>

COURSE RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Students are responsible for reading all the required materials on the dates listed below.

* I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed. Students are required to regularly check their UTEP email and Blackboard to look for communication of syllabus revisions.

Week 1: January 18 (Wednesday)

Class Introduction; Overview of the Syllabus; Pop Quiz

Week 2: January 23 (Monday) & January 25 (Wednesday)

Topic: Identifying and evaluating crime control

Required Reading: Preface, Chapter 1

Week 3: January 30 (Monday) & February 1 (Wednesday) – Spring Census Day

Topic: Crime control perspectives

Required Reading: Chapter 2

Week 4: February 6 (Monday) & February 8 (Wednesday)

Topic: Traditional policing

Required Reading: Chapter 3

**Writing Assignment #1 due: Sunday, February 12 by 11:59pm

Week 5: February 13 (Monday) & February 15 (Wednesday)

Topic: Proactive policing, directed patrol, and other advancements

Required Reading: Chapter 4

Week 6: February 20 (Monday) & February 22 (Wednesday)

Topic: Community involvement in policing

Required Reading: Chapter 5

Week 7: February 27 (Monday) & March 1 (Wednesday)

*Review of exam #1; Exam #1

Week 8: March 6 (Monday) & March 8 (Wednesday)

Topic: Prosecutors and crime control

Required Reading: Chapter 6

Week 9: March 13 (Monday) & March 15 (Wednesday)

*Spring Break

Week 10: March 20 (Monday) & March 22 (Wednesday)

Topic: Crime control through legislation

Required Reading: Chapter 7

Week 11: March 27 (Monday) & March 29 (Wednesday) – Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline (March 30)

Topic: Crime control in the courts and beyond

Required Reading: Chapter 8

**Writing Assignment #2 due: Sunday, April 2 by 11:59pm

Week 12: April 3 (Monday) & April 5 (Wednesday)

*Review of exam #2; Exam #2

Week 13: April 10 (Monday) & April 12 (Wednesday)

Topic: Sentencing

Required Reading: Chapter 9

Week 14: April 17 (Monday) & April 19 (Wednesday)

Topic: Probation, parole, and intermediate sanctions

Required Reading: Chapter 10

Week 15: April 24 (Monday) & April 26 (Wednesday)

Topic: Rehabilitation, treatment, and job training

Required Reading: Chapter 11

**Writing Assignment #3 due: Sunday, April 30 by 11:59pm

Week 16: May 1 (Monday) & May 3 (Wednesday)

*Review of exam #3; Exam #3