



**The University of Texas at El Paso**

**Department of Criminal Justice**

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**CRIJ 3311: CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION**

**CRN: 25408; Spring 2025**

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Office hours: By appointment

## **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:

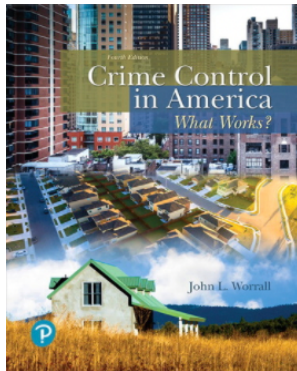
1. Explain the strategies used by the police, the courts, the correctional system and the community in various crime control efforts.
2. Describe and critically evaluate the justification and evidence for specific crime policies.
3. Analyze how scientific information enters into the criminal justice 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

### *Syllabus Quiz (10 points)*

There is syllabus quiz that is worth 10 points. You can take it as many times as you need. There is a time limit (60 minutes). This quiz will be due on **1/25 (Sat) @11:59pm MST**.

### *Exams (100 points \* 3 = 300 points total)*

There are three exams for this course. The exams will include a mix of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short essay. They will cover material from the required readings and class lectures. Missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0). **Exams will be available on Thursdays and will close at 11:59pm MST on Saturdays.**

Important notes:

1. The exams are timed. Once you open them, you will have 90 minutes to complete them. They must be completed in one sitting, so please plan accordingly.
2. Please close all browser windows and applications before beginning the exam (lockdown browser).
3. Work is automatically saved and submitted when time expires.
4. Exam 1 will open on 3/6 @08:00am MST and is due on **3/8 @11:59pm MST**. This exam covers the material from chapters 1-5.
5. Exam 2 will open on 4/10 @08:00am MST and is due on **4/12 @11:59pm MST**. This exam covers the material from chapters 6-8.
6. Exam 3 will open on 5/8 @08:00am MST and is due on **5/10 @11:59pm MST**. This exam covers the material from chapters 9-11.

### *Short Writing Assignments (30 points \* 4 = 120 points total)*

Four short writing assignments will be due during the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 20 points. 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. Instruction for these assignments will be posted to Blackboard and should be turned in on Blackboard by **11:59pm MST on Saturdays**. If you fail to submit your work on time, you will get **zero (0) point**.

Please refer to the Writing Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

*Discussion Posts (10 points \* 2 question \* 6 weeks = 120 points)*

You will be required to create two discussion posts that refer to the assigned materials from that week. Each week’s discussion posts will include instructions on what to put in the post for that week. You will be expected to also reply to two other students’ post per question (no words limit). These posts are due by **11:59pm on Saturdays (MST)** of their respective weeks. Each discussion post worth up to 10 points (Original discussion post = 5 points; two responses = 2.5\*2 = 5 points). You cannot post anything after the due date, and missed discussions will be assigned a grade of zero (0).

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 that disparage other students. Please refer to the Netiquette guide posted at the following website:

<https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/blog/october-2017/10-rules-of-netiquette-for-students.html>

*Grade Distribution:*

Exams .....	300 points
Short writing assignments .....	120 points
Discussion posts .....	120 points
Syllabus quiz .....	10 points
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>550 points</b>

*Grade Scale*

Grad	Percentage
A	Above 90%
B	80% – 89.99%
C	70% – 79.99%
D	60% – 69.99%
F	Below 59.99%

### *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 two requirements being met:

- a. Valid documentation of an emergency (e.g., physician's note)
- b. Notification PRIOR to the due date

## 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.

### *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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Or please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.



## 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 21 – January 24

Topic: Class Introduction

Required Reading: Preface

\*\*Syllabus quiz due – Saturday, January 25 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 2:** January 27 – January 31

Topic: Identifying and evaluating crime control

Required Reading: Chapter 1

### **Week 3:** February 3 – February 7 (February 5: Spring Census Day)

Topic: Crime control perspectives

Required Reading: Chapter 2

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ1.1 & DQ1.2) due: Saturday, February 8 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 4:** February 10 – February 14

Topic: Traditional policing

Required Reading: Chapter 3

\*\*Writing Assignment #1 due: Saturday, February 15 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 5:** February 17 – February 21

Topic: Proactive policing, directed patrol, and other advancements

Required Reading: Chapter 4

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ2.1 & DQ2.2) due: Saturday, February 22 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 6:** February 24 – February 28

Topic: Community involvement in policing

Required Reading: Chapter 5

\*\*Writing Assignment #2 due: Saturday, March 1 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 7:** March 3 – March 7

\*\*Exam #1 due: Saturday, March 8 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 8:** March 10 – March 14

\*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*

### **Week 9:** March 17 – March 21

Topic: Prosecutors and crime control

Required Reading: Chapter 6

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ3.1 & DQ3.2) due: Saturday, March 22 by 11:59pm MST

### **Week 10:** March 24 – March 28

Topic: Crime control through legislation

Required Reading: Chapter 7

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ4.1 & DQ4.2) due: Saturday, March 29 by 11:59pm MST



**Week 11:** March 31 – April 4 (April 4: Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline)

Topic: Crime control in the courts and beyond

Required Reading: Chapter 8

\*\*Writing Assignment #3 due: Saturday, April 5 by 11:59pm MST

**Week 12:** April 7 – April 11

\*\*Exam 2 due: Saturday, April 12 by 11:59pm MST

**Week 13:** April 14 – April 18

Topic: Sentencing

Required Reading: Chapter 9

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ5.1 & DQ5.2) due: Saturday, April 19 by 11:59pm MST

**Week 14:** April 21 – April 25

Topic: Probation, parole, and intermediate sanctions

Required Reading: Chapter 10

\*\*Discussion posts (DQ6.1 & DQ6.2) due: Saturday, April 26 by 11:59pm MST

**Week 15:** April 28 – May 2

Topic: Rehabilitation, treatment, and job training

Required Reading: Chapter 11

\*\*Writing Assignment #4 due: Saturday, May 3 by 11:59pm MST

**Week 16:** May 5 – May 9

\*\*Exam 3 due: Saturday, May 10 by 11:59pm MST