

**McLennan**  
C O M M U N I T Y  
**C O L L E G E**

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW**

**CRIJ\_1310\_75**

**Dennis A. Stapleton**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid course.**

**COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website on any changes to these guidelines.

**Course Description:**

This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec).

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

CRIJ 1301 with a grade of C or better or approval of the program director.

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

It is recommended that before attending class, that students read each assigned chapter and be familiar with terms located inside each chapter. Students need to be familiar with and be able to navigate D2L/Brightspace. EXAMS and QUIZZES will be completed in D2L/Brightspace. Class announcements and handouts will be made through D2L/Brightspace.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dennis Stapleton

MCC E-mail: dstapleton@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254.299.6524

Office Location: ESEC 228

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30AM to 11:00AM

By appointment upon request via email. During the COVID-19 pandemic, conferences will be conducted via ZOOM.

Other Instruction Information: Advising by appointment only call 254.299.6502 to make an appointment.

**Required Text & Materials: (REQUIRED)**

1. Title: Texas Criminal & Traffic Law manual 2019-2020
2. ISBN: 9781641304214
3. Author: Texas
4. Publisher: Blue 360 Media
5. Formats: PAPERBACK

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**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

The course will be taught through lectures, visual and audio aids, class participation and guest speakers when available. Refer to the documents presented on the MCC Brightspace Announcement tab and the Content tab for this course.

**NOTE from the Professor:**

*How this class will be offered will depend on enrollment numbers. If there are more than 18 students enrolled, the class will be divided into two groups. Group A and Group B. Group A students will meet every Monday in class. Group B will meet every Wednesday in Class. Group A and B will meet viz ZOOM on the days they are not assigned to the classroom.*

*Attendance is vital for in class lectures and the ZOOM lectures.*

*If the number of students enrolled are under the number 18, the students will meet every Monday and Wednesday in class.*

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Define the goals and objectives of criminal law; demonstrate ability to conduct proper review of the various statutory offenses; and organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, crime scene activities, and mandatory documentation of statutory warning through the study of criminal law. This course covers TEXAS law.

The student should have knowledge of using a Web browser, computer, and email: the ability to create and save documents; the ability to send and receive electronic documents; and a general understanding of online technologies and appropriate online behavior.

# Fundamentals of Criminal Law

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## Course Outline or Schedule:

28 classes plus 1 (80 minute classes and three EXAMs at 80 minutes. 120 minutes for final EXAM)

CLAS S #	DATE	TOPIC/CHAPTER
1	Monday, August 23, 2021	Orientation
2	Wednesday, August 25, 2021	US Constitution
3	Monday, August 30, 2021	Bill of Rights <b>INFORMATION QUIZ DUE</b>
4	Wednesday, September 1, 2021	Texas Constitution
	<b>Monday, September 6, 2021</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
5	Wednesday, September 8, 2021	Texas Bill of Rights <b>QUIZ #1 DUE 09/13/21</b>
6	Monday, September 13, 2021	CCP 1-13
7	Wednesday, September 15, 2021	CCP 1-13 <b>QUIZ #2 DUE 09/20/21</b>
8	Monday, September 20, 2021	CCP Chapter 14, 15, 18, 59 <b>QUIZ #3 DUE 09/24/21</b>
9	Wednesday, September 22, 2021	CCP Chapter 19, 20, 21 <b>QUIZ #4 DUE 09/27/21</b>
10	Monday, September 27, 2021	CCP 27 Chapter 27, 28, 29. 30. 31. 33, 35, 36 <b>QUIZ #5 DUE 10-01/21</b>
11	Wednesday, September 29, 2021	Penal Code Definitions
12	Monday, October 4, 2021	Penal Code Definitions
13	Wednesday, October 6, 2021	Penal Code Definitions <b>QUIZ #6 DUE 10/11/21</b>
14	Monday, October 11, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 12-15
15	Wednesday, October 13, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 12-15 <b>QUIZ #7 DUE 10/18/21</b>
16	Monday, October 18, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 19-22
17	Wednesday, October 20, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 19-22

## Fundamentals of Criminal Law

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18	Monday, October 25, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 19-22 <b>QUIZ #8 DUE 10/29/21</b>
19	Wednesday, October 27, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 22.011-22.11
20	Monday, November 1, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 22.011-22.11
21	Wednesday, November 3, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 22.011-22.11 <b>QUIZ #9 DUE 11/5/21</b>
22	Monday, November 8, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 25-34
23	Wednesday, November 10, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 25-34
24	Monday, November 15, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 25-34 <b>QUIZ #10 DUE 10/19/21</b>
25	Wednesday, November 17, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 36-38
26	Monday, November 22, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 36-38 <b>QUIZ #11 DUE 11/29/21</b>
	<b>November 24-27, 2021</b>	Penal Code Chapter 39-71
27	Monday, November 29, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 39-71
28	Wednesday, December 1, 2021	Penal Code Chapter 39-71
29	Monday, December 6, 2021	<b>QUIZ #12 DUE 12/6/21</b>
		<b>Grades submitted by Noon December 08, 2021</b>

### **Course Grading Information:**

1. At the beginning of the semester, there is an on-line Information QUIZ. The student will use the course syllabus and the course schedule document for this QUIZ. The purpose is to ensure the student has knowledge of the course syllabi. **This is a mandatory assignment.**
2. Attendance: Being on time and present for the entire 80-minute class is important. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. The instructor will note on the daily attendance sheet if a student is tardy to class. This professor follows the MCC Attendance policy. Attendance is part of the overall course grade.
3. This course is broken into three (3) sections. Section 1 covers the US and Texas Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Section 2 covers certain chapters of the Texas Code

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of Criminal Procedures (CCP). Sections 3 covers certain chapters of the Texas Penal Code (PC).

4. QUIZZES and EXAMS

- a. Information QUIZ: covers the syllabus and course information
- b. Twelve (12) QUIZZES. Completed outside of class
  - i. QUIZ 1: Constitution and Bill of Rights
  - ii. QUIZ 2: CCP 1-13
  - iii. QUIZ 3: CCP 14, 15, 18, 59
  - iv. QUIZ 4: CCP 19-21
  - v. QUIZ 5: CCP 27-31, 33, 35, 36
  - vi. QUIZ 6: PC Definitions
  - vii. QUIZ 7: PC 12-15
  - viii. QUIZ 8: PC 19-22
  - ix. QUIZ 9: PC 22.011-22.11
  - x. QUIZ 10: PC 25-34
  - xi. QUIZ 11: PC 36-38
  - xii. QUIZ 12: PC 39-71

5. QUIZZES will cover the material presented in class and from the textbook.

- a. Tests will be given when the appropriate material has been covered in class.
- b. Students will take the QUIZZES at their own time. There is a open date and time. The QUIZ will be available in the Brightspace platform. If a student is unable to take the QUIZ during the date/time, they shall contact the professor prior to the beginning of the QUIZ. If there is no communication from the student to the professor, and the QUIZ is not taken at the designated date/time, the grade will be recorded as a ZERO (0).

**Assignment of Grades: (Rubric)**

1. Information/Syllabus QUIZ	10%
2. Attendance	12%
3. 12 QUIZZES (6.5% each)	78%
	100%

There is **NO** Mid-term or Final EXAM in this course.

**GRADING:**

The following grading guidelines will prevail for all tests and written assignments.

100 - 90 = A    69 - 60 = D

89 - 80 = B    59 - 50 = F

79 - 70 = C

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

**A student is required to take the QUIZZES during the open/close date/time.** Any make-up QUIZ will be given the week before finals week. The only exception to this rule is if the student makes arrangements before the QUIZ is given and/or the student has documentation of an emergency. If a student misses an QUIZ and does not make arrangements with the Professor, a grade of a ZERO (0) will be entered in the grade book.

**A student is required to take the QUIZZES on the designated dates and times. There is an open date/time and a close date/time.** Once a QUIZ closes, there is no make-up. If a student does not complete a QUIZ during the designated time frame, the grade is a ZERO (0).

**Attendance and being to class on time is important.** A student arriving late causes a disruption to the learning of the students that are on-time. Attendance is included in the course grading rubric. A student that is persistent on being tardy may have their participation grade decreased no less than one letter grade. If a student is tardy four (4) times during the semester, that correlates to one class absence. The professor does follow the MCC attendance policy and will drop students for attendance reasons.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to read the General Conduct Responsibility Policy in the Highlander Guide (MCC Student Handbook) and the Mental Health Handbook. Any breaches of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

**Disturbances in the classroom, which include talking during class/lecture/EXAMs, will not be tolerated.**

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1. Students disturbing the class will be requested to leave the classroom or will have an assigned seat.
  2. Continued disregard for classroom decorum will result in the student being dropped from the class rolls.
  3. **Caps, hats, and sun glasses will not be worn in the classroom.** Sun glasses that are medically required may be worn.
  4. Cheating during an QUIZ will result in the student being given a FAILURE (F) for the course, and dropped from the class rolls.
  5. Use of Laptop type computers and tablets is authorized for taking of notes. **Using this device to access social media network sites is prohibited.** This also includes cell phone type devices.
  6. E-Cigarette: (Electronic) are not permitted to be used in the classroom/campus.  
September 1, 2019 New Law: 21 years of age
  7. **CELL PHONE POLICY: (This policy will be strictly enforced)**
    - A. All students with cell phones will be required to place their cell phone on silent before entering the classroom. Text messaging is not allowed in the classroom.
    - B. If a student receives an emergency call during class and he or she needs to answer the call:
      1. Quietly leave the classroom before answering the call.
      2. After completing their phone call students are asked to quietly enter the classroom in a manner that will not disturb the instructor or other students.
      3. First violation of the policy will result in the student not being able to have their cell phone activated during class.
      4. Second violation of the policy, the student will have 5 points deducted from their final grade point average.

\* **[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

### **MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

### **Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

### **Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

### **Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

**Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.