

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

---

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**CRIME IN AMERICA  
CRIJ\_1307\_O080**

**SUZANNE BALDON**

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

## CRIME IN AMERICA

CRIJ\_1307\_O080

---

### **Course Description:**

American crime problems in historic perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime. The student will be given an overview introduction to Crime in America. Topics include the most current research in the field of criminology and examples to better understand criminology theory. Semester Hours: 3 (3 lec.)

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

*NONE*

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Please begin to read your syllabus and your textbook. We will cover all chapters and you are at liberty to enjoy all chapters. Enter the course on May 30 and introduce yourselves in Discussion Board.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Suzanne Baldon

MCC E-mail: [sbaldon@mclennan.edu](mailto:sbaldon@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 254.299.6505

Office Location: ESEC 216

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Course conference by appointment. Please call, text or email me with any questions about the course.

Other Instruction Information: Advising by appointment; call Heather at 254.299.6502 to make an advising appointment.

You may use Messages for non-emergency communications. If you need to reach me quickly, please email me at [sbaldon@mclennan.edu](mailto:sbaldon@mclennan.edu), or call or text my cell phone at 254-230-3595.

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: Criminology: The Core

Author: Siegel

Edition: 8th

Publisher: Cengage Learning

ISBN: 9780357624746

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Course will be internet based. Students will be required to take quizzes and do assignments over selected chapters in the textbook. They will be required to post to assigned questions by using the discussion board in the course, and post substantive responses to the postings of at least two other students and/or their instructor. The course will be composed primarily of reading, writing, discussion boards and assignments found in the chapter folders. In addition to the textbook, articles, news items from the media and professional publications, websites, photos and videos may be used and discussed.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Student will develop an understanding of Crime in America as it applies to the criminal justice and law enforcement field.

**Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Any student failing to attend classes the first two weeks of the semester or failing to participate in online courses and activities the first two weeks will be subject to being dropped by the professor. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades.

## CRIME IN AMERICA

CRIJ\_1307\_O080

---

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing. If the student is not passing, they will be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

[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.

### **Course Outline or Schedule:**

Aug 21	Introductions	
	Chapter 1	Crime and Criminology
Aug 28	Chapter 2	The Nature and Extent of Crime
Sept 4	Chapter 3	Victims and Victimization
Sept 11	Chapter 4	Rational Choice Theory
Sept 18	Chapter 5	Trait Theory
<b>Sept 18</b>	<b>Test I</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>
Sept 25	Chapter 6	Social Structure Theory
Oct 2	Chapter 7	Social Process Theory
Oct 9	Chapter 8	Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice
Oct 16	Chapter 9	Developmental Theories: Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory
Oct 23	Chapter 10	Violent Crime
<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Test II</b>	<b>Chapters 6-10</b>
Oct 30	Chapter 11	Political Crime and Terrorism
Nov 6	Chapter 12	Economic Crimes: Blue-Collar, White-Collar, and Green-Collar
Nov 13	Chapter 13	Public Order Crimes
Nov 20	Chapter 14	Crimes of the New Millennium: Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime
<b>Nov 22-26</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holidays</b>	

## CRIME IN AMERICA

CRIJ\_1307\_O080

---

---

Nov 27	Finish Class Work
Dec 1	Last Class Day
<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>Final Exam over Chapters 11-14 Due</b>
<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Fall Commencement</b>

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to our syllabus and schedule with notification to students. If there is any change to the schedule, the student will be notified via announcements in Brightspace. Please get to know study buddies in the class whom you can contact in order to find out what you may need to know in case you are absent for any reason and to form study groups for assignments. It is the student's responsibility to stay aware of class activities.

### **Course Grading Information:**

Three examinations will be given in the course. Your final grade will be based on the following

Examinations                      60%

(To be taken online.)

Attendance/Participation        20%

(Discussion Boards)

Assignments                        20%

(Chapter Assignments to be announced in chapter folders.)

Exams should be taken on the date given. Please contact your instructor if you have scheduling problems and need to make arrangements. Exams are online and you may retake the exams to learn the materials and to earn better grades. Failure to take the examination will result in an automatic zero for that test.

Your final grade will be the average of three examinations in addition to your attendance/participation grade and grade for assignments.

### **Grading Scale**

100 – 90 = A

89 – 80 = B

79 – 70 = C

69 – 60 = D

59 – 50 = F

If I decide it is necessary to curve the grade distribution, this will be done at the end of the course, after all the exams have been taken and work has been submitted. Your grade will never be lowered by curving; you will always receive your "straight-scale" grade or better.

Discussion Board Grading Rubric

The following rubric illustrates how each discussion session will be graded. The number of posts represented in your posting history will be calculated. The quality of your posts is a subjective assessment by me of how much your posts add to the discussion.

<b>Metrics</b>	<b>Original Post 1 Entered</b>	<b>Responses 1 &amp; 2 Entered</b>	<b>Quality of the Original Post</b>	<b>Quality of Your Responses 1 &amp; 2</b>
----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

Assignment Grading Rubric

<b>Metrics</b>	<b>Content and Substance, quantitative</b>	<b>Content and Substance, qualitative</b>	<b>Understanding of the Issues</b>	<b>Proper Grammar and Attributions</b>
<b>Points earned</b>	25 points	25 points	25 points	25 points

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

- I. A student will be allowed to take or retake a missed test if he or she contacts me. Otherwise, he or she will receive a zero for the missed test.
- II. If a student gets locked out of a test, he or she must send the instructor a message by using the message link inside the course, emailing, texting, or calling to explain why they were locked out.
- III. I will unlock tests for a student during the semester if there is good reason.
- IV. A student may retake a test once that test has been graded, if I provide another attempt.
- V. A student will be given a grade for a late discussion board or assignment posting. If a student fails to post to the discussion board question or other student's posting, or fails to complete an assignment, he or she will receive a zero for that posting or assignment. If

---

there are problems, please contact me. Failure to communicate, take Tests, make DB posts, and/or post Assignments constitutes an absence in online attendance.

- VI. “Disappearance” of a student from participation does not guarantee that the student will be dropped. Please contact me if you need help or have questions.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum in the course just as they would in a face-to-face class. That includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

Points will be taken off of your participation grade for misbehavior. Students are encouraged to contribute to online class discussions, if the comments are pertinent to the forum topic. Active participation would be an excellent opportunity to enhance your standing in the class. A class lounge forum will be available for additional conversation, as well.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of information, wording, organization, or ideas. Whether the original source is public (e.g., a newspaper, book, journal article, the Web) or private (e.g., a classmate’s paper), you need to indicate your indebtedness to it using a standard citation style. If you need help with bibliographies, please ask. There is a style guide for the American Psychological Association (APA) format at this website:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Where you repeat the exact language of your source, you must treat the borrowed material as a quotation and place it within quotation marks. However, by merely changing a few words or the word order, you are paraphrasing and do not avoid plagiarism. In the case of plagiarism, the instructor has the right to give the student a “zero” for the assignment. In the case of cheating during a quiz or unauthorized collaboration on a writing project, the instructor reserves the right to give the student a “zero” for the test or assignment.

---

Updated 07/18/2023



## **ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES**

### **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) 2542998122 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 acting Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center 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.

### **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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to [https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_07byXd7eB8iTqJg](https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg). Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's 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).

**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. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**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.

**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. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).

**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.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**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.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**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.