

# 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**

### **LEGAL ASPECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**CRIJ 2323 75**

**PROFESSOR TAMARA CULVER**

**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. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

**Course Description:**

Studies police authority, responsibilities, constitutional constraints, laws of arrest, search, and seizure, and police liability. This course will serve as a capstone for the A.A.S. degree and Certificate in Law Enforcement. Semester Hours: 3 (3 lec.)

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 11:10 AM – 12:30 PM in room ESEC 215. This course requires regular attendance in order to successfully complete. The material is challenging but very meaningful to your career.

**Professor Information:**

Professor's Name: Tamara Culver

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

Office Phone Number: 254.299.6521

Office Location: ESEC 218

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: by appointment

Other Information: Advising by appointment only.

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: Constitutional Law

Author: Kanovitz

Edition: 14th

Publisher: Routledge

ISBN: 9780323340489

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

This class will be a combination of lecture, group discussions, application exercises, learning activities, video clips, exams, quizzes and power points/notes.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Students will develop competency in comprehending the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, which directly relate to the powers of both federal and state law enforcement officers and the limitations on these officers. Students will learn proper arrest, search, seizure

and interrogation techniques. Students will develop an understanding of the more specific role of law enforcement within the broader field of Criminal Justice.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

**Additions and deletions may be made to the following schedule as necessary. Students will be advised in class by the professor of any changes to the schedule.**

<b><u>SCHEDULE</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter/Lecture</u></b>
Week One	Introduction, syllabus review, background to course
Week Two	Chapter 1 (History, Structure, Content of US Constitution)
Week Three	Chapter 2 (Freedom of Speech)
Week Four	Chapter 2
Week Five	Chapter 3 (Authority to Detain and Arrest; Use of Force)
Week Six	Chapter 3
Week Seven	Review and Mid-term Exam
Week Eight	Chapter 4 (Search and Seizure)
Week Nine	Spring Break!
Week Ten	Chapter 4 (Search and Seizure)
Week Eleven	Chapter 5 (Police Surveillance)
Week Twelve	Chapter 6 (Interrogations and Confessions)
Week Thirteen	Chapter 6
Week Fourteen	Chapter 7 (Compulsory Self-Incrimination)
Week Fifteen	Chapter 7
Week Sixteen	Review and Final Exam

These chapters will address the following student learning objectives: 1) Distinguish the more specific role of law enforcement within the Criminal Justice System, 2) Identify constitutional protections of the accused and 3) Develop proper interrogation skills.

**Course Grading Information:**

- A. 1. Two objective style tests, each counting 40% of the student's final grade, will be given during the semester. They will include, short answer, multiple choice and true/false questions.
2. Overall attitude, behavior, professionalism and class participation will make up the remaining 20% of the student's overall grade. Pop quizzes will be figured into this grade.

3. An **optional assignment** will be announced later in class for students who want to factor in another grade with the tests and class participation. That grading scheme would be as follows: tests – 30% each, assignment – 30% and class participation – 10%.
- B. **It is very important that students attend each class meeting and regular participation in class discussions is encouraged and factored into the student grade. Students are expected to have read the assigned material and examination questions will come from both the lecture and the assigned readings.**
- C. Cheating during tests, or where related to an assignment, will result in the student receiving a 0 for that assignment. *This includes any form of plagiarism* (using someone else's words or thoughts without giving credit to that source). Any subsequent offense will result in the student receiving an F in the course.

#### **GRADING:**

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

100 - 90 = A    59 - 00 = F

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

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

**Students are required to take the exam on the day and time it is scheduled.** Any make-up exam(s) will be given the week before finals. The only exception to this rule is if the student makes arrangements before the exam is given and/or the student has documentation of an emergency.

- a. The make-up examination will include objective type questions as well as essay questions. The type of make-up examination will be at the discretion of the professor.
- b. Failure to take the make-up examination during the week before finals will result in the grade of O (zero) for the missed exam(s).

#### **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). Any breeches of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

- A. **Disturbances in the classroom will not be tolerated or ignored. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: talking off-topic during class, disrespectful comments or body language, coming in late, leaving early, sleeping, etc.**

1. Students disturbing the class may be requested to leave the classroom. It is the prerogative of the professor to take points off the student's final grade, per offense, for the above listed behaviors.
2. Continued disregard for classroom decorum will result in the student being dropped from the class roll. Excessive tardiness or leaving early from class will count against the student's attendance and class participation grade. **(3 times being tardy or leaving early from class = 1 absence**, in addition to other consequences above)
3. Cell phones should be turned **OFF** during class. A student may only leave his cell phone on in a silent or vibrate mode **WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE PROFESSOR**. Any cell phone ringing, vibrating, beeping, lighting up, being used for texting, etc., in class without such prior approval, will automatically result in 2 points being taken off the student's final grade, per offense, during the semester. There are no exceptions to this rule, **without prior approval** from the professor.
4. Professionalism should be shown at all times. No hats, hoodies covering the head, inappropriate clothing or sunglasses should be worn in the classroom. (see the Highlander Student's Guide dress code)

**B. Significance of establishing and enforcing these rules:**

1. The purpose of these rules is to provide a positive, open learning environment that focuses on critical thinking and the orderly exchange of different ideas and viewpoints. It is the responsibility of the professor to provide this environment so that everyone can learn.
2. Practicing professionalism in the classroom will assist students as they enter the Criminal Justice profession.

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)**

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))**

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**\* [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.

***\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari) to print each link's information.***

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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. Students can 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 contacted/notified through 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.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above 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 her/his 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.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the 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 become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://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

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))

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

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[titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) 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.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your web browser (for example Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*