

# McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

# COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Fundamentals of Criminal Law**

**CRIJ 1310.87**

**Ken Culver**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week 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 at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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Course Description:

Study of criminal law, its philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classifications and elements of crime, penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility. Semester Hours: 3 (3 lec.)

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Mid-Term and Final Examinations will be administered online.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Ken Culver  
MCC E-mail: [kculver@mclennan.edu](mailto:kculver@mclennan.edu)  
Office Phone Number: 254.299.6522  
Office Location: ESEC 222  
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: by appointment  
Other Instruction Information: Advising by appointment only.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Texas Criminal Law & Traffic Law Manual  
Edition: 2021-2022  
Publisher: Blue 360  
Media ISBN: 978-1-63729-148-1

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

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Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Assigned readings, group discussion, practical problems, exams, quizzes, simulators, and/or tutorial software.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law; describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations; list the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration; and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.

Course Outline or Schedule:

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

SCHEDULE	Chapter/Lecture
Week #1 Introduction and course overview	
Week #2	Texas Penal Code
Week #3	Texas Penal Code
Week #4	Texas Penal Code
Week #4	Texas Penal Code
Week #5	Texas Penal Code
Week #6	Texas Penal Code
Week #7	Texas Penal Code
Week #8	Texas Penal Code
Week #9	Texas Penal Code
Week #10 <b>Mid-term Examination</b>	
Week #11	Code of Criminal Procedure
Week #12	Code of Criminal Procedure
Week #13	Code of Criminal Procedure
Week #14	Code of Criminal Procedure

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Week #15

**Final Examination**

Course Grading Information:

All assignments and discussion board postings must be completed no later than the due date. All weekly quizzes will be taken online by logging into the course. Each weekly quiz can only be taken once (1). The deadline for submitting each exam will be found in the course unit.

The Mid-term and Final Examinations will be taken online.

- I. You will have several quizzes and the average of the quiz grades will comprise 25% of your final grade.
- II. The Mid-term and Final Examinations will each count 25% of your final grade for a total of 50%.
- III. The discussion board will comprise the remaining 25% of your grade. You must post a minimum of two a week and the posts must be made by the due dates.
- IV. If a student does not complete the quiz and discussion during the required time he or she will receive a zero (0).
- V. Students taking the mid-term or final late will have 25 points deducted from their exam score.

**Students will not be allowed any makeups during the class BUT I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester as an alternative. Any make-up of the final examination will result in a 25 point penalty for the exam, unless the student has a documented emergency.**

**Discussion Board Posting Grade:**

All course requirements must be completed no later than the due date for each Brightspace posting. All postings will be done online by logging into the course. Each unit postings must be

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completed within the allotted time. Each unit discussion board question will be found on the Discussion Board Link. If, for any reason, you are unable to complete a discussion board posting online and on time, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Arrangements will be made to help post to the board on campus or if the student is unable to come to the MCC campus, at another location.

You will have one discussion board posting for each unit with the exception of Mid-Term and Final Exam week. Students have to post to the discussion board a minimum of two times for each unit. Students are required to post to the original discussion question and post to at least one other student's replies. Remember to read the question closely and answer it completely. **Simply agreeing with another student's posting is not sufficient. Each student must post well thought out replies.**

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

Metrics	Post 1	Reply 1	Quality of Post	Quality of reply 1
Maximum Points Earned	25 points	25 points	25 points	25 points

**Grading Chart:**

**The following grading guidelines will prevail**

90 to 100 = A 80 to 89 = B 70 to 79 = C 60 to 69 = D 0 to 59 = F

[Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:](#)

**Once the discussion board closes for the week no further discussion posts will be**

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**allowed or graded.** Any make-up of the mid-term or final examination will result in a 25 point penalty for the exam unless the student has a documented medical emergency.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum 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.

Since this is an on-line class most of the interaction between students will occur during the discussion board. Students are required to be respectful of one another during the discussion and inappropriate comments will result in disciplinary action including loss of points on the assignment.

[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

### **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.

**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).

**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.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/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.

**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.

**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.