

**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\_F1**

**DENNIS A. STAPLETON**

**NOTE: This is an 8-week On-Line 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 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 students read the assigned chapters and view the material posted on D2L Brightspace prior to beginning the Discussion Board assignments and the Quizzes. It is recommended that students check for new Announcements each day. 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](mailto:dstapleton@mclennan.edu)  
Office Telephone Number: 254.299.6524  
Office Location: ESEC 228

Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

Call for an appointment.

Monday and Wednesday: 9:30AM to 11:00AM  
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00AM to 9:15AM and 11:15AM to Noon

By appointment upon request via email. During the COVID-19 pandemic, conferences will be conducted via ZOOM. The professor does have office visits; a face covering may be required. Other Instruction Information: Advising by appointment only call 254.299.6502 to make an appointment.

- I will not respond to any voice mail, email or message after 9:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m. I am not available on Sunday mornings before noon. Please do not attempt to contact me during these hours. I will respond at my earliest availability.
- I *do not* use the D2L Brightspace Instant messenger.
- Email is the best communication method. I do monitor email via my cell phone, so this is the PREFERRED communication method.

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

1. Title: Texas Criminal & Traffic Law manual 2021-2023
2. ISBN: 9781637291481
3. Author: Texas
4. Publisher: Blue 360 Media
5. Formats: PAPERBACK
6. MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Course will be 100% internet based. Students will be required to take quizzes over selected sections in the textbook. They will be required to post to assigned questions by using the discussion board in the course and post two responses to other students posting. The mid-term and final exam are completed using the D2L Brightspace platform. Videos may be assigned for viewing during the semester. The student must have a working knowledge of the D2L Brightspace platform. Within the on-line course, you will have access to an MCC internet link to learn D2L Brightspace. Students are encouraged to use the “Mozilla Firefox” as their web browser.

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

**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

## Fundamentals of Criminal Law

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criminal law. This course covers TEXAS law.

Since the course is totally constructed around online participation, the student should have knowledge of using a Web browser (Firefox), computer, and e-mail: 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.

### **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:**

Week #1 Introduction and course overview Coffeehouse Discussion Board and Information quiz and Unit 1-2 Texas Penal Code

Week #2 Unit 3 and 4 Texas Penal Code

Week #3 Unit 5 and 6 Texas Penal Code

Week #4 Unit 7 and 8 Texas Penal Code

Week #5 Unit 9 Texas Penal Code and Mid-Term Examination

Week #6 Unit 10 and 11 Code of Criminal Procedure

Week #7 Unit 12 and 13 Code of Criminal Procedure and Final Examination

Discussion Board/Quizzes/Exams are completed in the D2L Brightspace platform. Final grades are submitted by Noon the Wednesday after the final examination.

Check the document titled “Course Schedule” located in the “Content” Tab. Although each UNIT has specific OPEN and CLOSE dates, within each UNIT there are defined DUE dates for the Discussion Board and Quizzes. Basically, Discussion Board and Quizzes occur each week throughout the semester. It is important you adhere to the DUE dates for the assignments. Discussion Board Assignments and Quizzes all close at 11:55 P.M. on Tuesday. The mid-term and final exams have a date range.

### **Course Grading Information:**

- A. 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), and at the same time (you cannot save and come back to finish). The deadline for submitting each exam will be found in the course unit.

B. Grading Assignments

1. You will have several quizzes and the average of the quiz grades will comprise 25% of your final grade.
2. The Mid-term and Final Examinations will each count 25% of your final grade for a total of 50%.
3. 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.
4. If a student does not complete the quiz and discussion during the required time he or she will receive a zero (0).

If a student gets locked out of an exam

- The student must send the instructor a course message in the communication link explaining why they were locked out of the exam. For quicker response though, I suggest sending me an email to [dstapleton@mclennan.edu](mailto:dstapleton@mclennan.edu)
- I will only unlock one assignment exam or quiz for a student during the semester. (Please do not ask a second time).

**Discussion Board Posting Grade (see also the Rubric noted below):**

Discussion Board assignments are in the D2L Brightspace course under the Discussion tab and under the Content tab for each Unit.

All course requirements must be completed no later than the due date (close date/time) for each Discussion Board Assignment. All postings will be done online by logging into the course. Each assignment must be completed within the allotted time. Assignments have an open and close date/time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that these assignments are completed during the open timeframe. If the student failed to complete the Discussion Board assignment, the student will receive a ZERO.

*Number of Discussion Board Assignments: one Coffeehouse Discussion Board Assignment and selected Chapter Discussion Board assignments.*

- *Students are required to post to the original discussion question and post to no less than two (2) other student's replies. Remember to read the question closely and answer it completely. Grading is based on how well the student explains their response. I require substance for better grades. In other words, more is better. Short responses gain lower grades.*
- *Hint: Each student must post well-thought out and supported posts. It is considered a violation of academic integrity to copy another student's discussion*

*board post and then post it to the discussion board. Substance and following the directions is important in the grading aspect.*

- *Hint: One, two and/or three sentences on a post are not considered acceptable for a “B” or “A” grade.*
- *Hint: use the textbook is paramount to Discussion Board assignments. Note page numbers when directed in the assignment. Failure to note page numbers will gain a lower grade for not following instructions. If a video was provided, making note of the information from the video will gain higher grades.*
- *Hint: Higher grades are also given to students who post and reply post **early**. Those who wait until the due date/time will receive a lower grade because by waiting you penalize those who work ahead by not allowing all students the opportunity to complete the assignment. Be mindful of your fellow classmates, even though this is an on-line course.*
- *Reply posts: Simply agreeing with another student's posting is not sufficient. Substance in reply posts are also considered for the overall grade.*
- *Hint: At the beginning of the semester, I leave comments with your grade. Read those comments for clues as to how to improve your grade. If you disregard those comments, expect your grade to continue the downward spiral.*

### **Netiquette:**

One of the shortcomings of an all text-based medium is the lack of facial expressions, body gestures, and tone of voice (nonverbal communication) that we all rely on to impart meaning into the words we speak. Emoticons are a poor substitute. Try to remember that others may read your messages with a different tone than in which you wrote them. Also remember that a message may have been intended to have a different tone than the one you have read into it.

Always try to resolve disputes about the appropriateness of a post within the discussion forum. Keep such posts as neutral as possible; ask for clarification on a messages intention and meaning. If you are uncomfortable confronting a fellow student in such a manner, you may e-mail me directly and me alone. Do not email the fellow student directly, especially without a CC: to me. If you do not feel comfortable coming to me then talk with your coordinator.

I do not tolerate “flame wars.” I will remove any abusive and inappropriate posts. Such postings will not count toward attendance. Under certain circumstances a more formal inquiry and/or administrative action may be warranted.

### Discussion Board Rubric

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. One and two sentence posts will get you a lower grade.

<b>Metrics</b>	<b>Post 1</b>	<b>Reply 1</b>	<b>Reply 2</b>	<b>Quality of Post</b>	<b>Quality of Reply 1</b>	<b>Quality of Reply 2</b>
<b>Maximum Points Earned</b>	<b>25 Points</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>25 Points</b>	<b>15 Points</b>	<b>15 Points</b>

*Posting the evening the assignment closes will always gain lower grades. The closer to the close time, the lower the grade. Please note the following:*

- *Posting between 8:00PM and 9:00PM on the close date/time, will gain no better than a "B"*
- *Posting between 9:00PM and 10:00PM on the close date/time will gain not better than a "C".*
- *Posting between 10:00PM and 11:55PM on the close date/time will gain a "D" at best.*
- *The grade could be lower if there is no substance, and if the student did not reply to two other students.*
- *Two reply posts are required. Substance in reply posts is also important.*

### **GRADING:**

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

100 - 90 = A    69 - 60 = D

89 - 80 = B    59 - 0 = 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).

**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 breeches of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

A student's dress or personal hygiene shall be considered unacceptable if it inhibits or interferes with the educational responsibility of the college community or if it disrupts the administrative functions of the college, including social-educational activities.

**\* [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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Updated 11/04/2022



## **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-  
2998122  
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, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/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 from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am - 5:00 pm on Friday. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom (<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998500>) or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) during the above mentioned times.

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).

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<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).

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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).

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method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

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