

**MIDLAND COLLEGE
SYLLABUS
SEMESTER AND YEAR
CRIJ 1310
Fundamentals of Criminal Law
CORE CURRICULUM COURSE**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the nature of criminal law. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to: discuss the nature of criminal law, including the historical and philosophical developments of substantive and procedural law; be able to define terms of law and concepts that accompany them; discuss the classifications of crime; discuss and relate the elements of and defenses to crimes and the penalties attached thereto according to Texas law; and discuss the criminal responsibilities of persons. This course will focus on criminal law, using the current Texas Penal Code as illustrative of an operating penal code.

TEXT – REQUIRED: current required textbook information

COURSE GOALS / OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify the elements of crimes and defenses under Texas statutes, Model Penal Code, and case law.
- classify offenses and articulate penalties for various crimes.
- compare culpable mental states when assigning criminal responsibility.
- assess the impact of history and philosophy on current criminal laws.
- evaluate the application of criminal law to other areas of criminal justice such as law enforcement and corrections.

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

STUDENTS MUST DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO LEARNING WHILE IN COLLEGE. YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE SYLLABUS, READ EACH CHAPTER BEFORE IT IS DISCUSSED IN CLASS, AND USE EFFECTIVE STUDY TECHNIQUES (E.G. NOTE TAKING, OUTLINING THE TEXT, FLASH CARDS; STUDY GROUPS) TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. ADDITIONAL TIME IS REQUIRED FOR PREPARING FOR EXAMINATIONS AND COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS. ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT IN ALL CLASSES; A GRADE IS GIVEN FOR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ASK QUESTIONS AND, IF NECESSARY, MEET WITH THE INSTRUCTOR DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR ADDITIONAL HELP.

PORTABLE CELLULAR PHONES, BEEPERS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES ARE DISRUPTIVE TO THE CLASS, AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO BRING THEM INTO THE CLASSROOM. IF YOU DO BRING THEM TO CLASS, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE TURNED OFF. SHOULD THEY BECOME A NUISANCE, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE CLASSROOM. YOU MAY BRING BEVERAGES INTO THE CLASSROOM, BUT MAY NOT EAT DURING CLASS OR WEAR HATS IN THE CLASSROOM. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON TIME, AND

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REMAIN IN CLASS UNTIL THE END. COMING LATE AND LEAVING EARLY WILL AFFECT YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE.

STUDENTS MISSING A MAJOR EXAMINATION MUST MAKE UP THE EXAMINATION BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS. MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS MAY BE THE SAME AS, OR DIFFERENT FROM, THE EXAMINATION GIVEN IN CLASS. MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL COVER THE SAME MATERIAL AS THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION. FAILURE TO MAKE UP AN EXAMINATION WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE MISSED EXAM. STUDENTS MISSING CLASS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT WHAT WAS MISSED AND GETTING THE NOTES FROM ANOTHER STUDENT. THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO GIVE QUIZZES, ANNOUNCED OR UNANNOUNCED, AT ANY TIME. THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP QUIZZES THAT ARE MISSED. FINAL EXAMS ARE NOT GIVEN EARLY OR LATE.

FOR ONLINE COURSES, STUDENTS MUST ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE BY COMPLETING AN ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENT BY THE OFFICIAL CENSUS DATE. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT DO SO, WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE.

NOTICE: THE INSTRUCTOR CANNOT DROP STUDENTS WHO STOP ATTENDING OR HAVE AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF ABSENCES. MISSED WORK WILL BE GRADED AS ZERO AND AVERAGED INTO THE FINAL GRADE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP A CLASS IF YOU NO LONGER PLAN TO ATTEND AND COMPLETE THE SEMESTER. CHECK THE MIDLAND COLLEGE CATALOG FOR LAST DAY TO DROP.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

Major examinations	50% of semester grade
Quizzes* (cumulative score)	20% of semester grade
Writing assignment	20% of semester grade
Class attendance and participation	10% of semester grade

COURSE SCHEDULE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COURSE SCHEDULE, PLEASE REFERENCE CANVAS. STUDENTS WILL ALSO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS IN CANVAS.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit [Midland College Accommodation Services](#) and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

Student Grievances and Appeals

The goal of Midland College is to help students achieve their educational goals. Students have certain rights and responsibilities, [Student Rights & Responsibilities section of the Midland College catalog](#).

Non-Discrimination Statement

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program and activities. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Tana Baker

Title IX/504 Coordinator and Compliance Officer
3600 N. Garfield, SSC 242
Midland, TX 79705
(432) 685-4781
tbaker@midland.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the [Office of Civil Rights website](#) for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.