Course Description:
This course will provide students with an overview of the principles, practices, and procedures of the criminal justice system in the U.S. applying Legal, criminological, social, and historical perspectives on the criminal justice system. This course will also introduce students to the components of the criminal justice system: police/law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Each of the components will be examined for its structure, contributions, and relations with other components.

Learning Objectives:
At the end of this course, students will be able to explain:
1. Formation and structure of the criminal justice system in America.
3. Organization of the police department and various types of policing.
4. Pretrial and trial procedures in the court system, and current issues about punishment and sentencing.
5. Various forms of the current correctional process and types of correctional facilities.

Required Textbook:

Students can order a print and/or an electronic copy of the textbook through the following link: 

Grading Policies:
Your final grade will be based on the sum of the scores of your four (4) exams (300 points; 75 points each), and four (4) discussion boards (200 points; 50 points each). **Note that your final grades are NOT negotiable.**
Exams: 300 points (75 points each * 4 exams)
Discussion Boards: 200 points (50 points each * 4 discussion boards)

Total: 500 points

A: 500-450 points
B: 449.99-400 points
C: 399.99-350 points
D: 349.99-300 points
F: below 299.99 points

**Exams:**
One exam will be given for each module. Since this course consists of four modules, students will take four (4) exams total during the semester. All the materials in a module will be covered in the exam for that module and will include 30 questions with multiple choice and true/false questions.

Since time restrictions will apply to all four exams, students must have a stable internet connection and complete the exam in 60 minutes. If you do not have a stable connection, there are computer labs on campus that you may use. No excuses made for internet disconnection will be accepted.

**Discussion Boards:**
Discussion boards are designed to be critical thinking activities. Four (4) discussion boards will be given to students during the semester. Students are expected to read a discussion question assigned in each module and post their discussions as their own responses to the question. Students are also required to reply to two (2) other student posts. Note that you must post your original response before you will be able to see other classmates’ posts.

To earn full credit, you are expected to support your opinion with textbook readings and other academic sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles, research reports, presentation proceedings, or etc. Avoid including your personal anecdotes irrelevant to a discussion topic in your post as well as regurgitation of course materials. Your post should indicate that you read assigned materials thoroughly and engaged thoughtfully with the relevant and reliable materials by answering discussion questions. In addition, a word minimum will be applied to both your original post (more than 300 words) and your response to other students’ posts (more than 100 words each). Students should also be courteous when they reply to other classmates’ posts.
**Extra Credit:**
Students will have opportunities to earn extra credit. Students will earn extra credit once they complete self-introduction and course evaluation (10 points each).

**Important Notes for Your Success in Passing this Course:**
1. Do not simply rely on the power point lecture (summary) slides. Students are required to read all the chapters assigned in this course thoroughly and understand/memorize key terms and concepts to earn good grades on exams as well as discussion boards.
2. Students are encouraged to ask questions if they have any questions or concerns about the course. The best way to contact me is email. I will respond to students’ emails within 24 hours unless they are irrelevant to the course or written in a rude/aggressive manner. Emails received after 6pm will be responded to the following day.
3. No make-up exams/discussion boards will be given to students except in the case of emergency situations that can be proven by proper documentation (e.g., death of immediate family, admission to a hospital, etc.). Thus, please be aware of and keep up with the course schedule in the syllabus.

**Syllabus Subject to Change:**
This syllabus is subject to change. If some changes are needed, I will immediately announce them and post a revised syllabus on Blackboard.

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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| Module 1         | Chapter 1: Crime and Criminal Justice  
                      Chapter 2: The Nature of Crime and Victimization  
                      Chapter 3: Criminal Law: Substance and Procedure  
                      ■ Extra Credit “Introduce Yourself” due July 20 at 11:59pm  
                      ■ Discussion Board due July 20 at 11:59pm  
                      ■ Exam due July 20 at 11:59pm |
| July 12 – July 20|                                                                                         |
| Module 2         | Chapter 4: Police in Society: History and Organization  
                      Chapter 5: The Police: Role and Function  
                      Chapter 6: Issues in Policing: Professional, Social, and Legal  
                      ■ Discussion Board due July 29 at 11:59pm  
                      ■ Exam due July 29 at 11:59pm |
| July 21 – July 29|                                                                                         |
| Module 3 | Chapter 7: Courts, Prosecution, and the Defense  
|          | Chapter 8: Pretrial and Trial Procedures  
|          | Chapter 9: Punishment and Sentencing  
| July 30 – August 7 | ■ Discussion Board due August 7 at 11:59pm  
|          | ■ Exam due August 7 at 11:59pm  
| Module 4 | Chapter 10: Community Sentences: Probation, Intermediate Sanctions, and Restorative Justice  
|          | Chapter 11: Corrections: History, Institutions, and Populations  
|          | Chapter 12: Prison Life: Living in and Leaving Prison  
| August 8 – August 16 | ■ Discussion Board due August 16 at 11:59pm  
|          | ■ Exam due August 16 at 11:59pm  

**Students with Disabilities:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account [http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

| Summer II 2018 | August 9 – August 16 |

**Scholastic Integrity:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility
of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course Drops:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Student Services:**

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising
Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)