CRIME IN AMERICA (CRIJ 1307)  
SYLLABUS  
SCH: 3 LECTURE / 0 LAB

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course discusses American crime problems in historical perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime.

TEXT AND SUPPLIES:  

Reference materials used by instructor may include:  

Supplies: Students will bring notebooks, pens, pencils, and Scantron® sheets for examinations to class. It is suggested that students purchase several Scantron® sheets, both objective-type and essay-type, at the beginning of the semester, and have them available during class, in the event an unannounced quiz is given.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:  
Specific instructions for preparing and submitting required assignments will be provided when the writing assignment(s) are made. Writing papers is an integral part of your learning and preparation for a career in criminal justice. Follow these instructions carefully. If you are unsure of yourself, and have questions, contact your instructor.

COURSE GOALS/ OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
- define criminology, law, crime, tort, organized crime, various sex offenses, and other terms relevant to this course;
- explain the Uniform Crime Report and identify the eight index crimes in the United States;
- relate the importance of studying crime to understanding police work and reducing and controlling crime;
- explain crime as human behavior;
- discuss the relationship between crime and the economy;
- discuss the effect of reinforcements on criminal behavior;
- explain various theories of crime, including labeling and secondary deviance, differential association, victim precipitation, conflict theories, and others addressed in class;
- Identify, discuss and explain certain predictors of future criminal behavior;
- explain concept of being victim-prone;
- explain factors associated with violent and property crime;
- discuss family violence as a law enforcement problem.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLASS POLICIES

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.

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 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.

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.
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor  Brian Kneisley
Office      174 Technical Building
Telephone   (432) 685-4685
E-mail      Division Social/Behavioral Science and Business Studies (685-6830)

Office Hours: Subject to change each semester, office hours are posted and announced in class.

ADA Statement: Any student who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the Counselor/Disability Specialist at 432-685-5598 as soon as possible. The Counselor/Disability Specialist is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.