

# Economics of Crime - Spring 2015 - Economics 3302-001 (1/14/15)

Sec. 001 = 8-8:50am MWF Class Location: 241B

**Instructor: Ronnie Liggett, MBA, CPA**

Office: Room 318 of Business Bldg.

Office Hrs: 11-12 MWF, and by appointment.

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**Course Prerequisites:** Econ 2306 or consent of instructor.

## **Required Material:**

1. The Economics of Criminal Behavior: A Survey of Selected Topics – Liggett, Revised 1<sup>ST</sup> Ed.  
(Textbook is available thru bookstore, and also online from Cognella Publishing – [see Blackboard for more information](#))
2. Blackboard Readings, Blogs, and other Postings

**Attendance:** Roll will be taken at each class. Students are expected to attend. A seating chart will be used. If you regularly miss class, I will assume that the class is not very important to you. Strong attendance may be used in borderline grade situations at the discretion of the instructor.

**Testing:** All students are expected to take the tests at the assigned time. Test format will generally be a combination of multiple choice and/or short answer. In addition, some graphing will be required. If for some reason you must miss the test, you should notify me beforehand. Makeup tests are for extenuating circumstances only. For example, serious illness or death in the family, etc. **Makeup tests will be given at the end of the semester and may be all essay.**

Grading:	Tentative Test Date-001	
Test 1 – 100pts	Feb 20	Test format will include short answer, T-F, MC, and problem solving. In addition, some graphing will be required. Scantrons will be needed-style 882E.
Test 2 – 100pts	Mar 30	
Final – 120pts	May 15 – 8am	
Quizzes – 30+ pts		

**Quizzes:** 10 point “pop quizzes” may be given during the semester over our material and assigned readings. Approximately 5-7 quizzes may be given. The two lowest scores will be dropped. **NO MAKE-UPS FOR THESE QUIZZES!**

**Grading Scale:** A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = Below 60

**Class Format and Goal:** Much of the core material will be presented by the instructor in a lecture format. Additionally, power points or other class visual aids may be used. Therefore, attendance is obviously important. **If you miss class, you are still responsible for what is said in class! If you miss class you should arrange to get notes from another student.** The goal of this course is to provide an economic analysis and understanding of issues related to different areas of crime. Included is the study of the allocation of scarce resources in the prevention of crime. In addition, this course will apply various economic principles into the criminal justice arena under the premise that criminal behavior reduces the effectiveness of the capitalistic system. **Please Note:** We will attempt to stay with an organized schedule as much as possible. However, there may be times we depart from structure and address relevant and/or current issues. These may be economic, social or political.

**Class Discussions:** At various times we will discuss assigned articles, outside readings, or other class topics. Please show respect for your fellow classmates at all times, and avoid soapboxes.

**Disclaimer Regarding Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The student will be able to explain and discuss the course content as noted in the course and subject outline and demonstrate their knowledge of course material through examinations, quizzes, and class discussions.

**Extra Credit:** Generally there is no formal extra credit. On occasion I might give a pure extra credit quiz, or some other assignment. These are unannounced and might occur at anytime. **There is NO MAKE-UP should you miss these.**

Below is a tentative list of topics / material which I anticipate covering. Additional notes/topics may also be presented. This list is subject to change.

Section 1 – Test #1	Section 2 – Test #2	Section 3 – Final
1. Principles Review 2. Section 1 - Textbook 3. Cost/Benefit-Criminal 4. Utility Theory 5. Macro Impact 6. Other Notes, etc.	1. Section 2 – Textbook 2. Marxian Theory 3. Other Notes, etc.	1. Section 3 – Textbook 2. Organized Crime 3. Other Notes, etc.
Additional information and/or current events may be added.	Additional information and/or current events may be added.	Additional information and/or current events may be added.

**Important Dates:**

- Jan 19 – MLK Holiday
- Jan 21 – First Class Day for MWF
- Mar 9-13 – Spring Break – No Classes
- Mar 16-20 – Business Week
- Apr 3 – Last Drop Date for Undergraduate Students
- May 8 – Last Class Day Before Final Exam Week

**PLAIN CALCULATORS ONLY!** – No text devices to be used during tests for any purpose, i.e. – pagers, cell phones, etc...

**Make-up Exam Policy:** All students are expected to take the tests at the assigned time (**not early or late**). If for some reason you must miss a test, **you should notify me beforehand**. Make-up tests are for extenuating circumstances only. If a make-up is approved by the instructor, it may be given **AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER DURING THE WEEK BEFORE FINAL EXAMS AND MAY CONSIST OF ESSAY QUESTIONS**.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my attendance policy is as follows: Attendance will be taken for this course. Students are expected to attend and participate in discussions. A seating chart will be used. If you regularly miss class, I will assume that the class is not very important to you. There will be a significant amount of material provided through **lecture notes** during class; on occasion your textbook will also be used in class. **NO TEXTING DURING CLASS**.

**Laptop Computer:** Any laptops brought to class are to be used strictly for this class. I reserve the right to ask that laptops be turned off if there is any abuse in this area, i.e., surfing the web during class, shopping, e-mailing, etc.

**E-Mail:** E-Mail is to be used for academic purposes. Do not use e-mail to forward jokes or political views. Any harassing or profane e-mail will be reported to campus authorities and is subject to disciplinary action.

**Grade Grievances:** You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. The normal academic channels are department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. **NO DROPS AFTER DROP DATE!**

**College Policy:** Students who have not paid by the census date and are dropped for non-payment cannot receive a grade for the course in any circumstances. Therefore, a student dropped for non-payment who continues to attend the course will not receive a grade for the course. Emergency loans are available to help students pay tuition and fees. Students can apply for emergency loans by going to the Emergency Tuition Loan Distribution Center at E.H. Hereford University Center (near the southwest entrance).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

**Academic Integrity continued...**

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Food and Drink in Classrooms:** College policy prohibits food and/or drinks in classrooms and labs. Anyone bringing food and/or drinks into a classroom or lab will be required to remove such items, as directed by the class instructor or lab supervisor.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication Policy:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Bomb Threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. Note there are multiple exits from the first floor in close proximity to our room on the south, east, and west sides of the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**EVACUATION FOR DISABLED PERSONS:** For 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and above, please go to the Northeast fire stairs. An evacu track chair is located on the 6th floor stairwell. Employees trained in the use of this chair will go to the 6th floor and bring the chair to any lower floor stairwell to assist disabled persons.

**PLEASE RE-READ LAPTOP POLICY – STUDENTS NOT ADHERING TO THIS POLICY MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLASS.**