

Luis Armando Arias

**Department of Criminal Justice and Security
Studies** University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)
Education Building, Room 111
500 West University Avenue, El Paso, TX 79968
☎ (915) 747-5532 | ✉ larias2@utep.edu



Teaching Statement

I am a dedicated educator committed to fostering critical thinking, civic responsibility, and career readiness in students pursuing criminal justice. My teaching philosophy emphasizes real-world application, interdisciplinary and international collaboration, and inclusive pedagogy tailored to UTEP's predominantly Hispanic and binational student population. I strive to integrate innovative methods, including Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) collaborations and multimedia instruction, to enhance student engagement. I value mentorship, community partnerships, and experiential learning, and I actively pursue professional development to remain responsive to the evolving landscape of higher education and criminal justice.

Education

- **Doctor of Law (J.D.)**
Thomas Jefferson School of Law / College of Law of San Diego, CA — 1981
- **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**
University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) — 1977

Relevant Academic and Professional Work Experience

Assistant Professor of Practice

*Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies, UTEP
El Paso, TX | 2020–Present*

- Teach large and small lecture courses in fundamentals of criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, court systems and practices, immigration law, and crime, criminal justice, and film/media studies in justice.
- Develop and implement case study–based video content in coordination with UTEP Academic Technology.

- Created and coordinated since 2018 a student Criminal Justice Mentor/Mentee program.
- Engage students through guest lectures from federal and state agencies, including the FBI, DOJ, US Attorney's and Border Patrol.
- Certified Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) instructor with collaborative teaching partnerships in Mexico.
- Active contributor to UTEP Criminal Justice Library Guide.

Part-Time Lecturer

El Paso Community College (EPCC)

El Paso, TX | 1984–2011

- Taught face-to-face courses in criminal justice and political science to diverse student populations.
- Co-developed the EPCC Criminal Justice Library Guide with an embedded librarian.
- Contributed to increasing educational attainment aligned with Texas' 60x30TX higher education goals.

Adjunct Faculty Member

UTEP, Various Years Prior to 2020

- Taught introductory and advanced criminal justice courses.
- Integrated interdisciplinary instruction and active learning strategies.

[Link to full-length CV.](#)

Current Teaching Positions

University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Assistant Professor of Practice

Currently teaching undergraduate courses:

- **CRIJ 1310** – Fundamentals of Criminal Law
 - **CRIJ 1306** – Court Systems and Practices
 - **CRIJ 4303** – Crime, Criminal Justice, and Film
 - **CRIJ 4311** – Immigration Law and Administration
 - **CRIJ 4312** – Criminal Procedure
 - **CRIJ 4300** – Criminal Justice and the US Constitution (Selected Topics)
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Courses Previously Taught

- **CRIJ 2313** – Correctional Systems and Practices
- **CRIJ 3309** – Community-Based Corrections and Correctional Counseling
- **GOVT 2306/2305** – State and Federal Government (Department of Government, UTEP)

- **Graduate Course** – Open Source, Search Engines, and the Internet: The War on Drugs (Intelligence Program/CAE, UTEP)
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Professional Memberships

- Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Liaison
 - Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)
 - COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Network
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Relevant Academic Training and Professional Development

Recent Training and Workshops:

- *Understanding Generations* – EPCC (Dec 19, 2022)
- *Teaching with ACUE* (Oct 26, 2022; ongoing)
- *COIL Workshop* – Universidad Anáhuac Collaboration (Aug 2022; ongoing)
- *UTEP Aware* (Sept 9, 2022)
- *Hy-Flex Academy / Course Design* (Apr & Oct 2021)
- *Exemplary Course Program (ESP)* (Apr 10, 2022)
- *Teaching Online Academy* (May 30, 2020)
- *Cengage Active Learning Techniques* (Aug 23, 2019)
- *Advanced PowerPoint / Technology in the Classroom* (Feb 13, 2019 / Jan 15, 2019)
- *Instructor Retreat* – UTEP (Aug 21, 2018)
- *Culture, Caring, and the Classroom* (Jul 12, 2018)
- *Women in Intelligence Seminar* (Apr 26, 2018)
- *FBI Instructor Development Course* – Certified (1999–2012, 40 hours)

Additional Professional Development Topics:

- Increasing Student Motivation
- Teaching Critical Thinking
- Intelligence in Non-English Speaking Contexts
- Interactive Tools (Top Hat, iClicker)
- Polar Bears: Ice Breaker Techniques
- Classroom Engagement with Technology

Recipient of the 2025 College of Liberal Arts Dr. Ann and Charles Horak III Teaching Excellence Award