

# Court Systems and Practices

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Instructor: Carey Antwine

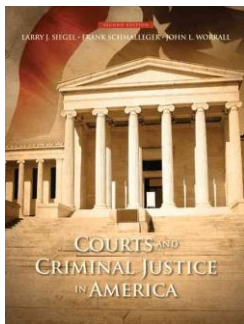
Email: [cathornberry@utep.edu](mailto:cathornberry@utep.edu)

Cell Phone: (915) 630-3138

## Course Objective

Court Systems and Practices provides an overview of the American court system, its participants, and overall effects on the criminal justice system. If one thinks of the criminal justice system as a three step process, the arrest, prosecution, and subsequent punishment, then this course focuses on what happens during the second step, after the arrest and continues through the sentencing phase. Students can expect to learn about federal and state courts and follow a case from its inception to its end. Students will also study and analyze the role(s) that judges, attorneys, and other court participants play within the courts and how those roles affect law enforcement and corrections. Further, students will examine the effect of the courts on the other criminal justice processes in order to predict future outcomes.

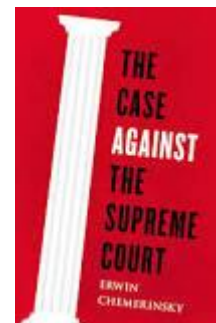
## Required Textbooks



*Courts and Criminal Justice in America*  
by Siegel, L., Schmalleger, F., Worrall, J.



*Crazy:*  
Author: Pete Earle



*The Case Against the Supreme Court*  
by Erwin Chimerensky

## Blackboard Account

It is mandatory that students activate and use their Blackboard accounts. You will be responsible for checking your Blackboard course regularly during the semester for posted announcements, assignment completion, and discussion participation. I am not tech support. Should you have questions or concerns regarding Blackboard or another technology question, you will need to contact tech support.

## Technology Support Help Desk

Phone: 915.747.4357 (HELP)

Email: [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu)

Website: [helpdesk.utep.edu](http://helpdesk.utep.edu).

## Course Participation

As a part of this course, you will be required to complete each module in its entirety. You will complete quizzes, discussion posts, tests, and other assignments within the specified time frame. Each week begins on Monday morning at 12am MST. Each module will close the following Sunday at 11:59pm MST. Be prepared to spend six to ten hours per week completing the requirements for each module.

## Communication Tools

Because this course is 100% online, all communication is through Blackboard and UTEP email; however, if you need to speak to me, please call me or text me, especially if it urgent. The following links will aid in our communication with one another and with your communication with your fellow students:

Announcements: I will post updates and reminders in this forum.

Discussions: This forum houses all required class discussions. You will be required to post your response to the question and to other's responses.

Journals: This forum allows you to post your response so that only your professor sees it and will be used for certain assignments.

UTEP Email: Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have that do NOT involve technology issues.

## Grading Information

Grades in this course will be calculated on a 100 point scale:

- 100-90 points: A
- 89-80 points: B
- 79-75 points: C
- 74-70 points: D
- 69 and below: F

### Quizzes:

- Worth 40% of your final grade
- Most quizzes will have ten (10) questions; however, some may have as many as twenty questions.
- You will have thirty (30) minutes to complete each quiz.

### Discussion/Journal Entries:

- Worth 40% of your final grade
- In order to earn full credit for each post, you will be required to answer each and every component of the question fully and thoughtfully and respond to other posts as directed. Your responses must be substantive and contain textual evidence.
- Responses must be made using complete sentences and proper grammar/spelling. Language commonly used in text messages and in casual speech are not appropriate and will not receive a passing grade.
- You will respect your classmates' opinions. While I encourage you to support your opinion(s) and engage in meaningful discussion and debates, derogatory comments will not be tolerated and may result in a grade of "0" for that discussion.

- Rubric for Discussion Posts

|                                 | Poor  | Needs Improvement   | Average   | Excellent  |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Content and Analysis</b>     | Does not address the topic<br><br><b>30 pts</b>   | Posts some of the assignment with superficial thought and preparation; doesn't address all aspects of the task. Does not incorporate textual evidence, literary or personal references<br><b>40 pts</b> | Post is well developed and addresses most aspects of the task and incorporates some references from the text, literature and personal experience.<br><br><b>53pts</b> | Posts well developed assignment that fully addresses and develops all aspects of the task and uses references to literature, readings, or personal experience to support thesis.<br><br><b>60pts</b> |
| <b>Organization and Grammar</b> | Post is unorganized, lacks clarity, and contains numerous spelling and grammatical errors<br><b>10pts</b> | Post is somewhat unorganized and contains multiple spelling and grammar errors.<br><b>20pts</b>   | Post is clear with minor clarity or mechanics errors.<br><br><b>32pts</b>   | Post is clear, concise and formatted in an easy to read style that is free of grammatical or spelling errors.<br><br><b>40pts</b>  |

Final Exam:

- Worth 20% of your final grade.
- Your final will be comprehensive and be composed of fifty questions for which you will have a two hour time limit.

**Note: It is your responsibility to check your grades. If you do not see a grade for an assignment, that means that your assignment was not received. You will have three days after the a module closes to contact your me regarding the previous week's assignments. If you do not contact me within that time by email, your grade will remain a "0." I do not accept late work. It will be your responsibility to communicate with tech support to recover lost documents.**

Course Calendar

| Event                         | Date       | Notes  |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| Start date                    | 01/17/2017 | Class is open to students in Blackboard  |
| End date                      | 03/05/2017 |  |
| Census date                   | 01/23/2017 | Students may drop a class before Census date without any penalty reflected in their transcript |
| Auto W                        | 02/14/2017 | Last day to withdraw with a "W"  |
| Final exam                    | 03/05/2017 | Final exam must be completed/closed by this date   |
| Date grading window will open | 03/08/2017 |  |
| Final date to post grades     | 03/15/2017 | Last day to post grades in Goldmine  |

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Task</u> | <u>Open date</u>           | <u>Close Date</u>  |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| Week 1      | Module 1    | January 17, 2017, 12:00am  | January 22, 2017, 11:59pm  |
| Week 2      | Module 2    | January 23, 2017, 12:00am  | January 29, 2017, 11:59pm  |
| Week 3      | Module 3    | January 30, 2017, 12:00am  | February 5, 2017, 11:59pm  |
| Week 4      | Module 4    | February 6, 2017, 12:00am  | February 12, 2017, 11:59pm   |
| Week 5      | Module 5    | February 13, 2017, 12:00am | February 19, 2017, 11:59pm   |
| Week 6      | Module 6    | February 20, 2017, 12:00am | February 26, 2017, 11:59pm   |
| Week 7      | Module 7    | February 27, 2017, 12:00am | March 4, 2017, 11:59pm<br><b>(Final must be completed by this time; make sure you give yourself enough time to finish)</b> |

## Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- a) Students who drop a course within the first 2 weeks ***before the "official census date,"*** the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn't count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) Dropping a course ***after the official census date, but before the "course drop date"*** will generate a "W" in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a "W" does not lower your GPA. However, this type of drop counts against your 6 drop limit.
- c) If the course is dropped ***after the "course drop date"*** or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A "W" will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an "F" will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify Carey Antwine at: [cathornberry@utep.edu](mailto:cathornberry@utep.edu) . Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

## Academic Dishonesty

The UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures defines plagiarism as “the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own academic work offered for credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. It is the official policy of the university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students.”

## Disabilities Statement

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to identify yourself. If you need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148 or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass>. CASS’ staff members can validate and authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

## Writing Center

The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

## Technical Requirements and Support

Course content is delivered via the Internet through Blackboard. You must have a UTEP email account, have access to a computer and the internet.

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu).

The University Help Desk Is Located On The 3rd Floor Of The UTEP Library, And Is Your Single Point Of Contact For Any Technology Related Question.

### **UTEP Library Room 300**

Phone: 915.747.4357 (HELP)

Email: [Helpdesk@Utep.Edu](mailto:Helpdesk@Utep.Edu)

### **Regular Semester Hours:**

Monday-Thursday 7:00am - 9:00pm

Friday 7:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

