I. Course Number and Instructor Information

Course: CRIJ 5340 Courts and Sentencing  
CRN: 33570  
Meets: Online - Blackboard  
Semester: June 10, 2024 – August 5, 2024  
Instructor: Juan F. Campos  
Email: jfcampos3@utep.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Prospect Hall, office number 207

Communication

- Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the course, please do not hesitate to email me.

Students will receive feedback in various ways, through the discussion forum, the grade book for exams and a grading rubric for the term paper and discussions. You may E-mail me using the Mail Box in Blackboard, or the virtual instructor’s office in the Discussions forum. I will respond to all student communication to me within 24-48 hours.

Purpose of the Course

- This course introduces America's court system with emphasis on the courthouse "players," and respective roles involved in bringing a case through the court process. The course highlights the pivotal role of the criminal courts but also the court's importance and impact on society as a whole.

Blackboard

- All the course content will be delivered via the UTEP Blackboard course management system. You can view all materials related to this course on Blackboard (except the textbook).
Educational Philosophy

- My philosophy of teaching is based on a belief that learning needs to be student centered and that students need to be equal partners in the learning process. The goal of my teaching is active and cooperative learning. I find that when I can convey my own enthusiasm for the criminal justice profession, it is often contagious enough that students become engaged in the learning process. Through academic research, I encourage students to tackle problems creatively, which helps them to learn to think outside conventional boundaries and to seek the deeper meaning of a concept or finding. These efforts foster personal and intellectual fulfillment. My emphasis is on helping the student to learn, rather than just dispensing knowledge to them. My role involves using my expertise to put the necessary information in the hands of students so they are well equipped to find and answer their own questions.

What you need to first do?

- On week 1, you need to navigate through the system and get familiar with it. Technical problems need to be handled by the Blackboard Support office and tech support.

  1) Look for the learning modules – you will only see Module 1.
  2) Get your book, you will start using it right away.
  3) In the discussions forum, introduce yourself and begin meeting others in the class. This is your first graded assignment.

II. Course Objectives

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand how the courts are related to the other components of the criminal justice system.
- Understand the historical evolution of the state federal courts into their present structure and operations.
- Understand why discretion is found in the criminal courts.
- Understand the characteristics of defense attorneys and prosecutors in the United States.
- Understand the role of the judge within the courtroom work group.
- Understand the reasons why the process of discovery exists in both civil and criminal cases, but is significantly curtailed in the latter.
- Understand the three major factors influencing bargaining and discretion.
- Understand the steps in a criminal trial
Text and Materials

- Required text:


III. Academic Requirements (Course requirements conform with UTEP Policies):

**Course Requirements**

**Point Value Summary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity or Assignment</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam (Cumulative)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussion Questions (10)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (4)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Case Analysis Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentary Reflection Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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IV. Evaluation Methods

- **Exam (100 points)**
  - Students will be given a written examination to measure their understanding of the course content. Written essay exam is cumulative and valued at 100 points. Exam must be taken on the date of the scheduled exam.
  - Late submissions will not be accepted and will result in zero points.

- **Weekly Blackboard Discussion Questions (100 points)**
  - During this course, you will have an Introduction Group Discussion in the first week (graded assignment) and 9 Unit discussion questions (between weeks 2 - 8) to answer in the Blackboard Discussion Board. You will be required to respond substantively to the question(s), and respond substantively to one other per discussion question within the discussion forum as well. This will require a minimum of two substantive posts for each unit discussion (one original post and one response posts per discussion question). Among your two substantive posts, you must post within the forum on at least two days. You will not see other student posts until you have responded first to the discussion question. I encourage you to post your original response early, and more than just the bare minimum. The instructor will remain active in discussion board. **Look out for follow-up questions to posts from instructor.**
  - Each weekly discussion will be worth up to 10 points. Your collaborative group discussions are theoretical in nature and mostly related to the issues to be covered in the textbook and/or article reading assignments. Please note that both quantity and quality are important considerations when it comes to participation, and substantive posts need to move the discussion forward. For example, a message that restates the post to which you respond, or that essentially says, "I agree," does not constitute participation because it does not add anything new of substance to the discussion. Likewise, off-topic posts do not constitute participation because they do not relate to the original discussion. Discussion posts need to have a ‘meaty’ combination of your insights on the topics and objectives, specific examples from your experience, and support from the course readings or other scholarly sources. Think of substantive like a formula: **Your Insight + Example from your Experience + Support = Substantive.**
o Students must provide in-text citations in your ORIGINAL POST to support their views/perspectives and provide a full reference at the end of the original post. In-text citations or reference are not required but encouraged in PEER RESPONSES.

o Discussion Board Rules: All of your discussion posts must be substantive. Substantive posts provide your educated opinion based on what you have read and when appropriate, personal experiences combined. Non-substantive posts are passing comments, or a repeat of what another student said. Substantive posts bring new information into the discussion allowing for others to respond to you as well. Discussions are to be collaborative where all of you are educating each other on the topic.

o All module discussions will be open for one week (SUN-SAT midnight), with the exception of the first week as the course begins on Monday June 10, 2024. Since discussions are used as a gauge of one’s participation and attendance, there are no make ups for prior unit’s missed discussions. Please do not notify me that you did not know or were mistaken. Print the syllabus and keep it next to your computer if you need to.

o Late submissions will not be accepted and will result in zero points.

- **Assignments (100 points)**

  o Students are required to complete four assignments. Assignments are worth 25 points each for total of 100 points. Students shall follow instructions outlined in each assignment. Assignments and instructions are located in the Assignment link in blackboard. See syllabus calendar for due dates.

  o I will not accept a late assignments and late submissions will result in zero points.

- **Group Case Analysis Presentation (100 points)**

  o Students will participate in a case study group presentation. Case studies and groups shall be assigned by the instructor.

  o Groups will be required to submit a Powerpoint slide presentation, with audio component. Group presentation will be due by July 27, 2024.

  **What are the group members expected to do?** Within each group setting, members will work to divide the work that will be necessary to
prepare a 8-10 slide deck that addresses all issues addressed below. Each team member shall participate in respective powerpoint slides. It is expected that team members will need to participate in a review of the literature on the assigned case study. All sources must be appropriately cited pursuant to APA with a final slide that will serve as References page for the presentation.

**What will be the final product:** Each group will work together to develop a PPT presentation with an audio lecture (no more than 10 to 15 minutes in length).

- Case study guidelines are found in the Group Case Analysis Presentation link.
- I will not accept a late assignments and late submissions will result in zero points.

**Documentary Reflection Paper (100 points)**

- Students are required to complete a documentary reflection paper. Assignment is worth 100 points. Documentary and assignment instructions can be viewed in the Documentary Reflection Paper link in blackboard.

- You will submit the paper via blackboard by attaching it as a Microsoft Word file. The paper will be no less than six (6) pages long (not including title page and reference page) and have a minimum of 6 academic quality references. Your paper is due by August 3, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (See syllabus calendar). You will submit the essay via blackboard by attaching it as a Microsoft Word file. I will not accept any late papers. After the due date, the submission link will close. I encourage you to turn it in early. Do not email it to me, or submit it in any other manner as required.

- Review grading rubrics in the grading rubrics link.
- I will not accept a late assignments and late submissions will result in zero points.
• Grading Scale

The grading scale is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450-500</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-449</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>350-399</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>300-349</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-299</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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• The University Writing Center: The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC’s website (uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 p.m., Fr 9:00-2:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00-5:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins. Visit the UWC’s website to learn more about the services they provide, or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

• Technical Assistance: The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at http://issweb.utep.edu/techsupport/.

V. Instructor’s Policies

a. Withdrawal Procedures

- It is the student’s sole responsibility to withdraw from the course. I will award an “F” for those who do not attend, nor drop the course. See the school catalog for policies and procedures.

b. Academic Honesty
Students are expected to conduct themselves in blackboard in a manner that does not violate the UTEP Code of Conduct. Acts in violation of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should beware of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, making false statements and collusion.

"Plagiarism" is defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work. This course may utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.

"Collusion" is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:
   a. Copying from another student's test paper.
   b. Using test materials not authorized by the teacher.
   c. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test.
   d. Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting, in whole in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
   e. Bringing another person to obtain an unadministered test.

Turning in someone else's work as your own constitutes academic dishonesty. A grade of zero (0) will be assigned on any assignment/test found to be obtained under any of the items listed above in numbers 1-5.

c. Student Accommodations Statements

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) http://sa.utep.edu/cass/ . You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you may have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at The University of Texas at El Paso.
d. UTEP 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.

1. Students who drop a course before the “official census date,” the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn’t count toward the 6-course drop limit.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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. Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.
VI. Classroom Calendar

**NOTE:** *Each week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.* Discussions, assignments are open on Sundays (11:59 pm) and close on Saturdays (11:59 pm). Exam (cumulative) is due Monday August 5, 2024 (11:59 pm).

Weekly Classroom Activities and Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/Week 1 JUN 10 – JUN 15 (MON-SAT)</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Intro Group Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/Week 2 JUN 16 – JUN 22 (SUN – SAT)</td>
<td>Chapter 2 and Chapter 3</td>
<td>Group Discussion 1 Assignment 1 (Due SAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/Week 3 JUN 23 – JUN 29 SUN – SAT</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Group Discussion 2 Assignment 2 (Due SAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/Week 4 JUN 30 – JUL 6 SUN – SAT</td>
<td>Chapter 6 and Chapter 7</td>
<td>Group Discussion 3 Group Discussion 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/Week 5 JUL 7 – JUL 13 SUN – SAT</td>
<td>Chapter 8 and Chapter 9</td>
<td>Group Discussion 5 Group Discussion 6 Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6    | JUL 14 – JUL 20 | Chapter 10 and Chapter 11  
Group Discussion 7  
(Due SAT) |
| 7    | JUL 21 – JUL 27 | Chapter 12 and Chapter 13  
Group Discussion 8  
Group Case Analysis Presentation  
(Due SAT) |
| 8    | JUL 28 – AUG 3 | Chapter 14 and Chapter 15  
Group Discussion 9  
Assignment 4  
Documentary Analysis Paper  
(Due SAT) |
| 9    | AUG 4 – AUG 5 | Exam 1  
(Due MON) |