

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT
EL PASO
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course #: **CJ 1306:** Courts Systems and Practices (3-0) Focuses on the role of the courts in the administration of criminal justice, with special attention to legal processing of criminal defendants. Topics include the structure of the American courts, due process, right to counsel, pre-trial release, plea-bargaining, trial proceedings, and sentencing.

Course Title: **COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES**

Course CRN: 13698

Term: FALL 2016

Course Meeting Time: Monday 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Location: LART Bldg 319

Instructor: Luis A. Arias, BA, JD

Office Location: LART Room 116

Contact Info: Phone # 915.747.7943
Larias2@utep.edu
Fax # 915.747.5751
Emergency Contact 915.218.8103

Office Hrs: 5:00 pm – 5:50 pm Monday

Textbook(s), Materials: Required: Siegel, Larry J., Schmalleger, Frank, and Worrall, John L., Courts and Criminal Justice in America, Boston, Prentice Hall, 2015, Second Edition. Available at UTEP Bookstore.

Suggested: Internet and current news articles

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):

During the course of the class, the students will be able to identify, understand, articulate and apply the following concepts and models:

- The foundation of the American legal criminal justice system, i.e. the American Constitution, Common Law, and, case law;
- The three level court system in the United States federal form of government;
- The players and their roles in the courts and criminal justice system, i.e. judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants and victims;
- The court process, to include arrest; plea bargaining and guilty pleas; the jury and the trial; sentencing, appeals, and habeas corpus; and,
- Current issues and the future of the US court system.

Course Activities/Assignments:

Outside readings, group discussions, oral presentations with PowerPoint, and analytical papers as required by the Professor

Assessment of Course Objectives:

Students will be required to read course materials assigned by the Professor and complete all individual and group activities as assigned. The course will be divided into a number of clusters or units together with sub-topics, which collectively comprise the subjects. Upon completion of the clusters or units, the student will be able to complete the objectives with a thorough comprehension, explanation, discussion and application thereof. The students will be administered objective and/or subjective examinations during the course of the class in order to assess the students' understanding of the subject matter/course material.

1. Students will be administered five to six written tests to measure their understanding of the course content. The examinations will be administered and proportionally spaced out throughout the semester. Examinations will be graded on the basis of class lectures, group discussions, assigned readings from the textbook(s), and/or outside readings. Written objective and/or subjective (essay) tests are valued at 100 points each. Blue Books are required for essay tests, and a scantron is required for each objective test. It is the students' responsibility to purchase both items.

2. Any student who has an "A" average going into the final examination will not be required to sit for the final examination and will receive an "A" for the course.

3. At the instructor's discretion, students may be required to submit a research and/or analysis paper(s). The instructor will provide report requirements during the course of the class. Deductions will be made for each error: not following directions, proofreading, formatting, typographical problems including incorrect text, etc. A percentage grade will be assigned.

Grading Policy: All grading is at the professor's discretion and based on traditional academic guidelines:

90- Above - A
80- 89 - B
70-79 - C
60 - 69 - D
59 – Below- F

- All class assignments are due when scheduled
- Late submissions will result in grade reduction.
- All written assignments must be submitted in APA format and/or as directed by the Professor without exception.
- Any approved rewrites must be accompanied with the original document.
- There will be five to six class examinations, see supra.
- Students will be tested over all assigned textbook (s) reading assignments, outside reading assignments, class lectures, and/or group assignments.
- All examinations must be taken on the date and time scheduled. There are no make-up examinations, and the student will receive a score of 0% for any missed examinations.

Attendance Policy: Class and examination attendance is mandatory.

Academic Integrity Policy: Reference UTEP's policy cited in <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

Civility Statement:

The Professor will endeavor to provide a classroom environment appropriate for academic knowledge, discourse, and debate. For this to occur, each and every student must be prepared with all the reading assignments and participate actively in class. We will respect what others have to say and avoid insults, interruptions and disrespect. We will avoid becoming politically charged when discussing sensitive topics.

Cell Phones will be turned off or set to vibrate during class. As a matter of courtesy and classroom policy, students must leave the classroom when accepting incoming calls.

Laptop and recording devices are permitted in classroom to facilitate note taking. No other computer use is approved during class time, to include, emailing and game playing. Using a laptop in the classroom is a privilege, which can be revoked by the instructor. **The use of the aforementioned (cell phones and laptops) is NOT permitted during examinations.** Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom during examinations.

Disability Statement:

If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any DSS accommodation letters and

instructions.

Military Statement: If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact Professor Arias immediately.

Course Schedule:
Course Calendar/Assignments Fall 2016

Week One:	Aug 22	Introduction; What is Justice; Critical Consciousness/Thinking; Pre-Test; Roundtable Discourse; Chapter 1;
Week Two:	Aug 29	Chapter 2
Week Three:	Sep 5	Labor Day Holiday; University Closed
Week Four:	Sep 12	Unit 1 Test
Week Five:	Sep 19	Chapters 3 & 4
Week Six:	Sep 26	Chapters 5 & 6; Juvenile Probation Presenter
Week Seven:	Oct 3	Unit II Test;
Week Eight:	Oct 10	Chapter 7; County Judge Presenter
Week Nine:	Oct 17	Chapter 8; Prosecutor Presenter
Week Ten:	Oct 24	Chapters 9 & 10;
Week Eleven:	Oct 31	Unit III Test
Week Twelve :	Nov 7	Chapters 11 & 12
Week Thirteen:	Nov 14	Chapters 13 & 14
Week Fourteen:	Nov 21	Unit IV Test
Week Fifteen:	Nov 28	Review for Final Exam
Week Sixteen:	Dec 5	Final Exam: Dec 5, 2016 @ 7:00 pm - 9:45pm