

CRIJ 1306
COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES (ONLINE)
Summer 2018 (June 11th to August 3rd)

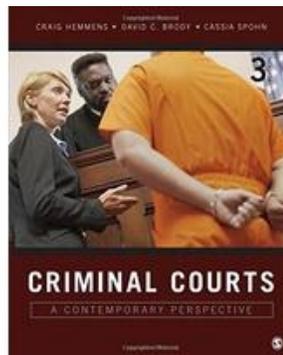
Professor: Mario V. Cano, Ph.D.
Office: 111M Education Building
Phone: (915) 747-7603
Email: mcano13@utep.edu (best method of communication)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (Mountain Standard Time)
By appointment or other scheduled time
Communication: Email, Telephone, Blackboard Instant Messenger, or Blackboard Collaborate
(video conference)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the structure of courts and criminal case processing in the American judicial system, at the local, state, and federal levels. Emphasis is placed on adjudication, sentencing, and the appellate process, as well as the organizational roles of legal actors. Furthermore, the course focuses on the relationship between courts and justice, and examines some topical and controversial issues associated with state and federal criminal courts. A considerable part of the course is devoted to the study of sentencing research and case law, in particular, decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Hemmens, Craig, David C. Brody, and Cassia C. Spohn. 2016. *Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective*, 3rd Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.



ISBN: 9781506306575 (book is available for purchase at the UTEP Bookstore or online)

*Additional readings will be made available in Blackboard or through UTEP Library resources.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND GRADING

Discussion Board (via Blackboard): Seven weekly discussion boards will be administered. Discussion board dates are listed below on the syllabus course schedule. There will be no discussion board during the first or final weeks of class. A discussion board will open Sundays at 8:00 am and will close on Fridays at 11:59 pm. Students will be expected to contribute their understanding of the course readings and slide presentations. Two questions will be drawn from the course readings by the professor. Each student should directly respond to **one** of the questions and then comment on a post of at least **two** other classmates. Thus, each student should contribute **at least three** postings each week. With respect to mechanics, each post should be at least five full sentences with proper grammar and draw from the course readings and current issues. The use of offensive or inappropriate material or language on the discussion board will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the course. **Late posts will not receive credit**

and no makeup discussion boards will be offered. Participation in the discussion board is worth five points, as each weekly discussion board participation is worth one point. The **sixth** and **seventh** weekly discussion boards may be completed for extra credit (two points).

Chapter Quizzes (via Blackboard): Six chapter quizzes will be administered. The quiz dates are listed in the course schedule. Each quiz is comprised of ten multiple choice questions of the readings that were discussed during the week. The quizzes will open on Sundays, at 8:00 am, and will close on Fridays, at 11:59 pm. There will be no quiz during the first and final weeks of class. The quizzes last an hour, once opened, and may only be taken once. Please notify UTEP technical support services first if you experience any technical issues during any quiz, and obtain a case number. **No makeup quizzes are offered.** Multiple choice quizzes are worth five points, as each quiz is worth one point. The **sixth** quiz may be completed for extra credit (one point).

U.S. Supreme Court Case Brief: To familiarize students with the appellate process, precedent, and the reasoning that guides legal decision-making, each student is required to write a case brief. Each student's case will be assigned by the professor, and in-depth information on briefing a High Court decision (including a sample case brief) is provided in the *Case Brief Assignment* folder. Be cautious that case briefs that strongly resemble briefs posted online (e.g., quotes or exact statements) may be suspect of academic misconduct. Have fun reading the U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions. **To receive credit, the case brief assignment should be submitted on the Blackboard assignment link by the due date, by 11:59 pm.** The assignment is due on **July 8th** and is worth 10 points. **Late case brief assignments are not accepted.**

Research Paper: Students will be required to write a research paper. The paper should discuss one topic in the courts and sentencing empirical literature. At least **five** academic references should be used in the paper. Academic references for this paper comprise peer-reviewed journal articles, not including the course textbook. A list of appropriate references and in-depth information of the assignment (including an example) is provided in the *Courts Research Paper* folder. Papers should be double-spaced, use Times New Roman twelve-inch font with one-inch margins, be **four** pages in length (not including the title and reference pages), and use APA, MLA, or Chicago format. Please contact the professor if you have questions on any steps of the paper. It is strongly recommended that preparation for the assignment begin early in the semester, as the paper is due during the final week of July. The research paper is due on **July 29th** and is worth 20 points. **To receive credit, the assignment should be submitted on the Blackboard assignment link by the due date, by 11:59 pm.** Late research papers will only be accepted through email, one day after their due date and will receive a 10 percent grade deduction.

Exams (via Blackboard): There will be three non-comprehensive exams. Exams consist of forty multiple choice questions. The exams cover all assigned readings from the textbook. Each exam is worth twenty points. **Exams will be open for three days, opening at 8:00 am and closing at 11:59 pm on the assigned dates. Students will have one hour and 20 minutes to complete the exam once opened. Exams may only be taken once. Please see the course schedule for exam dates.** Please notify the professor and UTEP technical support services if you experience technical issues during the exam, including obtaining a case number from technical services. No make-up exams are offered unless the student can provide documentation for a medical emergency or a university-sponsored activity prior to the exam. With the exception of documented medical emergencies, arrangements for a make-up exam must be made at least twenty-four hours before the regularly scheduled exam. All make-up exams are administered in a different format from the original exam. Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the professor.

If you experience technical issues in Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Technology Support Help Desk at (915) 747-4357 or Helpdesk@utep.edu. The office is located in Room 300 of the UTEP Library. Please obtain a case number.

Opportunities for extra credit will only be offered to all students and at the professor's discretion. Please make sure that you have immediate access to the personal email linked to your Blackboard account, as all course emails and notifications will be sent through Blackboard. Professor Cano reserves the right to make any changes to course requirements and deadlines.

Point Values and Percentages for Course Requirements:

Discussion Board	5 points	5 percent
Quizzes	5 points	5 percent
Case Brief Assignment	10 points	10 percent
Research Paper	20 points	20 percent
Exam 1	20 points	20 percent
Exam 2	20 points	20 percent
Exam 3	<u>20 points</u>	<u>20 percent</u>
	100 points	100 percent

Points and Grade Distribution

A = 89.5 or more points	B = 79.5 to 89.4 points	C = 69.5 to 79.4 points
D = 59.5 to 69.4 points	F = 59.4 or less points	

A GRADE OF D (60 POINTS OR MORE) IS REQUIRED TO PASS THE COURSE.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

The University of Texas at El Paso has a system of Academic Integrity and Scholastic Integrity based on personal integrity of all scholastic work undertaken at the University. Academic dishonesty comprises, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or submitting work for credit that is fully or partially completed by someone else. In addition to other guidelines of academic integrity, submitting work (e.g., annotated bibliography or book paper) that is identical or relatively similar to work submitted in a different course is considered plagiarism. At a minimum, students who engage in academic misconduct will receive a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Please become familiar with the University policy on academic integrity and honesty outlined in Student Conduct and Discipline, Section II, Chapter I of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Information can be found on the website of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/student-conduct/>.

EXPECTATIONS FOR CLASSROOM CONDUCT

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the provisions of the policy on Student Conduct and Discipline, Section II, Chapter I of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Although disagreement and constructive criticism are welcome and encouraged in some components of the course, particularly class discussions, students who use offensive, vulgar, or threatening language, or engage in personal attacks, will have their behavior addressed by the professor, and may face disciplinary action. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be withdrawn from the course. Prior to authoring a questionable discussion post or email, allow yourself time to read and think about the message prior to submission. You may also seek guidance from Professor Cano.

Copyright 2018 (Mario Cano) as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course, students are prohibited from selling notes, lectures, and presentations or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.

EMAIL POLICY

The professor will answer emails in a timely manner, within 24 hours. As most of you are currently or will be professionals (criminal justice or otherwise), a certain amount of professionalism is expected in your communications. As such, all emails will be expected to contain proper grammar. They must be formatted in a professional manner as well (salutation and closing, etc.). If your emails are not well-articulated and professional, there is a high likelihood that there will be no response. In particular, this means no “text speak” or “Internet lingo,” use of all caps, and no swearing.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Professor Cano is committed to assisting students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

COURSE CALENDAR

(Deadline Times are Standard Mountain)

Week 1 (06/11/18 to 06/16/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 1: Introduction to Law and the Judicial Function

Chapter 2: Sources of Law

Discussion Board, 06/11/18 to 06/15/18

Week 2 (06/17/18 to 06/23/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 3: Types of Law

Chapter 4: Court Organization and Structure

Chapter 5: Special Courts

Discussion Board, 06/17/18 to 06/22/18

Chapter Quiz, 06/17/18 to 06/22/18

Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), 06/22/18 to 06/24/18, 08:00a.m. – 11:59 p.m.

Week 3 (06/24/18 to 06/30/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 6: Prosecutors

Chapter 7: Defense Attorneys

Discussion Board, 06/24/18 to 06/29/18

Chapter Quiz, 06/24/18 to 06/29/18

Week 4 (07/01/18 to 07/07/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 8: Judges

Chapter 9: Defendants and Victims

Discussion Board, 07/01/18 to 07/06/18

Chapter Quiz, 07/01/18 to 07/06/18

Week 5 (07/08/17 to 07/14/18)

Case Brief Assignment Due, 07/08/18

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 10: The Jury

Discussion Board, 07/08/18 to 07/13/18

Chapter Quiz, 07/08/18 to 07/13/18

Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10), 07/13/18 to 07/15/18, 08:00a.m. – 11:59 p.m.

Week 6 (07/15/18 to 07/21/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures

Chapter 12: The Criminal Trial

Discussion Board, 07/15/18 to 07/20/18

Chapter Quiz, 07/15/18 to 07/20/18

Week 7 (07/22/18 to 05/28/18)

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 13: Sentencing

Discussion Board, 07/22/18 to 07/27/18

Chapter Quiz, 07/22/18 to 07/27/18

Week 8 (07/29/18 to 08/03/18)

Research Paper Due, 07/29/18

Weekly Slide Presentation

Read: Chapter 14: The Appellate Process

Exam 3 (Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14), 08/01/18 to 08/03/18, 08:00am – 11:59 pm