

**CRIJ 1301**  
**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm, BUSN 309**

Professor: Mario V. Cano, Ph.D.  
Office: 111M Education Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM and by Appointment  
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**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**

**Chapter Quizzes:** A total of 11 online chapter quizzes will be administered (see course schedule). Each quiz is comprised of 10 multiple choice questions of the readings that will be discussed the upcoming week. The scheduled quizzes will open in Blackboard on Fridays at 8:00 am and will close on Mondays at 11:59 pm. The quizzes last one hour once opened, and may only be taken once. Please notify the UTEP Technology Support Center first if you experience technical issues during any quiz and obtain a ticket number. **No makeup quizzes are offered.** Each quiz is worth one point. The quiz assignment is worth 10 percent of the course grade.

**U.S. Supreme Court Case Brief:** To familiarize students with the appellate process, precedent, and the legal reasoning that guides decision-making, each student is required to write a case brief. The professor will assign each student's case (majority opinion), and in-depth information on briefing a High Court decision (including a sample case brief) will be provided in the *Case Brief Assignment* folder on Blackboard. Be cautious as case briefs that strongly resemble briefs posted online (e.g., quotes or exact

statements) may be suspect of academic misconduct. **To receive credit, the assignment should be submitted as a hard copy by the due date, by 4:30 pm (in class or at the Criminal Justice Department at Education 111), and the paper should also be submitted electronically on the Blackboard assignment link by the due date, by 11:59 pm.** The assignment is due on **September 27th** and is worth 10 percent of the course grade. **Late papers are not accepted.**

**Courts and Sentencing Research Paper:** Students will be required to write a research paper. The paper should discuss one topic in the courts and sentencing empirical literature (from an approved list). 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) will be posted in the *Courts Research Paper* folder on Blackboard.

With respect to mechanics, 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 Professor Cano if you have questions on any steps of the paper. **To receive credit, the assignment should be submitted as a hard copy by the due date, by 4:30 pm (in class or at the Criminal Justice Department at Education 111), and the paper should also be submitted electronically on the Blackboard assignment link by the due date, by 11:59 pm.** It is strongly recommended that preparation for the assignment begin early in the semester, as the paper is due the third week of November. The research paper is due on **November 20th** and is worth 20 percent of the course grade. Late papers will only be accepted one day after their due date and will receive a 10 percent grade deduction.

**Exams:** There will be three non-comprehensive exams administered in the classroom (see course schedule below). Exams consist of multiple choice and potential short answer questions. Exams cover all assigned readings from the textbook. No makeup exams are offered unless the student can provide documentation for a medical emergency or a university-sponsored activity. **With the exception of documented medical emergencies, arrangements for a makeup exam must be made at least 24 hours before the regularly scheduled exam.** Makeup exams may be administered in a different format from the original exam. **Makeup exams are given at the discretion of the professor.** Each exam is worth 20 percent of the course grade. Thus, exams comprise 60 percent of the course grade. The exam review is conducted in the class scheduled prior to the exam. **Professor Cano will not post or email exam study notes from the exam review. Please make arrangements with a classmate if you are unable to attend the exam review session.**

**Important Notes:** Class attendance is not mandatory but is highly encouraged. Opportunities for extra credit will only be offered in class, and at the professor's discretion. The professor does not post slide presentations online, share lecture notes, or discuss missed lectures through email. 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 the course requirements and deadlines.

**Point values and percentages for course requirements:**

|                       |                  |                   |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Quizzes               | 10 points        | 10 percent        |
| Case Brief Assignment | 10 points        | 10 percent        |
| Courts 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 OR HIGHER (59.5 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**

No texting is permitted, as it is a great distraction to other students and the professor. Use of a cellular phone in case of an emergency should be discussed with the professor before class. Electronic devices are only permitted for taking notes. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class. **Students who consistently text during lectures will be asked to leave the class.** 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.

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**EMAIL POLICY**

The professor will answer emails in a timely manner. 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. **The email should indicate the course in which you are enrolled.**

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Professor Cano is committed to assisting students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at [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 [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1

- 08/28 Course Introduction
- 08/30 Chapter 1: Introduction to Law and the Judicial Function
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 2

- 09/04 Chapter 2: Sources of Law
- 09/06 Chapter 2: Sources of Law
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 3

- 09/11 Chapter 3: Types of Law
- 09/13 Chapter 3: Types of Law
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 4

- 09/18 Chapter 4: Court Organization and Structure
- 09/20 Chapter 4: Court Organization and Structure
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 5

- 09/25 Chapter 5: Special Courts
- 09/27 Chapter 5: Special Courts
- Case Brief Assignment Due**

### Week 6

- 10/02 Exam 1 Review
- 10/04 **Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)**
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 7

- 10/09 Chapter 6: Prosecutors
- 10/11 Chapter 6: Prosecutors
- Online Chapter Quiz**

### Week 8

- 10/16 Chapter 7: Defense Attorneys
- 10/18 Chapter 7: Defense Attorneys
- Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 9

10/23 Chapter 8: Judges

10/25 Chapter 8: Judges

**Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 10

10/30 Chapter 9: Defendants and Victims

11/01 Chapter 9: Defendants and Victims

**Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 11

11/06 Chapter 10: The Jury

11/08 Chapter 10: The Jury

Week 12

11/13 Exam 2 Review

11/15 **Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)**

**Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 13

11/20 Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures

**Courts and Sentencing Research Paper Due**

11/22 **No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 14

11/27 Chapter 12: The Criminal Trial

11/29 Chapter 13: Sentencing

**Online Chapter Quiz**

Week 15

12/04 Chapter 13: Sentencing

Chapter 14: The Appellate Process

12/06 Chapter 14: The Appellate Process

Exam 3 Review

12/13 **Exam 3 (Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14), 4:00 pm to 6:45 pm**