

**Instructor's Syllabus and Course Requirements
Fall 2021**

Course: CRIJ 1306: Court Systems and Practices

CRN: 13473

Professor: Myrna Lozano

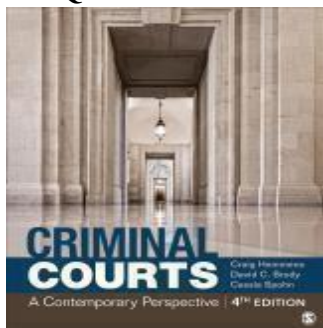
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Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours are by appointment

I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK



Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective, 4th edition.

ISBN: 9781544338958

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: All course content is delivered via the UTEP Blackboard course management system. You can view all materials related to this course on Blackboard (except for the textbook).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Distance education demands a considerable amount of self-discipline and motivation. You will enjoy a flexibility to work and study at times that fit your personal schedule; however, you must still meet weekly course deadlines. If you feel you require the structure of a classroom in order to stay engaged, then this class is not for you. Setting up regular times to sit down and focus your attention on the course materials is essential to success. We realize you are balancing many issues in your life and have chosen distance learning as an option to fit your individual circumstances.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All students are required to check Blackboard regularly for announcements and/or changes to the syllabus.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

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

Assignment grading assessments will be weighted in the following way:

| Activity or Assignment | Point Value |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Quiz #1 | 50 |
| Quiz #2 | 50 |
| Midterm | 100 |
| Weekly Discussion Board | 240 |
| Research Written Assignment | 100 |
| Final | 200 |
| Total Points | 740 Points |

Note: No extra credit will be offered to bring up grade.

Grading Points:

A 665-740

B 591-664

C 517-590

D 444-516

F 0-443

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to read each chapter, participate in discussions and be ready to discuss current events in the criminal justice field.

EXAMS: Assessments will be administered to measure the students learning success.

Arrangements for make-up exams will need to be approved by Professor Lozano.

RESEARCH PAPER: Students are required to produce a research paper on a topic within the Courts Systems, broadly defined. Students choose their own topic based upon their academic and intellectual interests. It is the responsibility of the student to conduct their own research and write their paper independently. Students will produce a paper of approximately 10-12 pages (double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman). The requirements are exclusive of title page, abstract, and references. Students must follow APA style (7th edition).

No late papers will be accepted. Please plan accordingly. Early submissions are accepted and highly encouraged.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION:

Students are required to contribute a total of six (6) substantive messages each week in blackboard on three different days. Students are required to answer the initial discussion question posted by the professor and respond five (5) times to other students. Total of six (6) posts per week. The initial discussion question will be posted on Monday at 6:00 a.m and will close on Saturday at 11:00 p.m. The six posts must occur on at least three (3) different days during the online week to earn full credit.

NETIQUETTE:

You must maintain an academic attitude and uphold UTEP policies. Being disrespectful, using profanity or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. All of your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty and tact.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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 Office of Disabled Student Services 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 Disabled Student Services. You may call 915.747.5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You also can visit the DSSO website at www.utep.edu/dsso or the DSSO office in Room 108 East Union Building. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

Even though this course is scheduled for online modality, if you plan to visit the UTEP campus please familiarize yourselves with the COVID-19 precautions:

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

DROP POLICY:

The course drop policy for this class is the same as the official policy for the University. The policy is set out in the University catalog as well as the class schedule. In conjunction with this policy, the

instructor may exercise the right to drop a student from the course roll if the student has an excessive number of unexcused absences, is perpetually tardy in arriving to class, and/or consistently fails to complete class assignments as directed.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

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| <p>Week One 10/18/21 to 10/23/21</p> | <p>Chapter 1: Introduction: Law and the Judicial Function</p> <p>Chapter 2: Sources of Law</p> | <p>Read chapter 1 and 2</p> <p>Discussion Question Due 10/23/21 Will open on 10/18/21 at 6am and will close on 10/23/21 at 11pm</p> <p>Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 10/23/21</p> |
| <p>Week Two 10/25/21 to 10/30/21</p> | <p>Chapter 3: Types of Law</p> <p>Chapter 4: Court Organization and Structure</p> | <p>Read chapter 3 and 4</p> <p>Discussion Question Due 10/30/21 Will open on 10/25/21 at 6am and will close on 10/30/21 at 11pm</p> <p>Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 10/30/21</p> <p>Quiz #1 Chapters 1-4 Due 10/30/21 Will open on 10/25/21 at 6am and will close on 10/30/21 at 11pm</p> |
| <p>Week Three 11/01/21 to 11/06/21</p> | <p>Chapter 5: Prosecutors</p> <p>Chapter 6: Defense Attorneys</p> | <p>Read chapter 5 and 6</p> <p>Discussion Question Due 11/06/21 Will open on 11/01/21 at 6am and will close on 11/06/21 at 11pm</p> <p>Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 11/06/21</p> |

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| <p>Week Four 11/08/21 to 11/13/21</p> | <p>Chapter 7: Judges</p> <p>Chapter 8: Criminal Defendants and Crime Victims</p> | <p>Read chapter 7 and 8</p> <p>Discussion Question Due 11/13/21 Will open on 11/08/21 at 6am and will close on 11/13/21 at 11pm</p> <p>Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 11/13/21</p> <p>Quiz # 2 Chapters 5-8 Due 11/13/21 Will open on 11/11/21 at 6am and will close on 11/13/21 at 11pm</p> |
| <p>Week Five 11/15/21 to 11/20/21</p> | <p>Chapter 9: The Jury Attorneys</p> <p>Chapter 10: Pretrial Procedures</p> | <p>Read chapter 9 and 10</p> <p>Discussion Question Due 11/20/21 Will open on 11/15/21 at 6am and will close on 11/20/21 at 11pm</p> <p>Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 11/20/21</p> <p>Midterm Due 11/20/21 Chapters 1-10 Will open on 11/18/21 at 6am and will close on 11/20/21 at 11pm</p> |

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Week Six 11/22/21 to 11/27/21</p> | <p>Chapter 11: The Criminal Trial Chapter 12: The Sentencing</p> | <p>Read chapter 11 and 12 Discussion Question Due 11/27/2 Will open on 11/22/21 at 6am and will close on 11/27/21 at 11pm Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 11/27/21 Research Paper Due Due 11/27/21</p> |
| <p>Week Seven 11/29/21 to 12/03/21</p> | <p>Chapter 13: The Appellate Process</p> | <p>Read chapter 13 Discussion Question Due 12/03/21 Will open on 11/29/21 at 6am and will close on 12/03/21 at 11pm Chapter(s) Reflection Summary 12/03/21 Final Exam Due 12/03/21 Chapters 1-13 Will open on 11/29/21 at 6am and will close on 12/03/21 at 11pm</p> |

Note: No extra credit will be offered to bring up grade.