

## Instructor's Syllabus and Course Requirements Fall 2019

**Professor: Myrna Lozano**

**Email:** [mlozano9@utep.edu](mailto:mlozano9@utep.edu)

**Telephone:** (915) 873-0606

**Course:** CRIJ 1306: Court Systems and Practices

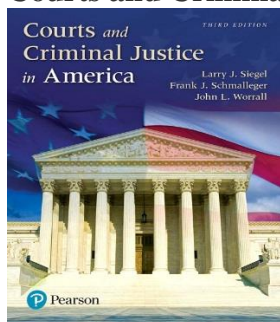
**CRN:** 13969

**Office Hours:** Virtual Office Hours are by appointment

**\*I will respond to all emails within 24 hours of receipt. Please keep in mind that I reside in the Mountain Standard Time (MST) Zone\*.**

---

### Courts and Criminal Justice in America, 3rd Edition



Siegel, Schmalleger & Worrall

ISBN-13: 9780134526690

**LEARNING MANANGEMENT 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 (6weeks) 40pts each	240
Research Written Assignment	100
Final	200
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>740 Points</b>

**\*There will be no curve used in the grading nor will extra work be accepted for credit\*.**

**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 field criminal justice.

**Exams:** A total of four testing assessments will be administered to measure the students learning success. There are two quizzes, a midterm and a final exam, (total 400 points). **All quizzes, midterm and final exam will be available on Thursday and will close on Saturday of that specific week. Please plan accordingly.**

**Arrangements for make-up exams will need to be approved by professor Lozano by telephone call only.**

**Research Paper:** Students are required to complete a research paper on a court case that has made an impact in the court system. I recommend looking at news articles to get you started. Some examples are: The Casey Anthony Case, Jody Arias Case, O.J. Simpson Case, Andrea Yates Case, Drew Peterson Case, and Scott Peterson to name a few. **(You select what you want to write about and you explain your findings in your paper based on if it made an impact in our court system or not).**

The paper must be at least **five (5) pages** and written in the third person. The paper must be formatted pursuant to the APA style as delineated in the Publication of the APA Manual, Sixth edition. **Consistent with the APA style, individual paper will be typed, double-spaced, “Time New Roman” font face, 12-point font size, and 1-inch margins all around. The paper should include a title page, an abstract and running heads.** Pages should be numbered consecutively, including title page. This paper will be supported by **at least three (3) scholarly, academic, or professional references.**

Wikipedia is not an acceptable independent academic source for written assignments. Wikipedia, however, can be used as a portal to gain a general understanding about the subject matter, but it cannot be listed as a source on research-based papers. The same is applicable to YouTube, Dictionary.com, Cliffnotes.com, Answers.com, Encarta Encyclopedia and other similar sources. The Internet may be used to access information from scholarly journals, libraries, etc. Google Scholar is an excellent research database for scholarly and professional materials. No late papers will be accepted. Early submissions are accepted and highly encouraged.

## **DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION:**

For full participation credit during participation weeks, you are required to contribute a total of six (6) substantive messages each week in the classroom on three different days. You are required to answer the **initial discussion question** posted by the professor and **respond to other students.** Total of six (6) posts per week. The initial discussion question will be posted on Sunday @ 6:00am and will close on Saturday @ 11:00pm. The six messages 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 a serious matter. At UTEP “any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or any attempt to commit such acts”. Students suspected of any of these violations will be referred for further investigation.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@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.

**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.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

<p>Week One 8/26/19 to 08/31/19</p>	<p>Chapter 1: Legal Foundations</p> <p>Chapter 2: Who Controls the Courts?</p>	<p>Familiarize yourself with Black Board, welcome tab, syllabus tab, discussion questions tab, announcement tab, quizzes tab, research paper tab, and final exam tab.</p> <p>Read chapter 1 and 2.</p> <p><b>No discussion questions this week.</b></p>
---	--	---

<p>Week Two 9/02/19 to 9/07/19</p>	<p>Chapter 3: Federal Courts  Chapter 4: State Courts</p>	<p>Read chapter 3 and 4.  <b>Discussion Question # 2</b> <b>Due 9/07/19</b> Will open on 9/02/19 at 6am and will close on 9/07/19 @ 11pm  <b>Quiz #1 Chapters 1-4</b> <b>Due 9/07/19</b> Will open on 9/05/19 at 6am and will close on 9/07/19 @ 11pm</p>
<p>Week Three 9/09/19 to 9/14/19</p>	<p>Chapter5: Juvenile Courts  Chapter 6: Specialized Courts</p>	<p>Read chapter 5 and 6.  <b>Discussion Question # 3</b> <b>Due 9/14/19</b> Will open on 9/09/19 at 6am and will close on 9/14/19@ 11pm  <b>Quiz # 2 Chapters 5-6</b> <b>Due 9/14/19</b> Will open on 9/12/19 and will close on 9/14/19@ 11pm</p>
<p>Week Four 9/16/19 to 9/21/19</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Judges  Chapter 8: Prosecutors  Chapter 9: Defense Attorneys Chapter 10: Defendants and victims: Their Roles and Rights</p>	<p>Read chapter 7 through 10.  <b>Discussion Question # 4</b> <b>Due 9/21/19</b> Will open on 9/16/19 at 6am and will close on 9/21/19@ 11pm  <b>Research Paper Due</b> <b>Due 9/21/19</b> You can submit as early as day one, this thread will close on 9/21/19@ 11pm</p>
<p>Week Five 9/23/19 to 9/28/19</p>	<p>Chapter 11: Pretrial Identification  Chapter 12: Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas</p>	<p>Read chapter 11 and 12.  <b>Discussion Question # 5</b> <b>Due 9/28/19</b> Will open on 9/23/19 at 6am and will close on 9/28/19@ 11pm  <b>Midterm Exam</b> <b>Due 9/28/19</b></p>

		<b>Will open on 9/26/19 and will close on 9/28/19</b>
Week 6 9/30/19 to 10/05/19	Chapter 13: The Jury and the Trial  Chapter 14: Capital punishment	Read chapter 13 and 14.  <b>Discussion Question # 6 Due 10/05/19</b>  Will open on 9/30/19 at 6am and will close on 10/05/19@ 11pm
Week 7 10/07/19 to 10/12/19	Chapter 15: Juvenile corrections  Chapter 16: Revisiting evidence-based practices and what works	Read chapter 15 and 16.  <b>Discussion Question # 7 Due 10/12/19</b> Will open on 10/07/19 at 6am and will close on 10/12/19@ 11pm  <b>Final Exam (all chapters) Due 10/12/19 Will open on 10/10/19 and will close on 10/12/19@ 11pm</b>

**\*I reserve the right to change or add dates or assignments if necessary and amend the schedule to suit the needs of the class\*.**

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