

## Instructor's Syllabus and Course Requirements Fall 2022

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

**CRN: 13490**

**Professor: Myrna Lozano**

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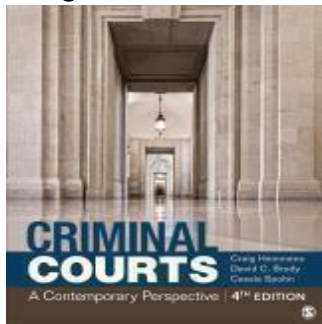
**Telephone: (915) 873-0606**

**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.

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### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK



Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 and UTEP emails 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
Weekly Discussion Board	210
Chapter Reflections	70
Research paper	100
Quiz	60
Midterm	100
Final Exam	200
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>740 Points</b>

**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, submit assignments and be ready to discuss current events in an online format in Blackboard.

**EXAMS:** Assessments will be administered to measure the student's learning success. Arrangements for make-up exams will need to be approved by the professor 3 days in advance.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Students are required to produce a research paper on a topic within the Court System, 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).

Five (5) references are required.

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.

**DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION:** Students will participate in discussion questions based on weekly readings, cases, and other course materials and will be expected to continue these conversations online in Blackboard. See BB for more details.

**ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES:** All assignments are due by 11:00 pm on the date indicated and should be submitted through Blackboard. Late assignments will not be accepted. Technical difficulties are NOT generally an excuse for late assignments, and students are advised to keep additional copies of assignments in case of technological failure

**NETIQUETTE:** You must maintain an academic attitude and uphold UTEP policies. Being disrespectful, using profanity or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. All 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 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.

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 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 taken seriously and 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](http://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.

**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.

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:** Even though this course is scheduled for an 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](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

<p>Week One 10/17/22 to 10/22/22</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><b>Discussion Question Due 10/22/22</b></p> <p><b>Ch. Reflections Due 10/22/22</b></p>
<p>Week Two 10/24/22 to 10/29/22</p>	<p>Chapter 3: Types of Law</p> <p>Chapter 4: Court Organization and Structure</p>	<p>Read chapter 3 and 4</p> <p><b>Discussion Question Due 10/29/22</b></p> <p><b>*Quiz Due 10/29/22</b></p> <p><b>Ch. Reflections Due 10/29/22</b></p>
<p>Week Three 10/31/22 to 11/05/22</p>	<p>Chapter 5: Prosecutors</p> <p>Chapter 6: Defense Attorneys</p>	<p>Read chapter 5 and 6</p> <p><b>Discussion Question Due 11/05/22</b></p> <p><b>Ch. Reflections Due 11/05/22</b></p>
<p>Week Four 11/07/22 to 11/12/22</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Judges</p> <p>Chapter 8: Criminal Defendants and Crime Victims</p>	<p>Read chapter 7 and 8</p> <p><b>Discussion Question Due 11/12/22</b></p> <p><b>Ch. Reflections Due 11/12/22</b></p>
<p>Week Five 11/14/22 to 11/19/22</p>	<p>Chapter 9: The Jury Attorneys</p> <p>Chapter 10: Pretrial Procedures</p>	<p>Read chapter 9 and 10</p> <p><b>Discussion Question Due 11/19/22</b></p> <p><b>Ch. Reflections Due 11/19/22</b></p> <p><b>*Midterm Due 11/19/22</b></p>

Week Six 11/21/22 to 11/26/22	Chapter 11: The Criminal Trial  Chapter 12: The Sentencing	Read chapter 11 and 12  <b>Discussion Question Due 11/26/22</b>  <b>Ch. Reflections Due 11/26/22</b>  <b>Research Paper Due 11/26/22</b>
Week Seven 11/28/22 to 12/02/22	Chapter 13: The Appellate Process	Read chapter 13  <b>Discussion Question Due 12/02/22</b>  <b>Ch. Reflection Due 12/02/22</b>  <b>*Final Exam Due 12/02/22</b>

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

**\* Final exam is due December 2, 2022. Please plan accordingly\*.**

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