**COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES**

**CRIJ-1306-41400**

8/26/2019 – 12/12/2019

FALL 2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Instructor:</th>
<th>Kimberly Foster M.A.; M.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>972-391-1047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>By Appointment Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| A&C Division:        | G-Building: Room 237 | 972-860-8313 (Best Contact Method: By Email will respond by 48 hours) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Drop Date:</th>
<th>November 14, 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disclaimer:</td>
<td>The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.</td>
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| Course Delivery:     | This is a 16 weeks online course. All assignments and test are online. There are no college visits required in this online class. |

COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES
### Course Description:
The judiciary in the criminal justice system is explained. The structure of the American Court System is defined. Prosecutorial right to counsel is explained. Other areas covered are pretrial release, grand juries, adjudication process, and types of rules evidence and sentencing.

### Course Prerequisites:
College level in Reading.

### Course Objectives:
Upon the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe and explain the historical structure of American Court System.
- Distinguish between civil and criminal court systems.
- Analyze judicial operational procedures.
- Compare and contrast federal and state court sentencing entities.
- Interpret the significance of precedent United States Supreme Court cases.
- Discuss the correlation of fundamental rights and politics.
- Define societal perspectives in reference to law enforcement, courts, defendants, and victims.
- Assess the variables of justice, economics, and diverse populations.

### Learning Outcomes:
Students should have the following competencies upon completion of this course:

1. The student will able to list and describe judicial aspects of the criminal justice system.
2. The student will be able to analyze the structure of Texas lower and appellate courts.
3. The student will be able to characterize the importance of defense and prosecution attorneys.
4. The student will be able to discuss pre-trial release procedures.
5. The student will be able to delineate responsibilities and challenges of jury panels.
6. The student will be able to identify the significance of criminal investigations, evidence, and sentencing strategies.

### Exemplary Educational Objectives:
Students in Criminal Justice will learn to employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition:

1. Students will examine social institutions and process across a range of historical periods,
social structures, and cultures.
2. Students will learn to use and critique alternative explanatory systems of theories.
3. Students will analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area of study.
4. Students will learn to understand the evolution and current role of the Criminal Justice system in the United States.

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies:

1. READING: the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials at the college level.
2. WRITING: the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience at a college level.
3. CRITICAL THINKING: think and analyze at a critical level.
4. COMPUTER LITERACY: to understand our technological society and use computer-based technology in communication and the acquisition of information.

Textbook Course Material:

COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES CRIJ 1306
Author: T.L. Dunn
No ISBN
Textbook can be purchased at Eastfield College bookstore ONLY.

Required Technology:

Students will need access to the internet to access the course site and access to online materials associated with several of the modules, including audio and video capabilities.

Adobe- Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player may be required for online testing or video streaming. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files and Adobe Captivate hosts assignment activities (Adobe Captivate Software Download is not required for this course). Click here to view Adobe’s Accessibility and Privacy Policy. Download for free here: Adobe Acrobat Reader DC

MS Word- Students may be required to use a recent version of MS Word to review and complete
Working with Course Content

Lectures and exams: midterm and final exam, will be campus-based. In addition, all students will have to complete a “Court Observation Report.”

*COURT OBSERVATION REPORT*- Students will observe a criminal court proceeding and write a court report in reference to your observations.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *(Report Due: DECEMBER 8, 2019 BY 11:59 p.m.)*

1. You must observe at least one (1) hour of a judicial court proceedings. Student’s court observation must be a “Felony Criminal Court” proceedings and not a “Misdemeanor Municipal Court” proceedings.

2. Obtain the signature of the judge/ Clerk, Bailiff or court personnel presiding over each matter you observe.

3. Students can “Scan and Upload” the original completed form (signed and dated) along with your Court prior to due date (5-2-19).

   Watch Report. (Minimum 1500 words) (Worth100 pts)

Evaluation Procedures

**Grading Policy:** In accordance with the policies at Eastfield College, I use the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Rating/Percentage</th>
<th>Total Points Received</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent – 90%</td>
<td>950 - 855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good – 80%</td>
<td>854 - 760</td>
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Evaluation Procedures

The course consists of two Quizzes, three Case Brief Summaries, three Judicial Perspective Commentaries, five Exams, Court Observation Report, one Court Systems Final Assessment, one Court Observation Report, and four Unit Review Sessions are worth a total of 950 points. Complete all assignments on time. Students please note: Contact “Eastfield Students Help Desk” prior to contacting me, if you incur any technical issues. However, “technical difficulties” is not an acceptable rational for submission for “late assignments.” If you have to contact me, please have your incident number from Eastfield Students Help Desk Department. Therefore, I can follow-up on your issue. In additional, if you are not going to be available during an “Assignment” due dates, please submit in advance for full credit. My objective is to have every student pass this course. However, I am “Student Friendly” but not “Excuse Friendly”. Therefore, students are responsible for their course work. Students will individually be graded on knowledge of material, attendance, and class participation. Lastly, due this class being an online class, it is vital that I check my email more than once a day, this is also applicable to students in reference to your course “Announcements.” We are both responsible for our separate entities.

In addition, I employ the entire range of the grading system in this class. Do not assume that all grades receive a minimum of B. Average (Satisfactory) work is the baseline and receives a grade of C, not a B. Average work is what anyone can produce, and it is average. Good (B) work is better and requires additional effort, initiative, creativity and a good understanding of the subject matter. Let’s keep the spirit of the grades up and produce “good” to “excellent” work for high grades. Each component is weighted by the following predetermined percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2 @ 50 pts each)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Brief Summaries (3 @ 50 pts each)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Perspective Commentaries (3 @ 50 pts each)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (5 @50 pts each)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Systems Final Assessment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Observation Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Review Sessions (4 pts @ 25 pts each)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible:</strong></td>
<td><strong>950</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading and Feedback: All Quizzes, Case Brief Summaries, Judicial Perspective Commentaries, Court Systems Final Assessment, Court Observation Report, Exams, and Unit Review Sessions require manual grading by your instructor. Your instructor will make every effort to grade all assignments within 48 hours after the due date of the assignment. Your score on any assessment generally will stand as your final grade. Computer Grades are posted immediately and are available in your course site under ‘My Grades’ in the Course Menu (Navigation). The maximum of points for Attendance and Participation is not automatically given. Students have to earn their points.

Policy on Late Work: No late work is accepted.

New assignments will be posted every Monday and must be completed no later than midnight by the following Sunday. Therefore, students have seven (7) days to complete assignments and quizzes. If you have an issue with an assignment, you must contact me before the due date, no late assignments will be accepted. If you submit the incorrect assignment and a resubmission is requested (within the 7-day period) it will be counted as a late submission (points will be deducted). If an incorrect assignment is posted after the due date it will not be accepted nor will a resubmission be allowed.

All assignments will be graded within seven (7) days after submission.

*Students Please Note: It is your responsibility to review any class announcements and course syllabus for posted or changed assignments due dates.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams will not be given unless a student has obtained prior approval by this instructor. If there is an illness, death, or family emergency, I will consider it; however, I may require documentation. In all cases, I will be the final arbitrator as to whether a missed exam will be retaken.

Attendance Policy: Students are required to attend all classes and complete coursework, as governed by the course syllabus due dates. If you are unable to meet any course requirements, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor (prior to not after class absence) and coordinate to make-up any missed material (if allowed by instructor). Since every student is entitled to full participation in our “Unit Review Sessions” without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. All electronic games, texting, radios, recording devices, CD players or other devices that generate sound must be turned off during our sessions.
COURSE SCHEDULE

1st WEEK
Chapter I: Introduction and The Structure and History of the American Court System
(Unit Review #1)

2nd WEEK
Chapter II: The Courtroom Work Group
Quiz #1

3rd WEEK
Chapter III: Prosecuting Attorney
(Case Brief Summary #1)

4th WEEK
Chapter IV: Public Defenders
Quiz #2

5th WEEK
Chapter V: Expert Witnesses
(Judicial Perspective Commentary #1)
(Unit Review #2)

6th WEEK
Chapter VI: The Defendant
(Case Brief Summary #2)

7th WEEK
Chapter VII: The System of the Court
Exam # I

8th WEEK
Chapter VIII: The Federal Court System
(Judicial Perspective Commentary #2)
Exam # II
9th WEEK
Chapter IX: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial
Exam # III
(Unit Review #3)

10th WEEK
Chapter X: The Grand Jury
(Case Brief Summary #3)

11th WEEK
Chapter XI: Jury Selection
Exam # IV

12th WEEK
Chapter XII: The Evaluation of Evidence
(Judicial Perspective Commentary #3)

13th WEEK
Chapter XIII: Jury Deliberation and the Verdict
(Case Brief Summary #4)
(Unit Review #4)

14th WEEK
Chapter XIV: Texas Child Support Guidelines
(Court Systems Final Assessment Due)

15th WEEK
Chapter XV: Alienation of Affection Laws
(Court Observation Report Due)

16th WEEK
Exam # V

ALL CLASS REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS
TWO QUIZZES
THREE CASE BRIEF SUMMARIES
THREE JUDICIAL COMMENTARIES  
FIVE EXAMS  
COURT SYSTEMS FINAL ASSESSMENT  
COURT OBSERVATION REPORT  
FOUR UNIT REVIEW SESSIONS

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