

**CRIJ 1306 Courts System and Practices**  
**Fall 2021 MWF 12-12:50 pm at RASSMAN 104**

**Professor:** Mr. Chris G. Taylor  
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**MAIN TEXTBOOK FOR PURCHASE:**

Larry J. Seigel, Frank Schmalleger, & John L. Worrall (2018). Courts and Criminal Justice in America (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.), Pearson

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Topics for this course include the judiciary in the criminal justice system, right to counsel, pre-trial releases, grand juries, adjudication process, types and rules of evidence and sentencing.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the importance that courts have in modern society.
2. Identify pressures that courts face and the context in which they operate.
3. Recognize the various types of courts that range from the limited jurisdiction courts to the U.S. Supreme Court.
4. Identify the professionals who are involved at all stages of the court process (including judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys).
5. Explain the role of victims who participate in the court process.
6. Explain the role of criminal defendants who are tried in the courts.
7. Analyze the rights that are enjoyed by accused persons (such as the rights to counsel and to a jury trial).
8. Critique the court process from initial arrest all the way to conviction (whether by trial or plea bargaining), sentencing, and appeal.
9. Explain the reasons why not every case or person is treated the same.
10. Explain the role of technology and its use by the courts today.
11. Identify available alternatives to trials.
12. Summarize the difficult issues that courts are likely to face over time.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

The professor expects that each student regularly and promptly attends class sessions. A student who is absent for a class session must be responsible for matter discussed in that particular session.

**This class is a hybrid class.** Solely based on your attendance in traditional classes, **FIVE or More time absences will have a negative impact on the total 100 points of class participation and attendance:**

1. **Fifth** time absence → a deduction of **10** points
2. **Sixth** time absence → a deduction of **20** points
3. **Seventh** time absence → a deduction of **30** points
4. **Eighth** time absence → a deduction of **40** points
5. **Ninth** time absence → a deduction of **50** points
6. **Tenth** time absence → a deduction of **60** points
7. **Eleventh** time absence → a deduction of **70** points
8. **Twelfth** time absence → a deduction of **80** points
9. **Thirteenth** time absence → a deduction of **90** points
10. **Fourteenth** time absence → a deduction of **100** points

**Note that irrespective of any academic achievement, students with FIFTEENTH or More time absences will receive a final grade of F.**

However, if the professor is informed in advance of an unavoidable absence, it will be alright. Also, it should be noted that without informing the professor of leaving a class, his or her leaving during the class session will be considered as an absence.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Student learning outcomes will be assessed using attendance, quizzes, a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam:

<b>Class Attendance</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Online Quizzes</b> A total of 7 quizzes (all multiple choice questions) will be given throughout the semester.	<b>140 points</b> (possible points 20 per quiz)
<b>Online Midterm Exam</b> The students will be required to take this 100-minute midterm exam.	<b>100 points</b> (Possible points 2 per question)
<b>Online Final Exam</b> The students will be required to take this 100-minute final exam.	<b>100 points</b> (possible points 2 per question)
<b>Total</b>	<b>440 points</b>

**Final Grade:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Cumulative Points</b>
<b>A</b>	396 to 440
<b>B</b>	352 to 395
<b>C</b>	308 to 351
<b>D</b>	264 to 307
<b>F</b>	263 and below

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

No make-up exams will be given unless the professor is informed in advance of an unavoidable absence on an exam date.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to add or subtract material based upon the progress of the class and time constraint of the course

Week	Date	Content
Week 1	Mon, Aug 23	Course Overview and Syllabus
	Wed, Aug 25	Chapter 1: Legal Foundations
	Fri, Aug 27	Chapter 1: Legal Foundations
Week 2	Mon, Aug 30	Chapter 2: Who Controls the Courts?
	Wed, Sep 1	Chapter 2: Who Controls the Courts?
	Fri, Sep 3	<b>Online QUIZ 1: Chapters 1-2</b>
Week 3	Mon, Sep 6	<i>Holiday</i>
	Wed, Sep 8	Chapter 3: Federal Courts
	Fri, Sep 10	Chapter 3: Federal Courts
Week 4	Mon, Sep 13	Chapter 4: State Courts
	Wed, Sep 15	Chapter 4: State Courts
	Fri, Sep 17	<b>Online QUIZ 2: Chapters 3-4</b>
Week 5	Mon, Sep 20	Chapter 5: Juvenile Courts
	Wed, Sep 22	Chapter 5: Juvenile Courts
	Fri, Sep 24	Chapter 6: Specialized Courts
Week 6	Mon, Sep 27	Chapter 6: Specialized Courts
	Wed, Sep 29	<b>Online QUIZ 3: Chapters 5-6</b>
	Fri, Oct 1	Chapter 7: Judges
Week 7	Mon, Oct 4	Chapter 7: Judges
	Wed, Oct 6	Chapter 8: Prosecutors
	Fri, Oct 8	Chapter 8: Prosecutors
Week 8	Mon, Oct 11	<b>Online QUIZ 4: Chapters 7-8</b>
	Wed, Oct 13	REVIEW: Chapters 1-8
	Fri, Oct 15	<b>Online Mid-term Exam</b> will be available 12:01 am through 11:59 pm
Week 9	Mon, Oct 18	Chapter 9: Defense Attorneys
	Wed, Oct 20	Chapter 9: Defense Attorneys
	Fri, Oct 22	Chapter 10: Defendants and Victims
Week 10	Mon, Oct 25	Chapter 10: Defendants and Victims
	Wed, Oct 27	<b>Online QUIZ 5: Chapters 9-10</b>
	Fri, Oct 29	Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures
Week 11	Mon, Nov 1	Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures
	Wed, Nov 3	Chapter 12: Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas

	Fri, Nov 5	Chapter 12: Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
Week 12	Mon, Nov 8	<b>Online QUIZ 6: Chapters 11-12</b>
	Wed, Nov 10	Chapter 13: The Jury and the Trial
	Fri, Nov 12	Chapter 13: The Jury and the Trial
Week 13	Mon, Nov 15	Chapter 14: Sentencing, Appeals & <i>Habeas Corpus</i>
	Wed, Nov 17	Chapter 14: Sentencing, Appeals & <i>Habeas Corpus</i>
	Fri, Nov 19	Chapter 15: Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
Week 14	Mon, Nov 22	Chapter 15: Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
	Wed, Nov 24	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
	Fri, Nov 26	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Week 15	Mon, Nov 29	<b>Online QUIZ 7: Chapters 13-15</b>
	Wed, Dec 1	REVIEW: Chapters 9-15
	Fri, Dec 3	No class for dead week
Week 16	Mon, Dec 6	<b>Online Final Exam</b> will be available 12:01 am through 11:59 pm

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**August 23:** Fall 2021 semester begins.

**September 9:** “W” period begins for the Regular Fall 2021 Semester.

**November 22:** Last Day to Drop/Withdraw Regular Term, Fall 2021.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

### **Accommodations for Disability**

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at [Student.Life@angelo.edu](mailto:Student.Life@angelo.edu) to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

### **Student absence for religious holidays**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **Title IX at Angelo State University\**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

**Online:** [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

**Face to Face:** Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

**Phone:** 325-942-2022

**E-Mail:** [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix)