

CRIJ 1306 Courts System and Practices
Spring 2022 MWF 12-12:50 pm
MCS 110

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 (3rd 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 FIFTEEN or More time absences will receive a final grade of F.

However, if the professor is informed in advance of an unavoidable absence, it may be excused. 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:

Class Attendance	100 points
Online Quizzes A total of 6 quizzes (all multiple choice questions) will be given throughout the semester.	120 points (possible points 20 per quiz)
Online Midterm Exam The students will be required to take this 100-minute midterm exam.	100 points (Possible points 2 per question)
Online Final Exam The students will be required to take this 100-minute final exam.	100 points (possible points 2 per question)
Total	420 points

Final Grade:

Grade	Cumulative Points
A	374 to 420
B	332 to 373
C	290 to 331
D	248 to 289
F	247 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	Wed, Jan 19	Course Overview and Syllabus
	Fri, Jan 21	Chapter 1: Legal Foundations
Week 2	Mon, Jan 24	Chapter 1: Legal Foundations
	Wed, Jan 26	Chapter 2: Who Controls the Courts?
	Fri, Jan 28	Chapter 2: Who Controls the Courts?
Week 3	Mon, Jan 31	Online QUIZ 1: Chapters 1-2
	Wed, Feb 2	Chapter 3: Federal Courts
	Fri, Feb 4	Chapter 3: Federal Courts
Week 4	Mon, Feb 7	Chapter 4: State Courts
	Wed, Feb 9	Chapter 4: State Courts
	Fri, Feb 11	Online QUIZ 2: Chapters 3-4
Week 5	Mon, Feb 14	Chapter 5: Juvenile Courts
	Wed, Feb 16	Chapter 5: Juvenile Courts
	Fri, Feb 18	Chapter 6: Specialized Courts
Week 6	Mon, Feb 21	Chapter 6: Specialized Courts
	Wed, Feb 23	Online QUIZ 3: Chapters 5-6
	Fri, Feb 25	Chapter 7: Judges
Week 7	Mon, Feb. 28	Chapter 7: Judges
	Wed, Mar 2	Chapter 8: Prosecutors
	Fri, Mar 4	Chapter 8: Prosecutors
Week 8	Mon, Mar 7	Online QUIZ 4: Chapters 7-8
	Wed, Mar 9	REVIEW: Chapters 1-8
	Fri, Mar 11	Online Mid-term Exam will be available 12:01 am through 11:59 pm
Week 9	Mon, Mar 14	<i>Spring Break</i>
	Wed, Mar 16	
	Fri, Mar 18	
Week 10	Mon, Mar 21	Chapter 9: Defense Attorneys
	Wed, Mar 23	Chapter 9: Defense Attorneys
	Fri, Mar 25	Chapter 10: Defendants and Victims

Week 11	Mon, Mar 28	Chapter 10: Defendants and Victims
	Wed, Mar 30	Online QUIZ 5: Chapters 9-10
	Fri, Apr 1	Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures
Week 12	Mon, Apr 4	Chapter 11: Pretrial Procedures
	Wed, Apr 6	Chapter 12: Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
	Fri, Apr 8	Chapter 12: Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
Week 13	Mon, Apr 11	Online QUIZ 6: Chapters 11-12
	Wed, Apr 13	Chapter 13: The Jury and the Trial
	Fri, Apr 15	Chapter 13: The Jury and the Trial
Week 14	Mon, Apr 18	Chapter 14: Sentencing, Appeals & <i>Habeas Corpus</i>
	Wed, Apr 20	Chapter 14: Sentencing, Appeals & <i>Habeas Corpus</i>
	Fri, Apr 22	Chapter 15: Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
Week 15	Mon, Apr 25	Chapter 15: Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
	Wed, Apr 28	Online QUIZ 7: Chapters 13-15
	Fri, Apr 29	REVIEW: Chapters 9-15
Week 16	Mon, May 2	<i>No Class for Dead Week</i>
	Wed, May 4	
	Fri, May 6	
Week 17	Mon, May 9	Online Final Exam will be available 12:01 am through 11:59 pm

IMPORTANT DATES

January 18: 1st 8-Week Term begins.

January 26: 1st 8-Week Session “W” period begins – Drops and withdrawals will now be recorded on transcripts.

February 24: Last Day to Drop/Withdraw from the 1st 8-Week Term – The appropriate form must be submitted by 5:00 pm. Central Time.

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 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

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

E-Mail: 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