

Court Systems and Practices (CRIJ 1306)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Course Description

This course is a study of the court system as it applies to the structures, procedures, practices and sources of law in American courts, using federal and Texas statutes and case law.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Criminal Justice Procedure* by Moak, Stacy C. and Carlson, Ronald, 8th edition. Anderson Publishing.
 - a. ISBN number is 978-1-4557-3048-3.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdiction, development and structure.
2. Analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom work group.
3. Identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal.
4. Describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system.

Course Outline

1. Welcome
 - a. Syllabus
 - b. Expectations
2. Overview of Criminal Justice in America
 - a. Goals of Criminal Procedure
 - b. Sources of Criminal Procedural Laws
 - c. Adversary System of Justice
 - d. Steps in CJ Process
 - e. Briefing a case
3. The Fourth Amendment
 - a. Background
 - b. Reasonable expectation of privacy
 - c. Warrant requirement
 - d. 4th Amendment and Arrests
 - e. 4th Amendment and Searches
 - f. Exclusionary Rule
 - g. Fruits of the Poisonous Tree
 - h. USA Patriot Act
4. Arrests
 - a. General Elements of Arrests
 - b. Arrests in homes
 - c. Arrests without a warrant
 - d. Stops differ from arrests
 - e. Use of Force
5. Searches: General

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- a. Search Warrant Requirement
- b. Neutral and Detached Magistrate Requirement
- c. Particularity Requirement
- d. Manner of conducting a search
- e. Arrest warrant does not equal a search warrant
- 6. Automobile exception to Search Warrant Requirement
 - a. Search based on probable cause
 - b. Search of containers
 - c. Vehicle search incident of arrest
 - d. Investigatory stops/reasonable suspicion
 - e. Inventory searches
 - f. Vehicle searches by police K-9
 - g. Consent searches
 - h. Roadblocks and checkpoints
- 7. Exceptions to warrant requirement
 - a. Plain view
 - b. open fields
 - c. abandoned property
 - d. consent searches
- 8. Hot Pursuit
 - a. Search incident to arrest
 - b. Hot pursuit
- 9. Airport Searches, Border Searches, other Exigencies
 - a. Airport searches
 - b. Border searches
 - c. Other exigencies
 - d. Destruction of evidence
 - e. Danger to the community
 - f. Regulated business searches
- 10. The 5th Amendment
 - a. Miranda warnings
 - b. Invoking right to remain silent or right to counsel
 - c. Knowing and voluntary waiver of Miranda Rights
 - d. Public safety exception to Miranda Warnings
 - e. Granting immunity
- 11. The 6th Amendment
 - a. Identification Procedures
 - b. Interrogations after formal charges
 - c. Right to attorney at trial
 - d. Speedy trial
 - e. Trial by jury
- 12. The adversary system
 - a. Responsibility of advocates
 - b. Role of defense attorney
 - c. Effective assistance of counsel
 - d. Role of prosecutor
 - e. Responsibility of police officers
 - f. Responsibility of judges
 - g. Need for support and reform of system

Grade Scale: (550 points possible)

550 – 490 = A
489 – 429 = B
428 – 368 = C
367 – 300 = D
299 – Below = F

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Course Syllabus

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Attendance, preparation and participation	50 pts
Observation 1	50 pts
Observation 2	50 pts
Exam 1	85 pts
Exam 2	85 pts
Exam 3	85 pts
Exam 4	85 pts
Outline/ Notes (4 sets @ 15 each)	60 pts

Course Requirements

1. Class preparation and participation

Each student must purchase the required text necessary for class and be prepared to actively participate in the class discussion. (50 points)

2. Court Observation

You will observe (2) actual court proceedings in the Criminal District courts of Beaumont, Jefferson County and the United States Federal Criminal court as well. Federal & District Criminal Courts are open proceedings so you may go in and observe any court room proceeding unless it is closed by the judge. You will then write a report on what you observed. (2 @ 50 points each)

- a) Summarize the proceeding and what happened while you were there. Please explain why it's relevant to what we are studying from the text (Meaning—was it a plea bargaining going on, actual trial process, etc.). Please include the Court number, clerks name, judge's name, and date and time of your observation.
- b) Address how does it compare to what you see on television.
- c) Address how the process compares to what we have studied this semester.
- d) Your summarization/reflection needs to be at least 400 words.
- e) You will be given class time to go and do the observation.
- f) You may observe any felony criminal court in Jefferson or surrounding counties. However; the federal court observation can only be done at the Jack Brooks Federal Building downtown Beaumont.
- g) Please be advised of the late submission policy on this assignment.

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3. Examinations

Will be scheduled according to the posted syllabi. The format is essay, multiple choice, or short answer or essay. Please do not ask for early examination exceptions. (4 @ 100 points each)

4. Chapter Outlines/Notes (4 sets of notes - 60 points)

In this class it is imperative that you read the chapters to understand the material therefore, you will outline the chapters.

- a) Each chapter must be outlined in this class no exceptions. It is the first 15% (15 points) of your test grade.
- b) All notes/outlines are due on the day of the test and no late submissions are allowed for the notes/ outline. Please have a copy ready for submission as a part of your test.
- c) If you fail to submit the chapter notes then the highest grade you can make on the test would be a score of 85.
- d) All outlines will need to have a properly formatted APA title page and a reference page.

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. Submission of Assignments

Exams: To ensure that each student is mastering the materials assigned for reading and discussion in class, quizzes/tests will be administered following select chapters.

5. APA Format

In the social sciences (Sociology, Criminology, Psychology, etc.) the preferred style of writing is American Psychological Association (APA) Style. If you have any questions about the APA style, contact your instructor or APA websites www.apa.org and check the book store for an APA book.

All assignments must be type written no exceptions and in APA format.

Examples for APA style writing: [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th Edition](#): Website: www.apa.org

6. Attendance

Students are expected to arrive for class on time and remain in class until dismissed by the instructor. A student who has to depart class early should prior inform the instructor and is responsible for missed work. Official attendance records are taken at the beginning of every class period. Students who miss frequently rarely perform as well as those who attend regularly. There is no need to call the instructor to notify him of an absence. If a student wishes to drop the course, it is his or her responsibility to fill out the appropriate form in the college office on campus. Students who stop attending before the end of the semester, and who do not drop themselves, will receive a grade of "F." It is also expected that students will arrive a few minutes before the start of class so that the lecture may commence on time.

Repeat instances of tardiness will not be permitted

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I strongly suggest that students drop this class if you have family, work, or school obligations that make it difficult to be to class on time. I will reserve the right to refuse admission to the lecture if, you are more than 15 minutes to class.

7. **Late policy**

All assignments are due by the end of the class period or it is considered late. You have 24 hours from the due date to submit a late assignment with a 15% penalty. No assignments will be accepted after the late period has expired. If, you email your late assignment please make sure it is by the due date and time as well.

8. **Projects and Exercises**

During the course of the semester, each student will be asked to complete a variety of projects that support lecture and reading materials.

Projects/Exercises may include: online assignments, critical thinking exercises, collaborative presentations, oral presentations, and other projects assigned by your professor.

9. **If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.**

10. **Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.**

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.