Court Systems and Practices (CRIJ 1306) Online

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self-Assessment: http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx

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. This course is time-bound, structured, and completed totally online.

Required Textbook and Materials
   a. ISBN number 9781544338941.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
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
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

Approved 7/2019
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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>0 – 59</td>
<td>F</td>
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Course Evaluation
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Discussion/Participation: 10%
- Assignments: 30%
- Tests: 60%

Course Policies
1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course.
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: [https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy) A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

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 online resource: [http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx](http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx)

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](http://www.lit.edu) or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.

Starfish
LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click
CRIJ 1306 Online
Course Syllabus

on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.