



Criminal Justice 1306.031IN
Court Systems and Practices
Fall 2021 (1st 8-weeks)
Online

Instructor Information: Carla Anderson, canderson@com.edu, Ofc (409) 933-8276, Cell (409) 771-2219

Student hours and location: Student hours are Mon-Thurs 8:00-11am and 1:00-3:00pm. However, I am in the office from 7:00am – 3:30pm so please feel free to stop by during those hours also. If necessary, we can set an appointment for Friday mornings. Another option is setting up a face-to-face call through Teams. My office is located in the Public Service Careers Building across the street from the main campus, next door to DPS. (Turn in the fire station driveway for our parking lot.)

Required Textbook: America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System (13th edition) ISBN-978-1-337-55789-4. Authors: David Neubauer and Henry Fradella; Publisher: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (free access online)
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?link=CR>

Texas Penal Code (free access online)
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?link=PE>

Supplementary materials will post in Blackboard.

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.

Course requirements: This is an 8-week course (8/23-10/15). You are required to read the chapters as listed on the course outline and any related lecture notes or outlines located in the modules. Viewing the respective power point presentations will reinforce your reading. I will post supplemental material in the chapter resources section of each module that is considered course material. You are responsible for this material for exam purposes (unless otherwise stated).

You are required to take 3 exams (200 points each), submit 3 assignments (50 points each) and a power point project (50 points), and post to 5 discussions (10 points each). Although quizzes are optional and have no point value for your grade, I highly recommend that you take them for self-

assessment value. Exams will be taken online and will be open between 4-5 days, including a weekend, to accommodate various schedules. Do not use Wi-Fi when taking an exam, if possible. Please contact me if you have computer problems while taking an exam. Exams may be accessed through the “Assessments” link on the menu. Look on the course outline to determine your exam weeks (Week 3 - Exam 1, Week 5 - Exam 2, Weeks 7,8 - Exam 3. All exams are timed. Exams must be taken in the Respondus Lockdown browser.

Discussions: For full credit, postings to a discussion topic should consist of a short paragraph, at a minimum eight (8) sentences. Each discussion topic is worth up to 10 points each. I encourage you to respond to a fellow student for each posting. You are expected to read at least 75% of the postings. Our discussion board takes the place of a live classroom discussion and as such, you may be exposed to many different concepts and beliefs concerning various criminal justice issues. Be respectful of your classmates when posting or responding to a discussion. Your comments and thoughts are part of the learning process. Do not use “text” spelling. Please use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Maximum points will not be given for informal, incomplete, very brief, or not in compliance postings. A post may be deleted from view if it is disrespectful, crude, or contains offensive language.

Written Assignments: Detailed instructions for assignments are contained within the individual assignments located in the menu link “Assignments”. All written assignments must be typed and submitted in either Microsoft Word file format (.docx or .doc) or in a rich-text format (.rtf) using a font no smaller than 10 points and no larger than 12 points. Please take advantage of the COM Tutoring Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. You submit your written assignments by attaching your document into the respective assignment box. I will attempt to grade and return your assignments within 4 days of the due date. Please feel free to contact me if you have not received a grade. You are responsible for keeping copies of all your assignments turned in for grades.

Power point project: The power point project requires that you prepare a minimum 25-slide presentation on an issue related to the criminal justice system. This is due 10/12/21. Detailed instructions are contained within the Power Point project assignment located in Assignments. Do not wait until the last week to start your power point project. Many electronic resources available to you through the COM Library. Use academic search engines such as EPSCO and ProQuest which may be found in LibGuides located on the COM Library website. Wikipedia is not an academic resource and will not be counted as such. If cited, you will receive no credit.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

1st exam	200 points
2nd exam	200 points
3rd exam	200 points
Assignments (3 at 50 pts. ea.)	150 points
Power point project	50 points
Discussions (5 at 5 pts. ea.)	50 points
TOTAL	850 POINTS

A= 850-765 B= 764-680 C= 679-595 D= 594-510 F= 509 and below

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy

I accept late work only for Assignments 1 and 2. Five (5) points will be subtracted from the grade for each day that it is late past the due date. After five (5) days late work will not be accepted. There is no make-up work. I offer extra credit at the beginning of the course, so please take advantage of that opportunity.

Attendance Policy: Pursuant to college policy attendance is required. Your attendance in this online class will consist of participating in discussions and submitting the required assignments and exams. There may be suggested weekly readings in addition to the assigned chapters. It is expected that you log into the course website twice a week (or more) to view updated announcements, participate in ongoing discussions, take quizzes, and submit the required work. You are expected to commit at least 3-4 hours a week or more in this class.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Please use course messages for course related communications.

Student Learner Outcomes:

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 workgroup.
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.
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Court Systems & Practices (CRIJ 1306) topic through written communication.
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Court Systems & Practices (CRIJ 1306) topic through visual communication.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdiction, development, and structure.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Assignment 1
2. Analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom workgroup.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Exam 2
3. Identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Exam 1

4. Describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Assignment 3
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Courts (CRIJ 1306) topic through written communication	Communication Skills (CS1)	Assignment 2
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a Courts (CRIJ 1306) topic through visual communication	Communication Skills (CS3)	Power point project

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and is prohibited. Integrity is very important in your academic and professional career, especially in the criminal justice field. If there is evidence which indicates dishonesty regarding submitted assignments or exams, you will receive a zero (-0-) for that assignment or exam. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. R.E. Davis, Department Chair of Public Service Careers at (409) 933-8313, rdavis29@com.edu.

Course outline: (Subject to change)

Fall 2021 CRIJ 1306 Court Systems & Practices 8/23/21 – 10/15/21

Date	Week	Readings	Discussions	Assignments	Quizzes/Exams
8/23	1	Ch 1 Law, Crime, Courts & Controversy Ch 2 Federal Courts; Supplementary Material provided	Introduction due 8/25 Disc 1 due 8/25	Optional extra credit assignment due 9/1	Syllabus quiz (extra credit – 3 pts) 8/24 - 8/31
8/30	2	Ch 3 State Courts Ch 4 Juvenile Courts Supplementary Material provided	Disc 2 due 9/1	Optional extra credit assignment due 9/1	Syllabus/FAQs quiz (extra credit – 3 pts) closes 8/31
9/6	3	Review Chs 1-4 for Exam 1		Assi 1 due 9/8	Exam 1 covers Chs 1-4 Opens 9/10, closes 9/14
9/13	4	Ch 5 The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice Ch 6 Prosecutors	Disc 3 due 9/15		
9/20	5	Ch7 Defense Attorneys Ch 8 Judges Supplementary Material provided Review Chs 5-8		Assignment 2 due 9/22	Exam 2 covers Chs 5,6,7,8 Opens 9/24, closes 9/28

9/27	6	Ch 10 From Arrest and Bail Through Arraignment Ch 11 Disclosing & Suppressing Evidence	Disc 4 due 9/29	Start the PowerPoint project	
10/4	7	Ch 13 Trials & Juries Ch 15 Appellate & Habeas Corpus Review	Disc 5 due 10/6	Assignment 3 due 10/6	Exam 3 covers Chs. 10-11, 13, and 15 Opens 10/8, closes 10/13
10/11	8	Review Chs 11, 12, 13 and 15 for Exam 3		Power point project due 10/13	Exam 3 closes on Wednesday, 10/13 Last day of class 10/15

Technology Outage Policy: There may be times when Blackboard may be serviced and therefore unavailable. You will see a notice on the Blackboard website when this will occur. Plan accordingly. If you are taking an exam and have technology issues, take a screen shot and email me immediately. In addition, text me your problems taking the exam at (409) 771-2219 with your name, course, and exam numbers. Contact me before submitting an online request to our Distance Education staff, which is also available to you as an option.

Other times the College may experience emergency campus-wide technology outages. If this occurs and you are taking an exam or quiz, or submitting an assignment, you will need to notify me. The exam or quiz will need to be reset or I will extend the assignment due date after the campus-wide outage is confirmed by Informational Technology. An Announcement will be sent to all students relaying the information about the new due date for the assignment or exam.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 2.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland’s Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance, when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.

Student Success Tips: This is an expedited 8-week course. Please stay aware of due dates for assignments and exams. Always read the Announcements. Make an extra copy of the course outline (above) to stay on track each week. Read all assigned chapters and instructions for assignments and exams. Take the practice quizzes before taking any exam. This could boost your overall score. Call, message, or text me if you have any questions. Ask for help. Remember, online classes require your attention and dedication. Try not to wait until the last minute. Good luck!

IMPORTANT: Eligibility for an occupational license may be impacted by one's criminal history. Students with a criminal history should confer with faculty or the department chairperson. Students have a right to request a criminal history evaluation letter from the applicable licensing agency.

Important Opportunity: The GCIC Academic Symposium: COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic/course/program-related and creative projects. To learn more about this spring event, visit: <https://www.com.edu/symposium/> Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills, widens your professional networks, and should be noted on your resume. This year, the symposium is Friday, April 1, 2022. The abstract submission deadline is Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at 11:59pm.