



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

## Court Systems & Practices (CRIJ 1306)

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Trazarra Stelly

Email: [tnstelly@lit.edu](mailto:tnstelly@lit.edu)

Office Phone: 409.247.5224

Office Location: Technology Center (TC) #212

Office Hours: In Person or Virtual Appointments available by appointment only.  
Monday – Friday (Flexible Times). Schedule via Starfish.

### **CREDIT**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### **MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

ONLINE

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

### **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.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

**Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective, by Hemmens, Brody, and Spohn 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.**  
**Sage Publishing. ISBN 978-1-0718-3389-6**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Students are expected to log into the course via Blackboard at least 3 times per week. Regular participation is necessary to pass this course.**

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

## STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

## COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) Submission Deadline is <b>BEFORE</b> 10 p.m. ALL <b>INITIAL DISCUSSION</b> Posts are due on <b>Wednesdays.</b>
1/16-1/20	Introduction/Orientation Week	1/16: Syllabus Review	1/17: Introduction Discussion 1/20: Discussion Replies Introduction Assignment Syllabus Quiz
1/21-1/27	Introduction: Law and the Judicial Function	1/22: Chapter 1	1/24: Chapter 1 Discussion 1/27: Discussion Replies
1/28-2/3	Sources of Law Types of Law	1/29: Chapter 2 & Chapter 3	2/3: Chapter 2 & 3 Assignment
2/4-2/10	Court Organization and Structure	2/5: Chapter 4	2/7: Chapter 4 Discussion 2/10: Discussion Replies Chapter 1-4 Exam
2/11-2/17	Prosecutors Defense Attorneys	2/12: Chapter 5 & Chapter 6	2/17: Chapter 5 & 6 Assignment FINAL PROJECT TOPIC DUE
2/18-2/24	Judges	2/19: Chapter 7	2/21: Chapter 7 Discussion 2/24: Discussion Replies
2/25-3/2	Criminal Defendants and Crime Victims	2/26: Chapter 8	3/2: Chapter 8 Assignment
3/3-3/9	The Jury	3/4: Chapter 9	3/6: Chapter 9 Discussion 3/9: Discussion Replies Chapter 5-9 Exam
<b>3/10-3/16</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
3/17-3/23	Work on Final Project	Work on Final Project	3/23: Final Project Outline/Rough Draft Due
3/24-3/30	Pretrial Procedure	3/25: Chapter 10	3/27: Chapter 10 Discussion 3/30: Discussion Replies
3/31-4/6	The Criminal Trial	4/1: Chapter 11	4/6: Chapter 11 Assignment

4/7-4/13	Sentencing	4/8: Chapter 12	4/10: Chapter 12 Discussion 4/13: Discussion Replies
4/14-4/20	The Appellate Process	4/15: Chapter 13	4/20: Chapter 13 Assignment
4/21-4/27	Specialized Courts	4/22: Chapter 14	4/24: Chapter 14 Discussion 4/27: Discussion Replies Chapter 10-14 Exam
4/28-5/4	Final Project: SPECIALIZED COURTS	WORK ON FINAL PROJECT	5/2: Final Project Due <b>before</b> 10:00 p.m.
5/5-5/8	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Assignments                30%
- Discussions                30%
- Exams                        15%
- Course Project            25%

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100    A  
80-89     B  
70-79     C  
60-69     D  
0-59      F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of

1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **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). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **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 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.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

I DO **NOT** accept late work. All assignments are due as scheduled. There are a few exceptions but those will be discussed on a case by case basis. (ex. Medical situation such as hospitalization)

**Preferred means of communication:** Email: [tnstelly@lit.edu](mailto:tnstelly@lit.edu) or phone: (409) 247-5224.

**Communication Response Time:** Expected response time for communications with instructor is 24- 48 hours (except weekends).

**Grading Response Time:** Assignments should be returned with grades within 2 weeks.