

Court Systems & Practices (CRIJ 1306)

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face-to-Face

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.

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.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Trazarra Stelly

Email: tnstelly@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-247-5224

Office Location: Technology Center (TC) #212

Office Hours: Face to Face or Telephone Appointments available by appointment only. Must schedule in Starfish. Monday – Friday (Flexible Times).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Regular participation is necessary to pass this course. Class attendance and **in class discussions will count as 20%** of your overall. Your failure

Approved: **TS 8/22/24**



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to attend and participate in class will result in a poor discussion grade. **4 unexcused absences will result in automatic failure of the course.**

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are 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.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) Submission Deadline is BEFORE 10 p.m. **Class discussion/attendance grades will be posted at the end of every week**
9/23 – 9/28	Introduction/Orientation Week Section I: The Purpose and Structure of American Courts	9/23: Introduction & Syllabus Review 9/25: Chapter 1- Introduction: Law and the Judicial Function	9/23: • Syllabus Bingo 9/25: • Introduction Assignment • Syllabus Quiz 9/28: • Chapter 1 Assignment
9/29 – 10/5		9/30: Chapter 2- Sources of Law 10/2: Chapter 3- Types of Law	10/5: • Chapter 2 & 3 Assignment
10/6 – 10/12		10/7: Chapter 4- Court Organization and Structure	10/9: • Final Group Assigned 10/12: • Chapter 4 Assignment • Chapter 1-4 Quiz
10/13 – 10/19	Section II: Courtroom Actors and the Courtroom Work Group	10/14: Chapter 5- Prosecutors 10/16: Chapter 6- Defense Attorneys	10/16: • Final Project Topics Due 10/19: • Chapter 5 & 6 Assignment
10/20 – 10/26		10/21: Chapter 7- Judges	10/26: • Chapter 7 Assignment
10/27 – 11/2		10/28: Chapter 8- Criminal Defendants and Crime Victims	11/2: • Chapter 8 Assignment
11/3 – 11/9		11/4: Chapter 9- The Jury	11/9: • Chapter 9 Assignment • Chapter 5-9 Quiz

11/10 – 11/16	Section III: Court Processes	11/11: Chapter 10- Pretrial Procedures	11/16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10 Assignment
11/17 – 11/23		11/18: Chapter 11- The Criminal Trial 11/20: Chapter 12- Sentencing	11/23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11 & 12 Assignment
11/24 – 11/30 Thanksgiving (Nov. 28-29)		11/25: Chapter 13- The Appellate Process	11/30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 13 Assignment
12/1 – 12/7 Last Class Day is 12/6	FINAL PROJECTS DUE	12/2: Chapter 14- Specialized Courts (Work on Group Projects IN CLASS)	12/2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FINAL Papers must be submitted in Blackboard before 10:00 p.m. 12/4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations-Groups 1-3 12/6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations-Groups 4-6 ***PowerPoint Slides must be handed to instructor before presentation IN CLASS***
12/8 – 12/12			FINAL GRADES WILL BE SUBMITTED ON 12/9

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Quizzes 30%
- Assignments 25%
- Discussions 25%
- Course Project 20%

GRADE SCALE

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

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

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

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

IDO 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 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.