

Court Systems & Practices CJS 1313(CRIJ 1306-9G1)

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



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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: Timothy Dinger

Email: timothy.dinger@gccisd.net

Office Phone: 281-421-4400 ext. 86860

Office Location: GCM Room SW210

Office Hours: In Person M-F 6:50am-2:50pm

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 This is a face-to-face course. Students are **required** to attend classes.

GCCISD attendance policy

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.

Approved: TD 1/13/26

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) Submission Deadline is BEFORE 10 p.m. on scheduled date.
1/20-1/23	Section I: The Purpose and Structure of American Courts	1/23: Chapter 1- Introduction: Law and the Judicial Function	1/24 Chapter 1 Assignment and Week 1 Discussion
1/26-1/30		1/30: Ch2 Sources of Law	2/1 Week 2 Discussion
2/2-2/6		2/6: Ch 3 Types of Law	2/8 Ch 2& 3 Assignment and Week 3 Discussion Project Topic Due
2/9-2/13	Winter Break		
2/16-2/20		2/20 Ch 4 Organization and Structure	2/20 Ch 1-4 TEST 2/22 Ch4 Assignment and Week 4 discussion
2/23-2/27	Section II: Courtroom Actors and the Courtroom Work Group	2/27 Ch 5 Prosecutors	3/1: Week 5 Discussion
3/2-3/6		3/6 Ch 6 Defense Attorney	3/8: Assignment 5&6 Week 6 Discussion

3/9-3/13		SPRING BREAK	
3/16-3/20		3/20 Ch 7-Judges	3/22: Ch 7 Assignment Week 7 Discussion
3/23-3/27		3/27 Ch 8 Criminal Defendants and Crime Victims	3/29 Ch 8 Assignment and Week 8 Discussion
3/30-4/3		4/2 Ch 9 The Jury	4/5: Ch 9 Assignment Week 9 Discussion Outline DUE Ch 5-9 Quiz DUE
4/6-4/10	Section III: Court Processes	4/10 Ch 10-Pretrial Procedures	4/12 Ch 10 Assignment Week 10 Discussion
4/13-4/17		4/17 Ch 11-The Criminal Trial	4/19 Ch 11 Assignment and Week 11 Discussion
4/20-4/24 4/27-5/1		4/24 Ch 12-Sentencing 5/1 Ch 13 The Appellate Process	4/26 Ch 12 Assignment/Week 12 Discussion 5/3 Ch 13 Assignment and Week 13 Assignment Due
5/4-5/6 5/11-5/13		5/6 Ch 14 Specialized Crimes	5/6 Ch 14 Assignment and Week 14 Discussion Projects DUE 5/4 5/11-5/13 Presentations Exam due 5/13
5/14	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED	FINAL GRADES SUBMITTED

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Grades will align with GCCISD grading policy

Assignment and discussion	60%
Test and Project	40%

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 a nearly 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 log in 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

DO **NOT** accept late work past the GCCISD policy. All assignments are due as scheduled. There are a few exceptions but those will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. (ex. medical situations such as hospitalization)

Preferred means of communication: Email: timothy.dinger@student.gccisd.net

Response Time: Expected response time for communication with instructor is 24-48 hours (except weekends). **Grading Response Time:** Assignments should be returned with grades within 1 week.