Court Systems and Practices (CRIJ 1306)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

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.

Required Textbook and Materials
1. *Criminal Courts: A Contemporary Perspective* by Hemmens, Craig; Brody, David C.; and Spohn, Cassia, 4th edition. Sage Publications.

    a. ISBN number is 9781544338941.

Course Objectives
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 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
    c. Warrant requirement
    d. 4th Amendment and Arrests
    e. 4th Amendment and Searches
    f. Exclusionary Rule
    g. Fruits of the Poisonous Tree
    h. USA Patriot Act
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

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: (550 points possible)

550 – 490 = A
489 – 429 = B
428 – 368 = C
367 – 300 = D
299 – Below = F

Course Evaluation
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Attendance, preparation and participation	50 pts
Observation 1	50 pts
Observation 2	50 pts
Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
Exam 4	100 pts
Outline/ Notes (4 sets @ 15 each)	60 pts

Course Policies
1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. If you wish to drop a course, the student is 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.
5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

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 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 office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at 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 or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.

CRIJ 1306
Course Syllabus

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.