

**CRMJ 3110: Criminal Courts & Processes**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 8:10-9:25 am**

**Instructor:** Kimberly Schweitzer, Ph.D.

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**Office:** Arts & Sciences Room 330

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1-2:30 pm and Thursday 9:30-11 am

*Note:* I am also available by appointment. Just email me and we will set up a time that works for the both of us.

**Teaching Assistant:** Kyle Bares

**Email:** kbares@uwyo.edu

**Office:** Arts & Sciences Room 222C

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10-11:30 am and Thursday 9-10:30 am

**Required Text:** Hemmens, C., Brody, D. C., & Spohn, C. (2016). *Criminal courts: A contemporary perspective* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

**Prerequisites:** CRMJ 1001, CRMJ/SOC 2400, and CRMJ 2210 or declared Public Law minor.

**Course Description & Goals:**

This course is designed to give you a broad overview and introduction to the criminal courts system. Throughout this course we will examine the criminal court system and processes utilized in the United States. Specifically, we will cover the different types of courts, the various actors that are involved in the court process, and the court process itself. Unfortunately, we will not be able to cover every topic and sub-discipline in depth. However, we will talk about a variety of concepts, terms, research findings, and applications related to the understanding of the criminal court system in the United States. By the end of the course, you should have a basic understanding of this system and the reasoning and processes involved. This will be achieved by attending class and listening to the lectures, participating in the discussions, and completing the assigned readings, quizzes, papers, and other assignments.

**Grading:**

Grades will consist of the following:

**Quizzes:** There will be one quiz due at the end of every topic covered in this course for a total of 11 quizzes. Questions will come from the lectures, textbook, videos, reading assignments, and discussions and may be multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, or short answer. The lowest of your scores will be dropped, which means you have the option to not take one of the quizzes. This should compensate for you having an off day or for any unexpected life events. Because you are allowed to drop one quiz score, there will be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES** given unless your absence is sanctioned by the Office of Student Life or for participation in a University-sponsored activity (in which case, you must talk to me before hand). Additional quizzes may be given at my discretion.

**Papers:** You will be asked to write three brief papers for this course (2-3 pages each). Details and topics for each paper are on the course webpage. For each paper, **follow the prompt given**, and **be sure to look at the rubric** to make sure you have covered what I will be looking for. In general, if you answer all of the questions (or respond to all of the prompts) using the knowledge you have obtained from class and the readings, you should do just fine. **Each paper MUST be formatted using APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition guidelines for the body of the paper.** You do not need to do an abstract. If you are unfamiliar with APA style, I suggest either getting the manual or using Purdue Owl to find the details. Points will be deducted if APA style is not followed. Upload your Word document directly into WyoCourses.

**Exams:** There will be one OPTIONAL final (cumulative) exam. This exam will be given during finals week and will cover aspects of all the material discussed during the semester. Questions will come from the lectures, textbook, reading assignments, discussions, handouts, and in-class activities. Because this exam is optional, you do not have to take it. Keep in mind, however, that the final exam will be cumulative. Because cumulative tests are typically harder, I suggest aiming to do well on the quizzes and other work assigned during the semester to save yourself extra stress during finals week.

**Other Methods of Assessment:** Throughout the course, there will also be other ways in which you will be assessed. This may be through low-stakes pre-/post-quizzes, brief essay questions, or other ways that I deem appropriate. This will not be to torture you, but instead will be done to try to improve your experience in the course. Instructions for any of these assignments will be discussed in class and posted on the class webpage.

**Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class if they arise.

**Grade Breakdown:**

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

**Attendance:** As with many college classes, attendance in this class is not a part of your grade. That being said, I strongly suggest you attend every class, as material covered in class will not always be in your book and will be fair game for quizzes.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Because attendance is not a part of your grade, I expect that when you do choose to come to class, you plan to be fully present while there. Being fully present means you are listening to me and your classmates and are taking part in any discussions and answering (or attempting to answer) questions posed during class. It does NOT mean texting, checking your Facebook, sending snap chats, scrolling through Pinterest, tweeting, or doing any other work not directly relevant to class. If you have a hard time avoiding your friends and social media for 1 hour and 15 minutes twice a week and for some reason still want to attend class, please sit in the back of the room so you are less distracting to your classmates and myself.

Throughout the course, we will have discussions on various, often controversial, topics. I do not

expect you all to have the same viewpoints on everything we discuss. In fact, I hope you are all comfortable openly disagreeing (or at least creating thoughtful opposing arguments even if you do not feel that way), as this will lead to more in-depth discussions. However, I do expect you to respect your classmates and respond in an appropriate manner. I strongly urge you to view the material we cover in an objective and scientific manner. **Please refrain from sharing personal stories/anecdotes and your religious or political beliefs, as the discussions we will have in this course are meant to be scientific in nature.** This will help ensure that all students are comfortable in the classroom without being concerned of being attacked for their beliefs or encountering other students' personal information.

**Email Policy:** Email is the best and easiest way to contact me with your questions. However, please refer to this syllabus and the course webpage before emailing me. I am more than willing to answer your questions, but past experiences have shown that the majority of students' questions can be answered through a quick search of already possessed materials. Typically, I reply to emails the same day. However, from time to time I do attempt to have a life (surprising, I know). Monday through Friday, expect a response within 24 hours, unless I let you know I am sick or out of town; Saturday and Sunday, expect a response by the end of Monday (holidays are an exception). **If this does not happen, PLEASE email me again.** I receive a lot of emails and sometimes they get lost in the shuffle. If you have a question regarding a quiz, emailing me at 3 am the morning of is not the best idea. Come by my office or grab me after class a couple of days before instead. If your question is specific or elaborate and requires a more detailed response then I can provide in a brief email response, email me and we can set up a time to meet and chat about it.

**Special Needs:** If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO Knight Hall Room 330 before accommodations can be provided.

**Academic Honesty:** (From the University Handbook) The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated.

**Students and Teachers Working Together:** Recently, the College of Arts and Sciences formed a committee of UW students and faculty to discuss how we can successfully work together. The following is the link to the document they created: <http://www.uwyo.edu/pols/courses/students-teachers.pdf>

**Disclaimer:** Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. However, any changes will be announced in class and on the course website. The syllabus is meant to be an outline of what to expect during the course and may not be followed exactly.

**Course Webpage:** The course webpage can be found at [wyocourses.uwyo.edu](http://wyocourses.uwyo.edu).