



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Casper College Center

Criminal Courts and Processes

CRMJ-3110/Spring 2017

Instructor: Shane Stone

Mailing Address:

Shane Stone – UW/C
125 College Drive
Casper, WY 82601

Office Location: Casper College Campus
Student Union, Room 336
E-mail: ssone7@uwyo.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
...Or by appointment

Textbook: Siegel, L. J., Schmalleger, F., & Worrall, J. L. (2015). *Courts and criminal justice in america, second edition*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

Course Description (*from catalog*): Examines the structure, organization and operation of criminal courts and their role in the larger criminal justice system; the process of adjudication of criminal cases from initial charging through post-conviction review; the constitutional rights of the accused; and the roles of the major courtroom participants.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to...

1. Describe the purposes and basic functions of courts in the United States.
2. Describe the structure of different court systems (*state, federal district, federal appeals, U.S. Supreme Court, etc.*).
3. Describe the court process, and place each process phase within a constitutional framework (*charge, arraignment, bail, preliminary trial, pretrial motions, etc.*)
4. List and describe several classifications of personnel involved in the American Court System (*Judges, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, Staff, etc.*)
5. List and describe multiple sentencing theories (*retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, etc.*).

Course Format: This course is offered as a web-conferencing hybrid. This is not a fully online course nor is it a fully face-to-face or audio/video teleconferencing course—it is somewhere in-between. The interactive face-to-face component will occur through a program called Zoom. Zoom will allow everyone in the class to connect simultaneously to a video feed through the web. Students will be able to access the class once the instructor sends out an email with an “invitation” to join the lecture.

Teaching Methods: Typically, the instructor will offer a general introduction/overview of the material and concepts scheduled to be covered each class and then help guide a discussion designed to explore the issues in depth. Students will know in advance exactly what they should read and research prior to class in order to participate appropriately. Again, this course is not a fully online course; however, students will be expected to accomplish much of the coursework independently. Guest lecturers from the legal field will be invited to speak to the class at various times throughout the semester.

Participation: Students will be able to interact with the instructor and other students in a variety of ways through Zoom. ***Although your participation is not graded directly, it may be taken into consideration in the event of a borderline grade.*** For instance, if at the end of the semester you find yourself just short of the next highest letter grade for the course, do not ask your Instructor to “bump you up” to the next highest grade unless you have first done everything in your power to demonstrate unparalleled effort and unquestionable commitment to learning in this course including but not limited to class participation.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is not mandatory for this course. That said, a commitment to attending class regularly signals that you are a serious student and interested in learning rather than merely getting a passing grade. When attendance for a given class dips below a certain threshold (*discretion of the instructor*) then extra-credit points may be awarded for those present. Also, instructions for accessing certain information not found in the textbook will regularly be dispensed (*verbally*) in class. Said information is testable material. It will be difficult to maintain As and Bs on Exams unless a student attends class regularly.

Learning Assessments: Following are the seven items for which you will be graded. Missing is the Essay Improvement Paper (EIP). The EIP is not graded, per se; however, it serves as the vehicle by which you can improve your original score on the Essay Exam. Details of the EIP will be provided once the semester is underway.

- Exam 1 10%
- Exam 2 10%
- Exam 3 10%
- Final Exam 10%
- I-Paper 10%
- Threaded Discussions 10%
- Essay Exam 40%

The grading scale for this course is:	90—100%	A
	80—89%	B
	70—79%	C
	60—69%	D
	59 & below	F

Exams 1-4: Exams 1-4 are each worth 10% of your final grade. Each will consist primarily of objective-style questions in some combination of the following: multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank. The exams will be administered online through Canvas and will be “open book.”

- Exams will not be given late, unless (1) an emergency (*usually medical*) prevented the student from taking the test at the appointed time; or (2) arrangements are made with the instructor **ahead of time**. Exams are typically open for several days at a time, so this should rarely be a problem.

I-Paper: The I-Paper is your opportunity to express yourself in the first-person—No APA is required. You will be asked to share your personal views and opinions on topics selected by the instructor. Your personal opinions should still be informed by some sort of reasonable and objective standard; however, there are no right or wrong responses. You may choose an A, B, or C level workload for this assignment. Instructions and grading rubric will be supplied separately.

Threaded Discussions: In an effort to keep us connected, ten percent of your final grade will be based on your participation in five (5) online threaded discussions. Instructions and grading rubric will be supplied separately.

Essay Exam: There will be one (1) robust writing assignment due in this course. If you are a little shaky with your APA, begin brushing up right away. Every APA mistake will result in a loss of points; however, you will have an opportunity to reclaim a portion of the lost points via the Essay Improvement Paper (EIP). Separate instructions for both the Essay Exam and EIP will be supplied once the semester is underway.

The Essay Exam will be submitted to a drop box in Canvas (WyoCourses). Late assignments will not be accepted for full credit. Seventy percent (70%) is generally the highest grade that will be given for late assignments; however, it will be solely the discretion of the Instructor whether or not to accept late assignments at all. The regular grading rubric will not apply to late assignments.

Failing to make a good-faith effort in completing the Essay Exam or failing to turn it in altogether will result in grades in the D and F range. Otherwise, students are able to choose between the following options: **A-level** workload, **B-level** workload, or **C-level** workload.

Just as you might imagine the **C-level** workload is much less taxing for the student than the **A-level** workload; however, a 79% is the highest possible grade for that option (*70% is the lowest a student will receive as long as the student makes a good-faith effort at the assignment*). Likewise, the **B-level** workload is greater than the **C-level** workload, but an 89% is the highest possible grade a student can earn (*80% being the lowest*). Specific instructions for each essay exam and a grading rubric will be supplied separately.

Student Requirements/Expectations/Responsibilities: Students are expected to take full responsibility for their success in this course. If you are struggling with the material or you are concerned about your grade, be sure to initiate a conversation with the instructor early enough in the semester to do something about the situation. Non-passing grades are the student's responsibility, not the Instructor's.

Student Conduct: Students should be familiar with the University's policies regarding student conduct/behavior.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should be familiar with UW Regulation 6-802 (<http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/files/docs/uw-reg-6-802.pdf>). Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing (*in any way and to any degree*) on

any assignment, paper, exam, etc.; will (*at least*) automatically receive a zero for that particular assignment/exam.

Disability Policy: It is the University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. 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 University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

Tentative Class Schedule and Main Lecture Topics (Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.).

All due dates are on Sunday evenings at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time unless otherwise stated.

January	24	Personal introductions and introduction of the course; discuss syllabus
January	31	Chapter 1 Legal Foundations; Explore related scholarly literature Chapter 2 Who Controls the Courts? Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #1 <u>Initial Post</u> due by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Sunday, February 5, 2017.
February	7	Chapter 3 Federal Courts; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #1 <u>Peer Responses</u> due by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time in Sunday, February 12, 2017.
February	14	Chapter 4 State Courts; Explore related scholarly literature *Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4, lecture material, and any other outside assigned reading); due by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Sunday, February 19, 2017.
February	21	Chapter 5 Juvenile Courts; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #2 <u>Initial Post</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 26, 2017.
February	28	Chapter 6 Specialized Courts; Explore related scholarly literature Chapter 7 Judges; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #2 <u>Peer Responses</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, 2017.
March	7	Chapter 8 Prosecutors; Explore related scholarly literature *Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8, lecture material, and any other outside assigned reading); due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2017.
March	14	Spring Break—No lecture/Nothing due
March	21	Chapter 9 Defense Attorneys; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #3 <u>Initial Post</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2017. *Essay Exam due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2017.

March	28	Chapter 10 Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #3 <u>Peer Responses</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2017.
April	4	Chapter 11 Pretrial Procedures; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #4 <u>Initial Post</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, 2017.
April	11	Chapter 12 Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas; Explore related scholarly literature *Exam 3 (Chapters 9-12, lecture material, and any other outside assigned reading); due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, 2017.
April	18	Chapter 13 The Jury and the Trial; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #4 <u>Peer Responses</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2017. *I-Paper due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2017.
April	25	Chapter 14 Sentencing, Appeals, and Habeas Corpus; Explore related scholarly literature Chapter 15 Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #5 <u>Initial Post</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2017. *Essay Improvement Paper due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2017.
May	2	Chapter 16 Technology, Alternatives, and the Future; Explore related scholarly literature *Threaded Discussion #5 <u>Peer Responses</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, 2017.
May	9	Finals Week—No lecture *Exam 4 (Chapters 13-16, lecture material, and any other outside assigned reading); due by FRIDAY , May 12, 2017.

*This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the Instructor. Students will be notified in advance of any changes made. **Note:** I do not have any intention of modifying the syllabus. This is merely a reasonable disclosure to make in the event of inadvertent misprints or major omissions. Dr. Shane Stone*