

CRMJ 3110: Criminal Courts & Processes
Fall 2018
MWF 9-9:50am

Instructor: Kimberly Schweitzer, Ph.D.
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Arts & Sciences Room 307
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4pm & Wednesday 10am-11:30am
Note: I am also available by appointment. Send me an email, and we will set up a time that works for the both of us.

Teaching Assistant: Michael Klepperich
mklepper@uwyo.edu
Arts & Sciences Room 313E
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:30pm

Required Text: Hemmens, C., Brody, D. C., & Spohn, C. (2016). *Criminal courts: A contemporary perspective* (3rd 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, and papers.

Grading Details:

Quizzes (225 points): There will be one quiz due at the end of every topic covered in this course for a total of 10 quizzes each worth 25 points. Questions will come from the lectures, textbook, videos, reading assignments, and discussions and will be multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, and 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 one quiz score will be dropped, there will be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES** given unless your absence is sanctioned by the Office of Student Life or because of participation in a University-sponsored activity (in which case, you must talk to me before hand).

Papers (105 points): You will be asked to write three brief (2-3 pages each) papers for this course each worth 35 points. 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 “Paper Details” document and rubric** to make sure you have covered what I will be looking for. I strongly encourage each student to visit the Writing Center before turning in a paper (see the section “Writing Center” below for more details). Upload your Word document directly into WyoCourses; I will not grade papers that are emailed to me.

Exam: There will be one OPTIONAL cumulative final exam worth 50 points. This exam will be given during the scheduled final time during finals week. Questions may come from the lectures, textbook, guest speakers, discussions, handouts, and in-class activities. If you choose to take this exam, it will replace your second and third worst quiz scores (your “first” worst score is already dropped), assuming you do better. If you do worse, it will NOT hurt your grade.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class *if* they arise. Do not plan on having extra credit. Instead, plan on doing the regular credit to the best of your ability.

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 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 or the Chive, tweeting, or doing any other work not directly relevant to class. If you have a hard time avoiding your friends and social media for 50 minutes three times 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, sometimes 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 based in research. 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 an assignment, emailing me at 3 am the morning it is due is not the best idea. Email me a couple of days before instead. If your question is specific or elaborate and requires a more detailed response then I can provide in an email, email me and we can set up a time to meet and chat about it.

Email Etiquette: When you contact me via email, I expect your email to follow proper emailing etiquette. This means you should start the email with a greeting of some sort; the body of the email should contain complete sentences and proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation; and you should end the email with your name. I understand many of you email from your phones or tablets. I do, too. But, that is not an excuse. Please take 30 seconds and read through your email before hitting send. Thank you in advance!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism can occur in many ways. Most obviously, plagiarism occurs when one directly takes text from a source and does not put it in quotations and/or cite the source. Plagiarism that is somewhat less obvious to students is paraphrasing knowledge attained from a source and not crediting that source. **Any information discussed in your assignments for this course that is not common knowledge** (e.g., The sky is blue.) **or your own opinion** (e.g., I like dogs.) **MUST be cited properly.** Plagiarized work will not be allowed. If you are unsure how to properly cite your sources, please contact the Writing Center, reference the APA manual or any of the numerous online resources (e.g., Purdue Owl), or speak with myself or the TA.

Writing Center: I highly encourage *every* student to visit the UW Writing Center *prior* to turning in each paper. In as short as a 30-minute appointment, the consultants at the Writing Center can help improve your paper and, therefore, your grade. To make an appointment, click "Schedule a Consultation" at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl/writing-center/index.html>.

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.

Disclaimer: Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. However, any changes will be announced in class or 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.