

**CRMJ 3110: Criminal Courts & Processes**  
Spring 2019 Online

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

**Course Description & Goals:**

This course is designed to give you a broad overview and introduction to the criminal court 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 listening to the lectures 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, and reading assignments and will be multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. Each quiz is timed, and you will only be allowed one attempt. The time allotted for each quiz is based on past average times to complete each of the quizzes. If you want to pass the quizzes, **you will need to study**. If you rely on being able to look up every question, you will run out of time.

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). Be sure to check the course calendar for due dates.

**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 rubric** to make sure you have covered all of what I and the TA will be looking for. In general, if you answer all of the questions and/or respond to all of the prompts using the knowledge you have obtained from lecture and the readings, you should do just fine. That said, I *strongly encourage* each student to utilize the Writing Center before turning in a paper (they do online consultations). See the section “Writing Center” below for more details. Each paper must be formatted using APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition guidelines for the body of the paper (see handout for more details). Your Word document must be uploaded directly into WyoCourses.

**Exam:** There will be one OPTIONAL final exam worth 50 points. This exam will cover aspects of all of the material discussed during the semester. Questions may come from the lectures, textbook, supplemental readings, and videos. Because this exam is optional, you do not have to take it. 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. I will just act like you never took this exam. Keep in mind that this exam will be cumulative. I suggest aiming to do well on the quizzes and other work assigned during the semester to save yourself extra stress at the end of the class.

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

**Grade Breakdown:**

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

**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 (in person or via Zoom) 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 that 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 is taking someone else’s work and claiming it as your own. Plagiarism can occur in many ways. Most obviously, plagiarism occurs when one directly takes text (word for word, or changing a few words) from a source and does not put it in quotations and/or cite the source. Plagiarism that is 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, or speak with me.

**Writing Center:** I highly encourage *every* student to utilize the UW Writing Center prior to turning in each paper in this course. In as short as a 30-minute appointment (in-person or online), 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>.

**Academic Dishonesty:** “Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an “F” on an exam, an “F” on the class component exercise, and/or an “F” in the entire course. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) unapproved assistance on examinations, plagiarism (see above), or fabrication of referenced information. Facilitation of another person’s academic dishonesty is also considered academic dishonesty and will be treated identically.”

**Disability Support:** “The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological, and would like to request accommodations, register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall ([www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)). You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu). Accommodations are not retroactive.”

**Diversity Statement:** “The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.”

**Duty to Report:** “UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a “Responsible Employee” of the University, the faculty member **MUST** report information you share about the incident to the university’s Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. I can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>. You do not have to go through the experience alone. Assistance and resources are available, and you are not required to make a formal complaint or participate in an investigation to access them.”

**Changes to Syllabus:** Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. However, any changes will be announced 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.