

## INSTRUCTOR

Kimberly Schweitzer, PhD

Email: [kschweit@uwyo.edu](mailto:kschweit@uwyo.edu)

Zoom Office Hours:

<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/2440098125>

Monday 2:30-4:30p,  
Wednesday 11a-12p,  
& by appointment

## TA

Jannat Hoque

Email: [jhoque@uwyo.edu](mailto:jhoque@uwyo.edu)

Zoom Office Hours:

<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98795930667?pwd=di9NSVRzbkpUME5hK1pFcmlqbklRMz09>

Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:30p

## MISC.

**Required Text:**

Hemmens, C., Brody, D. C., & Spohn, C. (2020). *Criminal courts: A contemporary perspective* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). SAGE Publications.

**Prerequisites:**

CRMJ 1001, CRMJ/SOC 2400, & CRMJ 2210, or declared Public Law minor

# CRMJ 3110: CRIMINAL COURTS & PROCESSES

FALL 2020 | 3 CREDITS | MWF 1:20-2:10P

**Zoom Link:** <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/96396239798>

## 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 the U.S. criminal court system and the rationale and processes involved. This will be achieved by listening to the lectures/videos/podcasts/guest speakers, participating in the discussions, and completing the readings, quizzes, and papers.

## HOW YOU EARN YOUR GRADE:

### QUIZZES | 225 points

There will be one quiz 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, podcasts, reading assignments, guest speakers, and discussions and will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. To simulate the on-campus version of this course as closely as possible, each quiz is time limited and you will only be allowed one attempt. The time allotted for each quiz is based on past average times students took to complete each of the quizzes. 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 and you have 3 days to take each quiz, there will be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES** given.

### PAPERS | 105 points

There are three brief (2-3 pages each) papers due at the end of each module 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 ensure you have covered what the TA and I will be looking for. I *strongly encourage* each student to utilize the Writing Center before turning in a paper (see the section "Writing Center" below for details). Upload your Word document directly into WyoCourses; I will not grade papers that are emailed to me or are turned in late.

## HOW YOU EARN YOUR GRADE (CONTINUED):

### EXAM | 50 points (kind of)

There will be one OPTIONAL cumulative final exam worth 50 points. This exam will be given during finals week. Questions may come from the lectures, textbook, guest speakers, discussions, handouts, videos, podcasts, and 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.

### OTHER METHODS OF ASSESSMENT | ?? points

Throughout the course, there may also be other ways in which you will be assessed. Instructions for any of these assignments will be discussed in class and/or posted on WyoCourses.

### EXTRA CREDIT | ?? points

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

### GRADE BREAKDOWN

A = 90.00 – 100%      B = 80.00 – 89.99%      C = 70.00 – 79.99%      D = 60.00 – 69.99%      F = 0 – 59.99%

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## COURSE POLICIES:

### ATTENDANCE

This class is set-up to be able to be successfully completed largely, *but not completely*, on your own time. There will be review sessions, paper guideline and feedback sessions, guest speakers, and some discussions **during our scheduled class time** via zoom (see link above and on WyoCourses). Check the calendar on WyoCourses **frequently** (I suggest daily) to know what is happening when. *Moral:* attendance is not a part of your grade, but there are parts of your grade that you have to attend class for to earn, and the review and paper help sessions can help improve your grade.

### EMAILS

Email is the best and easiest way to contact me. However, *please* refer to this syllabus and the course webpage first. I am more than willing to answer your questions, but often a lot of students' questions can be answered through a quick search of already possessed materials. Typically, I reply to emails the same day. 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 one by the end of Monday. **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 3am 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, email me and we can set up a time to meet and chat about it via Zoom.

When you contact me via email, I expect your email to follow proper emailing etiquette. This means starting the email with a greeting; 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. I do, too, but that is not an excuse. Take 30 seconds and read your email before hitting send. Thank you in advance!

### EVERYTHING ELSE

See WyoCourses for the following policies:

CLASSROOM CLIMATE AND CONDUCT | Academic dishonesty, classroom behavior, diversity, and duty to report  
LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS TOOLS | Disability support services, changes to the syllabus, and student resources  
COVID-19 | Anything related to COVID-19