

Criminal Courts and Process CRMJ 3110

Syllabus, Spring 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dan Fetsco
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Office Hours: Tue. 9:30-10:30 am & Wed. 2-4 pm and by appointment/request

GA INFORMATION

Name: Michael Klepperich
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COURSE INFORMATION

Day/Time: Tue. & Thurs. – 8:10 – 9:25 am
Room: Classroom 215
Credit Hours: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give you a broad overview and introduction to the criminal courts system. In 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. By the conclusion of the course, you should have a basic yet expansive 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students should possess the following:

- An understanding of the different types of courts and the need for courts in the United States criminal justice system.
- The knowledge associated with the origins of law and types of law.

- An understanding of the various roles that courtroom actors play and the different ways in which those actors work together and at times, in opposition to one another.
- An overview of the processes associated with the criminal court process, including pre-trial procedures, trial, sentencing, and appeals.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Hemens, C., Brody, D. & Spohn, C. (2017). *Criminal Courts: a Contemporary Perspective* (3rd Ed). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

* Additional readings will be made available throughout the semester on WyoCourses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades for this course will be comprised in the following way:

- A. **Online Chapter Quizzes** - Each week students will be required to complete an online quiz focusing on the assigned chapter for that week. Quizzes can be accessed through WyoCourses. Quizzes will be posted each week (no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday) and must be completed by 10:00 am on Thursday. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false. Quizzes are considered open-book, meaning that notes and readings can be used. However, quizzes must be completed individually, and students are not allowed to consult with other class members about the quizzes. Anyone found to be collaborating or assisting other students with quizzes will be subject to the penalties outlined in the Academic Dishonesty section of this syllabus. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth 15 points and there will be 12 of them throughout the semester.
- B. **Exams** – There will be a total of 3 in-class exams throughout the course of the semester. These exams will focus on the assigned readings and will be completed in short answer and essay style format. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The questions for the exams will be made available at least one week before they are due.
- C. **Class Participation/Group Discussion** – Throughout the semester, students will be required to participate in a number of in-class discussions and activities related to our study of ethics in the criminal justice system. At 7 random times throughout the course of the semester, your participation in the in-class discussion/activity will be graded. Some of the exercises will be announced; for instance, when we have a guest speaker, I will announce it and make the presentation interactive.

Other group in-class activities will be unannounced and will involve breaking up into groups of 4 to 5 students to discuss certain aspects of the criminal court system. Graded in-class discussions/activities will be worth 10 points each. Each student's two lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. Students who miss class on the day of the graded in-class discussion/activity will not be allowed to make-up the points unless the absence is considered an excused absence as outlined in this syllabus.

- D. **Paper** - during the course of the semester, you will be required to write one 3 to 5 page paper examining one of the courtroom actors that we will discuss in class. The object of the paper is to give you some flexibility in choosing the specific courtroom actor that you wish to research in greater detail, but also require you to delve deeper into the intricacies of the particular actor's role in the courtroom. For instance, you may want to focus your paper on defense attorneys and the lack of resources available to public defenders, or you may to research prosecutors and the incredible amount of discretion that prosecutors are entrusted with. The paper will be worth 100 points. Further instructions for the paper will be forthcoming.

Grading Scale

Paper	100 points
On-Line Chapter Quizzes	180 points
Exams	150 points
Class Participation and Group Discussion	50 points
Total	480 points

Grade:	Percentage:	Class Points:
A	90-100%	432-480
B+	87-89.99%	417-431
B	80-86.99%	384-416
C+	77-79.99%	370-383
C	70-76.99%	336-369
D	60-69.99%	288-335
F	less than 60%	000-287

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work/test opportunities will only be granted for excused absences. Excused absences include:

1. Participation in an organized school activity
2. Death in the immediate family

3. Illness (with doctor's written excuse)
4. Special circumstances that have been approved **in advance** by the instructor

The instructor is the sole arbiter of what (if any) absences are excused. Documentation will be required. All make-up work must be completed during office hours within **ONE WEEK** of the original due date. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete the make-up work. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of all make-up exams, quizzes, and other assignments.

University and Doctor's Excuses:

In order to be considered for an excused absence from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the student's absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>.

Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty in all its forms will not be tolerated in this class. This includes cheating on tests, turning in someone else's work as your own, **plagiarism**, or assisting other students in these activities. Students are expected to do their own work and anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and may receive a failing grade in the class depending on the severity of the transgression. Each student is encouraged to read University Regulation 802 for further information concerning academic dishonesty and the potential consequences. http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is important to the successful completion of this course. Students are expected to have read assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Students are also expected to check WyoCourses on a regular basis for information pertaining to this course.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to abide by the following rules of conduct:

- (1) No texting or other use of the cell phone in class without prior notification and permission from the instructor.
- (2) No surfing the internet
- (3) No sleeping or giving the appearance of sleeping
- (4) Be respectful

Failure to abide by these rules can result in the student being dismissed from the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is 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 128 Knight Hall, 766-3656, <http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/> and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS:

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.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:

The faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. Under Title IX, the University has a responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. Title IX mandatory reporters are required to notify Equal Opportunity Report and Response of any allegation of sexual misconduct. Mandatory reporters at the University include every administrative officer, dean, director, department head, supervisor, and all instructional personnel including your instructor. More information, including access to confidential resources, can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html>

COURSE OUTLINE

January 29:	Introduction/Review Syllabus; Chapter 1 - Introduction: Law and Judicial Function
January 31:	Chapter 1 - Introduction: Law and Judicial Function
February 5:	Chapter 2 – Sources of Law
February 7:	Chapter 2 – Sources of Law
February 12:	Chapter 3 – Types of Law
February 14:	Chapter 3 – Types of Law
February 19:	Chapter 4 – Court Organization and Structure
February 21:	Chapter 4 – Court Organization and Structure
February 26:	Chapter 5 – Specialized Courts
February 28:	Chapter 5 – Specialized Courts & review for Exam 1
March 5:	Exam 1
March 7:	Chapter 6 – Prosecutors
March 12:	Chapter 6 - Prosecutors & Chapter 7 – Defense Attorneys
March 14:	Chapter 7 – Defense Attorneys
March 18 - 22:	Spring Break
March 26:	Chapter 8 – Judges
March 28:	Chapter 8 – Judges
April 2:	Chapter 9 – Criminal Defendants & Crime Victims
April 4:	Chapter 9 – Criminal Defendants & Crime Victims
April 9:	Chapter 10 – The Jury
April 16:	Chapter 10 – The Jury
April 18:	Exam 2
April 23:	Chapter 11 – Pretrial Procedures
April 25:	Chapter 11 - Pretrial Procedures & Chapter 12 – The Criminal Trial
April 30:	Chapter 12 – The Criminal Trial
May 2:	Chapter 13 – Sentencing
May 7:	Chapter 13 – Sentencing & Chapter 14 - The Appellate Process
May 9:	Chapter 14 – The Appellate Process
May 16:	Final at 8:00 a.m

***Note: This is a tentative class schedule which may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will notify students at least one week in advance of any changes to the test schedule.**