



## **CJ 1306-01W CRN 42734 COURTS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

Course Syllabus: Summer I 2024  
Online/Asynchronous

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** James A. Purdon, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson 229

**Office Hours:** Virtual appointment

**Office Phone:** (903) 886.5331

**University Email Address:** James.Purdon@tamuc.edu

**Communication Response Time:** Emails are answered within 24 hours Monday-Friday during business hours (9am-5pm).

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### ***Required Text***

- Neubauer, D. W., & Fradella, H. F. (2019). *America's courts and the criminal justice system* (13th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage. ISB: 978-1337557894

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of federal, state, and local judicial systems with an emphasis on pretrial, trial, and appellate criminal procedure. A description of court structures and roles of the judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, juries, and other court personnel. This course is designed to assist you in obtaining a basic understanding of the process of criminal procedure. Criminal Procedure is the “how” of the criminal justice system. It is the body of rules that guide the conduct of criminal justice officials from the point of contact between a police officer and a suspect to the time at which a convicted offender is sentenced by a judge or jury. The course will include a discussion of the constitutional rules and case law as they apply to the rights of suspects and defendants

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the major actors in the U.S. criminal court system and differentiate their roles and responsibilities;
2. Describe the structure of the U.S. criminal court system and its foundation in criminal law;
3. Discuss the key issues relating to the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment as they apply to criminal procedure;
4. Identify the impact of criminal law and procedure on U.S. criminal court practices;
5. Evaluate racial disparity issues in the U.S. criminal court system.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- **Computer System:** Windows or Macintosh desktop or laptop computer purchased within the last 5 years. Chromebooks and mobile devices may not provide full online access.
- **Operating System:** Windows-based computers must be running Windows 10 or newer. Macintosh computers must be running OS 10.13 (High Sierra) or higher.
- **Required Software:** Microsoft Office 365; Adobe Acrobat Reader DC
- **Web Browser:** Use a recently updated internet browser.
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** See below for requirements.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

1. **Review** the **Syllabus** and the **Course Schedule** to keep up to date on requirements for the course.
2. **Read announcements and check email!** I will send updates about the courses through D2L, so **check regularly**.
3. Create a **personal organization system** to keep track of specified due dates.
4. **Communicate regularly** with your instructor and peers.
5. **Create a study and/or assignment schedule** to stay on track.
6. Set aside **regular times** in which you can do your classwork with minimal interruptions or distractions. Avoid multitasking while studying.
7. Learn about and use the student resources available to you! You can get free assistance from the [A&M-Library](#), [IT Support](#), [the Writing Center](#), and more.

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## ASSESSMENTS

### ***Case Presentation***

Students will present on a criminal case of their choice as their final project for this class. The presentation will include case facts (i.e., type of crime, location, date, and key players), chronological summary of the court process (i.e., opening statements, witness testimony, closing arguments, jury instructions, verdict, and sentencing), and provide a critical analysis of the trial, verdict, and sentencing.

To help ensure that students keep up with this major task (this is worth 25% of your final grade), I have created mini-deadlines throughout the Summer I term. First, you must pick a case (**due by 6/15 and worth 10 points**). Second, you must provide an outline of the case and what you plan to present (**due by 6/22 and worth 10 points**). Third, you must record the case and upload it (**due by 7/2 and worth 70 points**). Lastly, you must watch and comment on 2 other classmates' presentations (**due by 7/3 and worth 10 points**).

You may use any relevant aids to facilitate your presentation such as PowerPoint or Prezi, **brief** segments or clips of videos (less than a minute), and pictures. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. Further instructions will be posted on D2L.

### ***Discussion Board***

For each module in the course, you will be responsible for a discussion board post. The discussion board posts will be about relevant topics to the module aimed at getting you to think and discuss these topics. Each discussion board post is 25 points. To receive all points, you must do the following: fully answer all questions embedded in the discussion board (worth 10 points), respond to two discussion posts of other students in the class (worth 10 points), and use proper grammar and punctuation (worth 5 points). These posts are meant to engage you with other students and provide you with writing feedback early in your college career. **Discussion Posts** are due every **Thursday before 11:59 pm (CST)** and **Response Posts** are due every **Friday before 11:59 pm (CST)**!

### ***Summative Quiz***

There are 4 summative quizzes due throughout the course. These quizzes will help test students' knowledge of the material assigned in each course module. Quizzes contain both true/false and multiple choice questions. Collectively, the quizzes will count towards 50% of the final grade in the course. **Quizzes are "open-book"**—meaning that students may refer to their textbook, the online lectures, articles, and notes while taking the quizzes. But do note, **all quizzes are timed**. And even though these quizzes are "open book," students may not confer in any way—electronically, by phone, or in person—with anyone else while taking any quiz. **Quizzes are due every Saturday before 11:59 pm, Central Time!**

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## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale (see Table 1):

Table 1: Grade Cut-Offs		
Grade	Points	Percentage
A	360-400	90.00% – 100%
B	320-359	80.00% – 89.99%
C	280-319	70.00% – 79.99%
D	240-279	60.00% – 69.99%
F	Below 240	Below 60.00%

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades (see Table 2):

Table 2: Assessments and Their Values		
Assignment	Points	Percentage
Case Chosen	10	2.5%
Case Outline	10	2.5%
Case Presentation	80	20%
Discussion Boards (x4)	100 (25 each)	25% (6.25% each)
Summative Quiz (x4)	200 (50 each)	50% (12.5% each)

Grades can be accessed on D2L.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

**Communication** will be held either in-person, email, or through D2L.

**What to call me** – Please refer to me as Professor or Dr. Purdon.

**Look for the answer first.** When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these two sources for an answer *before* you contact me:

- Course Syllabus
- Announcements in D2L

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

**Excused absences** for classes will be given without penalty to the grade in the case of any of the following reasons: (1) Participation in a required/authorized University activity; (2) Verified illness; (3) Death in a student's immediate family; (4) Obligation of a student at a legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen; and (5) Others determined by individual faculty to be excused (e.g., elective University activities, etc.).

### **Citation Style**

Students are required to use the citation style and format of the American Psychological Association (APA). Review the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) or similar APA Citation Style online resource. It is acceptable to cite legal materials (cases, statutes, regulations, etc.) in accordance with the style specified in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed.) in all papers.

### **Extra credit**

Please do not ask for extra credit. Although an extra credit assignment may be offered to the whole class for attending a talk or participating in a learning experience beyond those anticipated in this syllabus, no individualized extra credit work will be permitted. Why? Extra credit is unfair to the students who do their work diligently all semester long.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES-- ADA STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **A&M-COMMERCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **AI Use IN COURSES**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty  
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## COURSE SCHEDULE

ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS	DUE DATE
WEEK 1: Introduction to law and Court Organization (Fed. & State)		
Readings: Syllabus	--	
Readings: Chapters 1, 2, and 3	--	
<b>Discussion Board Due!</b>	25	<b>6/6</b>
<b>Quiz 1 Due!</b>	50	<b>6/8</b>
WEEK 2: Court Actors		
Readings: Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9	--	
<b>Discussion Board Due!</b>	25	<b>6/13</b>
<b>Quiz 2 Due!</b>	50	<b>6/15</b>
<b>Case Chosen for Final Presentation Due!</b>	10	<b>6/15</b>
WEEK 3: Pre-trial Process		
Readings: Chapters 10, 11, and 12	--	
<b>Discussion Board Due!</b>	25	<b>6/13</b>
<b>Quiz 3 Due!</b>	50	<b>6/22</b>
<b>Case Outline for Final Presentation Due!</b>	10	<b>6/22</b>
WEEK 4: Trial, Sentencing, and Appeals		
Readings: Chapters 13, 14, and 15	--	
<b>Discussion Board Due!</b>	25	<b>6/13</b>
<b>Quiz 4 Due!</b>	50	<b>6/29</b>

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WEEK 5: Presentations!		
<b>Final Presentation Due!</b>	70	<b>7/1</b>
<b>Comment on at least 2 other presentations!</b>	10	<b>7/3</b>

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