



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

CJ 1306-01W CRN 42734
COURTS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Course Syllabus: Winter Mini 2025
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

Introduction Icebreaker

Many times these online classes can feel quite impersonal, in large part due to the lack of physical presence. In an attempt to promote a sense of comradery among your class, everyone is required to participate in an introduction forum where you will provide some information about yourself. The post should include your name, reason for taking this course, what you expect to get out of this class, your future goals/career aspiration, and an interesting fact about yourself. This post is your first assignment **due by 12/18 before 11:59 pm (CST)** and is **worth 5 points**.

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, I have created mini-deadlines throughout the Winter-mini term. First, you must pick a case (**due by 12/22 and worth 10 points**). Second, you must provide an outline of the case and what you plan to present (**due by 12/29 and worth 10 points**). Third, you must record the case and upload it (**due by 1/7 and worth 60 points**). Lastly, you must watch and comment on 2 other classmates' presentations (**due by 1/9 and worth 10 points**). Responses must follow the **same** requirements as a discussion response post (see below for details).

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

In this class, you will be responsible for two discussion board posts a week. The discussion board posts will be about relevant topics to the week's material 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 and Saturday before 11:59 pm (CST)** and **Response Posts** are due for the day after. For example, if you are responding to discussion post 1 due on 12/19 then your response posts for that discussion post are due by 12/20. In effect, **response posts are due every Friday and Sunday before 11:59 pm (CST)!**

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Original posts should be two paragraphs in length, which is approximately 200-400 words. **Response posts** should be one paragraph in length, which is approximately 100-200 words.

Summative Quiz

There are 3 summative quizzes due throughout the course. These quizzes will help test students' knowledge of the material from each week. 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 Sunday before 11:59 pm, Central Time!**

GRADING

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

Table 1: Grade Cut-Offs		
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
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		
<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Introduction Icebreaker	10	2.5%
Case Chosen	10	2.5%
Case Outline	10	2.5%
Case Presentation	60	15%
Case Presentation Responses	10	2.5%
Discussion Boards (x6)	150 (25 each)	37.5% (6.25% each)
Summative Quiz (x3)	150 (50 each)	37.5% (12.5% each)

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Grades can be accessed on D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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 ET A&M 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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<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

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.

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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>

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>

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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

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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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to

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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

AI Use IN COURSES

East Texas A&M University 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.

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

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COURSE SCHEDULE

ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS	DUE DATE
WEEK 1: Introduction to law, Court Organization (Fed and State), and Court Actors (pt. I)		
Readings: Syllabus	--	
Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7	--	
Introduction Icebreaker	10	12/18
Discussion Post 1 Due!	25	12/19
Discussion Post 2 Due!	25	12/21
Case Chosen for Final Presentation Due!	10	12/22
Quiz 1 Due!	50	12/22
WEEK 2: Court Actors (pt. II) and Pre-Trial Processes		
Readings: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12	--	
Discussion Post 3 Due!	25	12/26
Discussion Post 4 Due!	25	12/28
Case Outline for Final Presentation Due!	10	12/29
Quiz 2 Due!	50	12/29
WEEK 3: Trial and Post-Trial Processes		
Readings: Chapters 13, 14, and 15	--	
Discussion Board 5 Due!	25	01/02
Discussion Board 6 Due!	25	01/04
Quiz 3 Due!	50	01/05
WEEK 4: Presentations!		
Final Presentation Due!	60	01/07
Comment on at least 2 other presentations!	10	01/09

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