

**COURTS SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES
FALL 2023
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor Name: Danny Morgan

Institution Course Number: CRIJ 1306

Office Location: B227-A

Telephone Number: 979-230-3442 (Office)

E-mail address: Danny.Morgan@brazosport.edu

979-799-5873 (Cell)

I. Course Description and Learning Outcomes.

This course provides the history, traditions, and philosophy which underly the system of justice exhibited in America's criminal courts. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to understand America's criminal court system and the various functions courts carry-out.

II. Required Textbook.

America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, 12TH or 13th Edition: Neubauer Fradella: Cengage. The 13th Edition may be purchased online or you may purchase it at the Brazosport College Bookstore only. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

*****Use the link to access course materials: <https://www.cengage.com/c/america-s-courts-and-the-criminal-justice-system-13e-neubauer/9781337557894PF/?filterBy=Student>

In addition to the textbook, students may be required to locate specific articles, videos, and reports on the Internet.

IV. Course Requirements.

Because this is an online course, students are expected to use self-discipline to pace themselves and keep current. You should be prepared to devote from 15-20 hours of work to this class per week (the equivalent of three/four hours of class time, plus the "traditional" two hours per class time of study for each unit of credit, plus three hours to answer study questions).

The course is ideally designed for the student who cannot or does not want to attend regularly scheduled on-campus classes. Students can complete course requirements while continuing to meet other responsibilities and demands. When and where you work is not important; what matters is completing the work in a timely fashion while meeting course content requirements.

V. Assignments.

The course is divided into "Weekly" assignments. Before you read the assigned chapter(s), read the "Review Questions" at the end of each chapter in the textbook weekly. When you finish the

chapter, look at the “Key Terms” in each chapter. Those are major concepts you should know and be able to define.

Questions about your readings can be raised (and will be answered) during the online Discussion Board.” Feel free to ask questions. Please check the Discussion Board to be sure that others have not already raised that question and received an answer. All students have access to the Discussion Board; this is where you can best communicate with your instructor or teaching coordinator.

Remember to check the “Announcements” on a frequent basis, as it may be necessary to raise additional issues or clarify assignments. Even if you are a “flash” student intending to complete course requirements as rapidly as possible, you may need the additional information about weekly assignments.

VI. Internet Readings.

Internet readings may be required for each chapter assigned. Click on the URL to locate the assigned readings. We strongly suggest you save the readings electronically or print them and organize them in a three-ring binder or folder. Exam questions may be derived from internet readings.

VII. Examinations.

There will be three (2) exams, a final exam, and quizzes throughout the semester.

The first exam will cover chapters 1 thru 5; the second exam will cover chapters 6 thru 11; and the final exam will cover chapters 12 thru 17. The exams will consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Availability dates are posted in D2L in the assignment section.

It is important you complete the scheduled examinations. Only in exceptional cases will students be permitted to take an examination late.

Any extra credit work will be in the form of a research paper. Papers will be graded on organization, content, grammar, and currency (recent sources). Observe the minimal requirements above.

IX. Student Exercises.

Exercises may be required for this course. They are to be submitted to your instructor when you finish. In your written answer, be sure to speak directly to the question and use the format indicated.

X. Grading.

The exams will account for 60% of your final grade. The quizzes will account for 20%; and the discussion questions/participation will account for 20%.

Academic Honesty:

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in a grade of “F” in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Students with Disabilities:

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, 979-230-3236 for further information.

Student Conduct Statement: The statement below is intended to clarify that students are required to comply with any and all safety requirements implemented on campus, including but not limited to wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, etc. Faculty have the authority to enforce these rules. Please include the following statement in your syllabus, even if you’re not teaching a course that meets on campus. Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they “fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC.” Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services. Also, artificial intelligence (AI) is impermissible in this course.

Campus Closure Statement: Please include the following statement in your syllabus. Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postpone if such orders are given.

Title IX Statement:

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct. Alex Crouse, Director of Student Life and Title IX Coordinator; 979-230-3355; alex.crouse@brazosport.edu; Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator; 979-230-3303; mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

COVID INFORMATION: At Brazosport College, all of us, including faculty, staff and students, share a common goal this fall semester, to keep our classes running in the safest manner possible and avoid any disruption to your progress in achieving your educational and career goals. To that end, we ask and encourage you to conduct yourself in the following manner while on campus this semester:

Every day, perform a self-health check prior to coming to campus and stay home if sick.

To the greatest extent possible, maintain your distance between you and other students, faculty, and staff while on campus.

Wear a properly fitted face covering over your mouth and nose while indoors on campus. If you do not have a mask, they will be available to you in all classrooms this fall.

Practice good hygiene, washing your hands regularly and/or using hand sanitizer.

The most effective way to protect yourself from Covid-19 is through vaccination. The vaccine is readily available and at no cost to you. Vaccine information and availability can be found at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/vaccine/>.

If at any time this semester you begin to experience Covid symptoms, or if you are exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, please take the following steps:
Stay home if you're feeling sick and minimize your contact with others.

Alert the College by completing the Covid-19 Exposure Report Form online at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/report/>. Be sure to provide accurate contact information, including a working phone number that you will answer.

After submitting the report, you will be promptly contacted by a member of our Rapid Response Team, who will ask you some specific questions about your situation and provide you with guidance moving forward.

If it is determined that you should not come to class, your instructor will be notified. **Please know that your instructor will consider course adjustments and potential make-up work only if your case has been reported to Brazosport College, and they've been notified by our response team.** Your instructor will work with you to determine how to manage any make-up work.

The Community Health Network (CHN) Clinic at Brazosport College (located in BC Central B-Wing) is scheduled to be open from 8 AM to 6 PM Tuesday through Thursday during the Fall 2021 semester. While walk-ins are available, your visit will be easier if you pre-register by creating an account at www.mychn.org. In addition to providing health and behavioral services, CHN also provides COVID vaccinations and testing. All insurance is accepted and healthcare is provided on a sliding scale including no cost for those who need it.

Throughout the semester, please regularly check the College's Covid-19 information page at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/>, where the latest updates and guidelines will be posted. As members of the BC community, all of us share a responsibility to each other to be as safe as possible.

GRADING POLICY

Course grade will be determined by the student's performance on the following objectives:

Mid-Term	30%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion Participation	20%

Total: 100%

A=	90-100%
B=	80-89%
C=	70-79%
D=	60-69%
F=	59% and below

XI. Assignments.

<u>CHAP.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook</u>	<u>Additional</u>
<u>Weeks 1 thru 5</u>		<u>Reading Assig.</u>	<u>Readings/Assign.</u>
1.	Courts, Crime and Controversy	Chapter 1	As Assigned

2. Law and Crime	Chapter 2	As assigned
3. Federal Courts	Chapter 3	As assigned
4. State Courts	Chapter 4	As assigned
5. The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice	Chapter 5	As assigned

Exam #1 (Chapters 1 thru 5)

Weeks 6 thru 11

6. Prosecutors	Chapter 6	As assigned
7. Defense Attorneys	Chapter 7	As assigned
8. Judges	Chapter 8	As assigned
9. Defendants, Victims, and Witnesses	Chapter 9	As assigned
10. From Arrest and Bail through Arraignment	Chapter 10	As assigned
11. Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence	Chapter 11	As assigned

Exam #2 (Chapters 6 thru 11)

Weeks 12 thru 16

12. Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty	Chapter 12	As assigned
13. Trials and Juries	Chapter 13	As assigned
14. Sentencing Options	Chapter 14	As assigned
15. Sentencing Decisions	Chapter 15	As assigned
16. Appellate and Habeas Corpus Review	Chapter 16	As assigned
17. Juvenile Courts	Chapter 17	As assigned

Final Exam (Chapters 12 thru 17)