

**CRIJ 1306**  
**Court Systems and Practices**  
**Western Texas College**

- I. Basic Course Information
  - A. This course is a study of the court system as it applies to the structures, procedures, practices and sources of law in American courts, using federal and Texas statutes and case law.
  - B. Prerequisites: None
- II. Student Learning Outcomes
  - A. Describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdiction, development and structure.
  - B. Analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom work group.
  - C. Identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal.
  - D. Describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system.
- III. Online Testing Requirements
  - A. The midterm and final exam must be proctored by an approved testing organization. (Ask your instructor for more details.)
  - B. Students are not allowed to use their book or notes of any kind while taking their proctored tests and exams.
- IV. Course Requirements
  - A. Exams – there are two major exams, one at midterm and the other at finals, each with 100 multiple choice questions covering eight chapters of the text apiece
  - B. Writing assignments – There is a 1500 word writing assignment due before the end of the course based on topics offered by the instructor and chosen by the student.
  - C. Collaborative exercises – There are eleven discussion forum assignments designed for the students to interact with one another on topics chosen and posed by the instructor in a discussion format.
  - D. Reading quizzes – There are 15 chapter reading quizzes in true or false format to test student comprehension of the text material
- V. Information on Books and Other Course Materials
  - A. Required Book: Courts and Criminal Justice in America, Siegel, 1st Ed., (ISBN-10: 013174576X, ISBN-13: 9780131745766)
  - B. Other Policies, Procedures and important dates. Please refer to the WTC [Catalog](#) for the following:
  - C. Campus Calendar
  - D. Final exam schedule
  - E. How to drop a class
  - F. Withdrawal information
  - G. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
  - H. Students with disabilities
- VI. Course Organization and Tentative Schedule\*

Week One	Ch1: Legal Foundations; reading quiz 1; discussion forum 1
Week Two	Ch2: Who Controls the Courts?; reading quiz 2; forum 2
Week Three	Ch3: Federal Courts; reading quiz 3; forum 3
Week Four	Ch 4. State Courts; reading quiz 4; forum 4
Week Five	Ch 5. Juvenile Courts; reading quiz 5; forum 5
Week Six	Ch 6. Specialized Courts; reading quiz 6; forum 6
Week Seven	Ch 7. Judges; reading quiz 7; forum 7
Week Eight	Ch 8. Prosecutors; reading quiz 8; forum 8
Week Nine	Ch 9. Defense Attorneys; reading quiz 9; <b>Midterm Exam</b>
Week Ten	Ch 10. Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights; reading quiz 10; forum 9
Week Eleven	Ch 11. Arrest and Beyond; reading quiz 11; forum 10
Week Twelve	Ch 12. Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas; reading quiz 12; forum 11
Week Thirteen	Ch 13. The Jury and the Trial; reading quiz 13; forum 12
Week Fourteen	Ch 14 Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions; reading quiz 14; Research Paper Due
Week Fifteen	Dead Week
Week Sixteen	Final Exam

\*The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change.

Last Modified/Reviewed: May 9, 2019