

Course Syllabus

Department : Criminal Justice
Course Title : Court Systems and Practices
Section Name : CRIJ 1306
Start Date : 08-27-2012
End Date : 12-14-2012
Modality : Online
Credits : 3

Instructor Information

Name : Jennifer Myers
OC Email : jsmyers@odessa.edu (I will only contact students using their OC email address. Be sure to check your OC account DAILY for announcements and updates)
OC Phone # : 432-335-6505

Office Location : ET 158

Fall Office Hours:

Monday: 2 – 4 PM

Tuesday: 1 – 4 PM

Wednesday: 2 – 4 PM

Thursday: 1 – 4 PM

Friday: By Appointment Only

Help from the instructor is available **at your** request. Appointments can be set up or you may contact instructor during office hours. Tutoring is available through the LRC.

Student Success Coaches

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

Course Description

This course will examine the judiciary in the criminal justice system; the structure of the American Court system; prosecution; right to counsel; pre-trial release; grand juries; the adjudication process and types and rules of evidence and sentencing.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

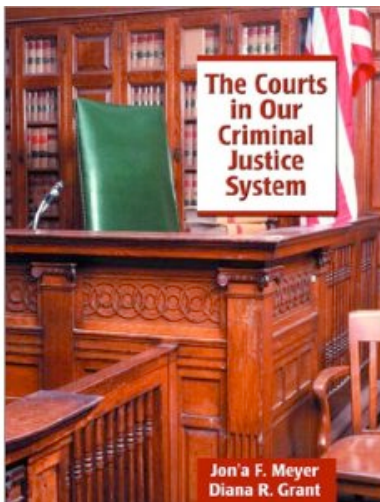
ICOs

(1, 2, 4, 5, 6)

Course Objectives

1. The student will describe the American judiciary system and its structure.
2. The student will identify the roles of judicial officers.
3. The student will identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing.
4. The student will interpret the role of evidence in trial settings.
5. The student will use correct language skills, grammar and punctuation.
6. The student will learn to proofread documents.

Required Readings/Materials



The Courts in Our Criminal Justice System

Jon'a F. Meyer and Diana R. Grant

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

DATES	ASSIGNMENT	DESCRIPTION
08-27-12 to 09-02-12 Quiz Chapter 1: Thursday 08-31-12	Chapter 1: A Society Designs Laws	Pages 3-22
09-03-12 to 09-09-12 Labor Day Holiday 09-03-12 Quiz Chapter 2: Thursday 09-06-12	Chapter 2: A Crime is Committed	Pages 23-51
09-10-12 to 09-16-12 Quiz Chapter 3: Thursday 09-13-12	Chapter 3: After Arrest: Law, the Court, and Post-Arrest Procedures	Pages 52-74
09-17-12 to 09-23-12 Quiz Chapters 4: Thursday 09-20-12	Chapter 4: The Courts Get Involved: The History of Courts and the Arrangement of Modern Courts	Pages 75-110
09-24-12 to 09-30-12 Quiz Chapter 5: Thursday 09-27-12	Chapter 5: A Prosecutor Considers the Charges	Pages 113-143
10-01-12 to 10-07-12 Quiz Chapter 6: Thursday 10-04-12	Chapter 6: A Defense Lawyer Is Selected: The Defense Role	Pages 144-173
10-08-12 to 10-14-12 Quiz Chapter 7: Thursday 10-11-12	Chapter 7: A Judge Is Assigned to Hear the Case	Pages 174-212
10-15-12 to 10-21-12 Quiz Chapter 8: Thursday 10-18-12	Chapter 8: Jurors and Other Key Participants in the Courtroom Play Their Roles	Pages 213-240
10-22-12 to 10-28-12 Quiz Chapter 9: Thursday 10-25-12	Chapter 9: Some Cases Don't Make It to Court	Pages 243-266

10-29-12 to 11-04-12 Quiz Chapter 10: Thursday 11-01-12	Chapter 10: 'You Ring, We Spring': The Role of Bail in the Court System	Pages 267-291
11-05-12 to 11-11-12 Quiz Chapter 11: Thursday 11-08-12	Chapter 11: Plea Bargaining	Pages 292-329
11-12-12 to 11-18-12 Quiz Chapter 12: Thursday 11-15-12	Chapter 12: Your Day in Court: The Trial Begins	Pages 330-380
11-19-12 to 11-25-12 Thanksgiving week (College closed 11-20 to 11-23) No quiz-but you are responsible for knowing this material for your final.	Chapter 13: The Punishment Dilemma	Pages 383-428
11-26-12 to 12-02-12 Quiz Chapter 14: Thursday 11-29-12	Chapter 14: \$30 or 30 Days: Setting the Penalty	Pages 429-464
12-03-12 to 12-09-12 Quiz Chapters 15 and 16: Thursday 12-06-12	Chapter 15: Appeals Chapter 16: Juvenile Courts	Pages 465-490 Pages 491-508
12-10-12 to 12-13-12	Final Exam	Combination of multiple choice, essay, short answer, true/false, listing questions

Assignments

Discussion and Attendance: **15% of final grade**

You must come to class every day and you must participate in classroom activities and discussions. Over 7 unexcused absences will cause you to receive 0% for this portion of your grade.

Current Event Assignment: **15% of final grade**

As assigned, each student will complete one 'current event' assignment. The student will pick an article from a newspaper or approved web site and give a presentation to the class about the article. The student will submit a copy of the article to the instructor. The

student will be provided with a question sheet to assist the student in making the presentation to fellow classmates.

Group Projects: 30% of final grade

There will be two group projects for this course: details to be announced.

Quizzes: 20% of final grade

Each Thursday, students will participate in a short (10 question) quiz. The quizzes will be made up of multiple choice, short answer, true/false and listing questions. The quizzes will cover lectures and the reading material for the week. A review will be provided for students to work on outside of class. A review will also be provided in class before quizzes are administered. If absent, missed quizzed CANNOT be made up unless the absence is excused.

Final Exam: 20% of final grade

The final exam will be a comprehensive exam. In other words, your final will cover what you have learned through the entire semester. The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, essay/short answer, true/false and listing questions.

Grading Policy

90-100 – A

80-89 – B

70-79 – C

60-69 – D

Below 59 – F

Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the ["Ask a Librarian "](#) service provide additional help.

Student E-mail

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Student Portal

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Technical Support

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies

Information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

DISCLAIMER: Each student is responsible for checking the syllabus frequently as it will be updated as often as needed.

Expectations for Engagement – Face to Face Learning

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
 - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
 - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact; and,
 - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
 - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
 - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will
 - return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
 - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and,
 - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to,
 - missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
 - having trouble submitting assignments;
 - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
 - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
 - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
 - ask questions if I don't understand; and,
 - attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.