

Course Syllabus

Department : Criminal Justice
Course Title : Court Systems & 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 history and philosophy of criminal justice and ethical considerations; its nature and impact; an overview of the criminal justice system, law enforcement, court system, prosecution and defense, the trial process and corrections.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

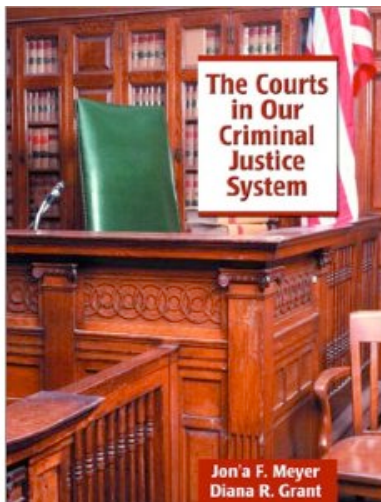
ICOs

(1, 2, 4, 5, 6)

Course Objectives

1. The student will describe and explain the history, philosophy and ethical considerations of criminal justice.
2. The student will define the nature and impact of crime on society and how it is integrated into the criminal justice system.
3. The student will distinguish between the civil and criminal court systems.
4. The student will interpret the relationship between the components of the criminal justice system.
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 Introduction and Blackboard Quiz due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-02-12	Chapter 1: A Society Designs Laws	Pages 3-22
09-03-12 to 09-09-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-09-12	Chapter 2: A Crime is Committed	Pages 23-51
09-10-12 to 09-16-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-16-12	Chapter 3: After Arrest: Law, the Court, and Post-Arrest Procedures	Pages 52-74
09-17-12 to 09-23-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-23-12	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 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-30-12	Chapter 5: A Prosecutor Considers the Charges	Pages 113-143
10-01-12 to 10-07-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-07-12	Chapter 6: A Defense Lawyer Is Selected: The Defense Role	Pages 144-173
10-08-12 to 10-14-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-14-12	Chapter 7: A Judge Is Assigned to Hear the Case	Pages 174-212
10-15-12 to 10-21-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-21-12	Chapter 8: Jurors and Other Key Participants in the Courtroom Play Their Roles	Pages 213-240
10-22-12 to 10-28-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-28-12	Chapter 9: Some Cases Don't Make It to Court	Pages 243-266
10-29-12 to 11-04-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-04-12	Chapter 10: 'You Ring, We Spring': The Role of Bail in the Court System	Pages 267-291

11-05-12 to 11-11-12 Midterm Exam Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-11-12	Chapter 11: Plea Bargaining	Pages 292-329
11-12-12 to 11-18-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-18-12	Chapter 12: Your Day in Court: The Trial Begins	Pages 330-380
11-19-12 to 11-25-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-25-12 Thanksgiving week (College closed 11-20 to 11-23)	Chapter 13: The Punishment Dilemma	Pages 383-428
11-26-12 to 12-02-12 Practitioner Interview Summaries Due 12-01-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 12-02-12	Chapter 14: \$30 or 30 Days: Setting the Penalty	Pages 429-464
12-03-12 to 12-09-12 Weekly Discussion due by 11:30 p.m. on 12-09-12	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

Introduction and Blackboard Orientation Quiz: **10% of final grade**

The first week of the course, you will introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about yourself. (What is your major? Why are you taking this course? What are your future career and educational goals?) Answer these questions and feel free to include any other appropriate information about yourself.

In order to ensure that all students can successfully navigate Blackboard and use the site to successfully complete this course, all students will be required to take and pass a Blackboard quiz before continuing with this course.

Discussion and Attendance: **20% of final grade**

Each Monday morning at 8:00 a.m., a new discussion question will be posted. This discussion will remain open until the following Sunday at 11:30 p.m. so that students may make comments and/or ask questions of myself or fellow students. These questions

will be relevant to the reading material assigned for that week. Your discussion and attendance grade will be based on you logging in to the discussion board and making a contribution to the discussion on four different days between the Monday that the discussion is opened and the Sunday that the discussion is closed. Although I am not requiring a minimum amount of words per post, I do expect your contributions to be more than an 'I agree' or 'Good post.'

Practitioner Interviews: 25% of final grade

These assignments are intended to provide the student with some exposure to the real world of criminal justice. Contact a criminal justice professional (contact information will be provided by the instructor). You will conduct a face-to-face or phone interview with your chosen criminal justice practitioner. A form of suggested questions will be provided to the students. A two page typed, double-spaced paper that contains the summary of your interview with your chosen practitioner must be turned into me on or before December 1, 2012 at 11:30 p.m.

Midterm Exam: 20% of final grade

The midterm will be a combination of multiple choice, essay/short answer, true/false and listing questions. The midterm will be available from 11-05-12 at 8:00 a.m. to 11-11-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Final Exam: 25% 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. The final exam will be available from 12-08-12 at 8:00 a.m. to 12-12-12 at 11:30 p.m.

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.

AVID

"This course, CRIJ 1306: Court Systems and Practices has been identified as a course by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student in the Criminal Justice program, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor."

Established Expectations

Expectations for Engagement – Online Learning

To help make the web-based learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the online 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 within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; 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
 - post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
 - 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
 - line up alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet services is unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
 - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or 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
 - getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
 - having trouble submitting assignments; and
 - dealing with a traumatic personal event.

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,
 - access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.