



# CRIJ 1306 – Court Systems and Practices

## Course Syllabus: Spring 2019

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“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Email
	9:30 – 10:00	9:30 – 10:00	9:30 – 10:00	Email	Email	Any Time
<p>The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will answer all questions as quickly as possible, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of your email. The contact number provided is for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. If you have an emergency and need to contact me you may call that number and they will be able to get a message to me immediately.</p>						

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

**Catalog Course Description:**

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.

**Prerequisites:**

No formal course requirements, but students should understand how to access the Internet via a web browser.

**Textbook(s):**

*No textbook is required for this course.*

**Resources:**

**Computers and computer labs assistants** are available in MS 103. The LRC and the Academic Skills Center have computers available for students but with limited or no assistance.

**Your instructor** can be your greatest resource. Your instructor is here to assist you in learning the material and helping you earn the grade you wish to earn in the course. This is a commitment by your instructor. Please utilize this resource by contacting him with any matter you feel he can assist you with, both within this class or your college success in general. It is your responsibility to learn the material, but this can often be best accomplished by initiating contact with the instructor on topics you need clarification or further assistance. Please do this!

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdictions, development and structure.
- Analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom work group.
- Identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal.
- Describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system.

**Exemplary Educational Objectives:**

N/A

**SCANS Skills:**

N/A

**Lectures & Discussions:**

	Tuesday 8:00 – 9:20	Thursday - Online
Week 1 – Jan 21/23	Introduction to Court Systems	Syllabus Quiz
Week 2 – Jan 28/30	Legal Foundations of the Courts	BB Assignment # 1
Week 3 – Feb 4/6	Officers of the Court	BB Assignment # 2
Week 4 – Feb 11/13	Court Cases and Hearings	BB Assignment # 3
Week 5 – Feb 18/20	Understanding the “Legal Language”	BB Assignment # 4
Week 6 – Feb 25/27	The Civil Trial Process	BB Assignment # 5
Week 7 – Mar 3/5	The Criminal Trial Process - Overview	BB Assignment # 6
<b>Week 8 – Mar 10/12</b>	<b>Mid-Term Review/<u>Court Visit #1</u> <u>Due</u></b>	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
<b>Week 9 – Mar 17/19</b>	<b>SPRING</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
Week 10 – Mar 24/26	Grand Jury and Indictment	BB Assignment # 7
Week 11 – Mar 31/Apr 2	Rights of the Accused	BB Assignment # 8
Week 12 – Apr 7/9	Plea Bargains and Pre-Trial Motions	BB Assignment # 9
Week 13 – Apr 14/16	Voir Dire and the Guilt/Innocence Trial	BB Assignment # 10
Week 14 – Apr 21/23	Rules of Evidence	BB Assignment # 11
Week 15 – Apr 28/30	Sentencing Trial	BB Assignment # 12
<b>Week 16 – May 5/7</b>	<b>Final Exam Review/<u>Court Visit #2</u> <u>Due</u></b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be determined by the student's achievement of a total number of possible points based on the below listed categories.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Pts. Per Assign.</u>	<u>Total Pts. Possible</u>
Class Participation	1	100	100
Class Assignments			400
Court Visit	2	140	200
Weekly BB Assignments	12	10	120
Mid-Term Exam	1	250	250
Final exam	1	250	250
Total			1000

The letter grade is based on the following Grading Scale:

Total Pts. Earned	Ltr. Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

## TESTS/EXAMS:

**Mid-Term Exam: March 12, 2020 (Online)**

**Final Exam: May 7, 2020 (Online)**

This course consists of two exams, a mid-term, and a final. The mid-term will consist of information from the start of the semester, up to the time of the exam. The final will be comprehensive and contain information from the entire course. **If you have a conflict with the exam dates**, you must contact the instructor prior to the exam week to attempt to resolve the conflict in a mutually agreeable manner.

## Assignments:

### COURT VISITS:

Students will be required to visit TWO (2) court hearings throughout the semester. A written response to each visit will be required for this assignment. Responses should be type-written, #12

Times New Roman font and must be 1 – 2 pages in length. Instructor will provide specific prompts for each assignment in class.

#### BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be thirteen (13) weekly Blackboard assignments to be completed by Sunday night, at 11:59 PM, of each week. Each assignment will be submitted through the Blackboard learning environment. Failure to complete the Blackboard Assignments will result in a grade no higher than a B in the course.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics to be covered in order to best prepare the student with the above stated learning outcomes.

#### Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

*Class Attendance:* **Participation in class discussions and assignments is mandatory.** Students' participation grade (100 points of the total Class Grade) will be ***heavily based*** on in-class engagement.

Withdrawal requests **MUST BE** initiated by the student. The last day for a student to drop a course with a grade of "W" is **Thursday April 9, 2020**. Requests for withdrawal become official and effective the date they are received in the records office. Students who stop coming to class but fail to drop the course will ***earn*** an "F" for the course.

*Late Work:* To be considered "on time," **all work must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day that it is due.** Assignments can be submitted for a 10% deduction for one week following the assignment due date. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructor.

#### NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook (see Student Handbook on the student MyEagle Portal).

#### Academic Ethics

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.