

Syllabus
CRIJ 1306
Court Systems and Practices

Instructor: Jennifer Myers

Email: jmyers@odessa.edu

Phone: 432-335-6505

Office Location: ET 148B

Office Hours: Monday: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: By appointment

Should these times not fit into a student's schedule, I can be available at times outside of the listed office hours by appointment.

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.

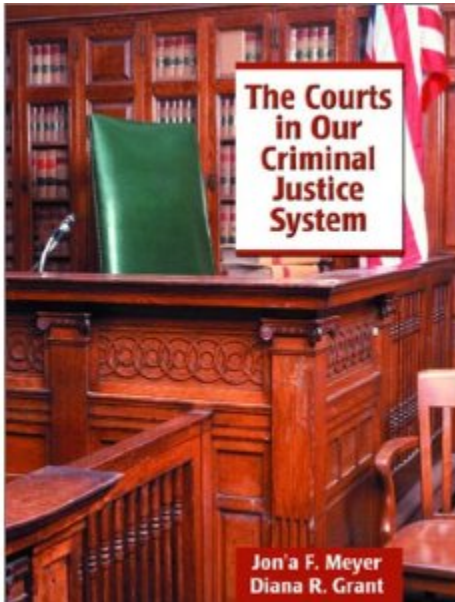
SCANS:

1,2,5,6,7,9,11

Course Objectives:

1. The student will describe the American judiciary system and its structure; (1,2,5,6,7,9,11)
2. The student will identify the roles of judicial officers; (1,2,5,6,7,9,11)
3. The student will identify the trial process from pretrial to sentencing; (1,2,5,6,7,9,11)
4. The student will interpret the role of evidence in trial settings. (1,2,5,6,7,9,11)

Course Materials:



The Courts In Our Criminal Justice System, Prentice Hall

Jon'a F. Meyer and Diana R. Grant

This book can be purchased from the online bookstore or from various online sources.

Course Requirements (Assignments):

This is a college level course and you will, therefore, be expected to uphold established college standards as outlined in the most recent Odessa College catalog.

Week 1: January 17 – 20

Please read Chapter 1 (Step 1): A Society Designs Laws

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 01-22-12

Week 2: January 23 – 27

Please read Chapter 2 (Step 2): A Crime Is Committed

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 01-29-12

Week 3: January 30 – February 3

Please read Chapter 3 (Step 3): After Arrest: Law, the Court, and Post-Arrest Procedures

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-05-12

Week 4: February 6 – 10

Please read Chapter 4 (Step 4): The Courts Get Involved: The History of Courts and the Arrangement of Modern Courts

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-12-12

First Exam will include questions from Chapters 1 – 4. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 02-12-12 at 8 a.m. to 02-15-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 5: February 13 – 17

Please read Chapter 5 (Step 5): A Prosecutor Considers the Charges

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-19-12

Week 6: February 20 – 24

Please read Chapter 6 (Step 6): A Defense Lawyer Is Selected: The Defense Role

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-26-12

Week 7: February 27 – March 2

Please read Chapter 7 (Step 7): A Judge Is Assigned to Hear the Case

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-04-12

Week 8: March 5 – 9

Please read Chapter 8 (Step 8): Jurors and Other Key Participants in the Courtroom Play Their Roles

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-11-12

Second Exam will include questions from Chapters 5 – 8. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 03-08-12 at 8 a.m. to 03-11-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 9: March 12 – 16

Spring Break – No classes

Week 10: March 19 – 23

Please read Chapter 9 (Step 9): Some Cases Don't Make It to Court

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-25-12

Week 11: March 26 – 30

Please read Chapter 10 (Step 10): 'You Ring, We Spring': The Role of Bail in the Court System

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-01-12

Week 12: April 2 – 6

Please read Chapter 11 (Step 11): Plea Bargaining

Please read Chapter 12 (Step 12): Your Day in Court: The Trial Begins

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-08-12

Third Exam will include questions from Chapters 9-12. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 04-08-12 at 8 a.m. to 04-13-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 13: April 9 – 13

Please read Chapter 13 (Step 13): The Punishment Dilemma

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-15-12

Week 14: April 16 – 20

Please read Chapter 14 (Step 14): \$30 or 30 Days: Setting the Penalty

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-22-12

Week 15: April 23 – 27

Please read Chapter 15 (Step 15): Appeals

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-29-12

Week 16: April 30 – May 4

Please read Chapter 16: Juvenile Courts

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 05-06-12

Final Exam Date: TBA

Evaluation/Grading Computation:

Your final grade will be based upon a combination of the following course requirements:

- Three exams 15% each
- Research Paper 10%
- Weekly Discussion Questions 10%
- Final Exam 20%
- Power Point presentation 15%

Your exams and final exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions.

Your research paper will be a 5 to 7 page, typed double-spaced paper that will be due no later than April 9, 2012. Your paper can be written over any law enforcement-related topic. It must have at least three references, but you are encouraged to use more. Please use correct grammar, spelling and format for a research paper. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me for a meeting, as I will be happy to help you.

The weekly discussion questions will be taken from your chapter lesson assignments as we move through the course. These assignments will correspond with your required Discussion Board postings. Please respond to each Discussion Board question with a minimum 250 word response to a question that I will post weekly. Then, post responses in the Discussion Board to two other student's postings on the same topic. Please be more specific and substantial than using the term 'good job,' as you will be required to post a minimum 100 word response to two other students.

The power point presentation will cover one chapter in the book. I will assign each student a chapter. The student will then do a power point presentation for that one chapter. The power point presentation will be used as a study aid by you and the other students in the class, so doing a conscientious and thorough job of presenting the chapter is important. I will do the power point presentations for the first couple of weeks, so that you all can know what kind of presentation to do. This will be 15% of your grade.

Letter Grade Explanation:

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

Student Resources:

The Odessa College Student Success Center is located on the first floor of the LRC Building. The purpose of the Odessa College Student Success Center is to provide assistance to students with meeting their academic and career goals at Odessa College and beyond. The services provided in the Student Success Center are free to every student enrolled at Odessa College.

Hours during the spring semester:

Monday—Thursday	7:45 am — 9:30 pm
Friday	7:45 am — 1 pm
Saturday & Sunday	1— 5 pm

The Learning Resources Center also has many resources available to aid students in their educational pursuits. Please go to www.odessa.edu for a full listing of available services.

Important Dates:

February 29, 2012: Deadline for spring degree applications

March 12 – 17, 2012: Spring Break – Campus Closed

April 6, 2012: Good Friday Holiday Observed – Campus Closed

April 13, 2012: Last day to drop or withdraw from a class with a ‘W’

May 7 – 10, 2012: Spring Final Exams

May 11, 2012: Spring Graduation

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. Please see your Odessa College Student Handbook for more information regarding academic dishonesty.

Please note that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in a failing grade for all parties involved.

Changes to Syllabus:

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

Student Assistance:

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 Collage, 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.