

El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Part II
Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Criminal Justice</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>CRIJ 1306</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Court Systems and Practices</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 :</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Studies the structures, procedures, practices and sources of law in American courts. **Prerequisite: INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 (can be taken concurrently) or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe and explain the American judiciary system.
- B. Describe and explain the structure of the American judiciary system.
- C. Identify and explain the roles of judicial officers.
- D. Identify and describe the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing.
- E. Describe and interpret the role of physical evidence.
- F. Describe and interpret the role of circumstantial evidence.
- G. Describe and explain the various terms used within the judicial system.
- H. Conceptualize the actual judicial process from the time of arrest through sentencing.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (ACGM)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

IV. Evaluation

- A. Evaluation Methods
 1. Students will be given four (4) written tests to measure their understanding of the course content. Written Tests are valued at 100 points each. Three of the written exams will cover the topics studied since the prior exam. The fourth written exam will be a comprehensive final exam given at the end of the semester.

2. The lowest grade of the four exams will be dropped if a written report on a major judicial topic is submitted prior to Finals Week. The report will represent 25% of the final grade. The report will be at least twelve double-spaced pages in length and will be written in a scholarly manner using either the APA or MLA format. The paper will have a bibliography, or reference page, and the references will be noted within the body of the paper.
 3. Deductions will be made for each error: not following directions, proofreading, formatting, typographical problems including incorrect text, etc. A percentage grade will be assigned by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible.
- B. Grading Scale

The grading scale is shown below:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
360 – 400	A
320 – 359	B
280 – 319	C
240 – 279	D
0 – 239	F

C. Tests

Four (4) written tests will measure a student's understanding of the course content and will account for 400 points toward the final grade.

1. Written tests will be given covering the text and lecture material presented since the prior exam. The fourth (final exam) will cover all of the material and lectures contained in the course. Each written test will be graded according to the number of test items. **No retakes will be given.**
2. It is the student's responsibility to make prior arrangements with the instructor if the student is unable to attend class the day of any exam. **A grade of zero (0) will be given if an exam is not taken and no prior arrangements to take the exam have been made.** If prior arrangements have been made, the test may be administered at the instructor's convenience at the testing center.
3. Other in-class work may also be given at the instructor's prerogative.
4. The instructor may assign extra credit assignments. Extra credit points will be added in to the overall assignment score and will carry a point value of no more than 5 points for each assignment.

V. **Disability Statement (American with/Disabilities Act [ADA])**

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

VI. **6 Drop Rule**

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.