

Marshall University

Course Syllabus

Course Title/Number	CJ 221: Introduction to Criminal Courts (CRN: 1791)
Semester/Year	Spring, 2016
Days/Time	E course
Location	Online
Instructor	Margaret Phipps Brown
Office	Smith Hall 735, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755
Phone	304-696-3086; 304-696-3085 (fax)
E-Mail	brownmp@marshall.edu
Office/Hours	Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 – 9:30 am; 1:00 – 2:00 pm; 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Appointments at other hours are available by request.
University Policies	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802 Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

Course Description: From Catalog

This course addresses the evolution of current functioning of the American criminal court system. Students are exposed to court administration, court procedures, and the state and federal court system.

The table below shows the following relationships: How each student learning outcomes will be practiced and assessed in the course.

Course Student Learning Outcomes	How students will practice each outcome in this Course	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this Course
Students will be able to describe and explain the adversary system and the state and federal court systems.	Students will read assignments in textbooks, review materials posted online, including chapter outlines, glossaries, and key points.	Students will complete quizzes on each chapter in the text book and four exams throughout the semester. In addition, students will submit a brief research paper.
Students will be able to identify and distinguish the various duties of the actors in the system, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants, and victims.	Students will read assignments in textbooks, review materials posted online, including chapter outlines, glossaries, and key points.	Students will complete quizzes on each chapter in the text book and four exams throughout the semester. In addition, students will submit a brief research paper.

Students will be able to relate the steps in the court process, from arrest to appeal and post-conviction remedies.	Students will read assignments in textbooks, review materials posted online, including chapter outlines, glossaries, and key points.	Students will complete quizzes on each chapter in the text book and four exams throughout the semester. In addition, students will submit a brief research paper.
Students will be able to recognize and distinguish the nature and functions of limited jurisdiction courts, general jurisdiction courts, appellate courts, and specialized courts, such as juvenile and/or family courts.	Students will read assignments in textbooks, review materials posted online, including chapter outlines, glossaries, and key points.	Students will complete quizzes on each chapter in the text book and four exams throughout the semester. In addition, students will submit a brief research paper.

Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials

America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System (11th ed.) (2014), by Neubauer, David W. and Fradella, Henry F., Wadsworth/Cengage Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-1-285-06194-8.
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) (2009), by American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-433-80561-5.

Course Requirements / Due Dates

February 8, 2016: Last day to complete Quizzes 1-4 and Exam 1
March 7, 2016: Last day to complete Quizzes 5-9 and Exam 2
April 1, 2016: Student Research Papers due
April 4, 2016: Last day to complete Quizzes 10-14 and Exam 3
April 29, 2016: Last day to complete Quizzes 15-19 and Exam 4

Grading Policy

Exams

There will be four exams at 100 points each. The exams will be completed through BlackBoard. The exams will be objective and will contain multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be completed after reading the chapter and lecture notes. There will be 19 quizzes on 19 chapters. There are a total of 135 quiz questions at 1 point per question for a grand total of 135 points available for quizzes.

Research paper

Prepare a 5-7 page paper on an issue related to a criminal trial that occurred in the United States. Students should submit proposed topics to the instructor by email and receive approval of the topic prior to working on the paper. Each paper should have a minimum of five sources and be completed using the APA Publication Manual. Student papers should cover a current or past criminal court case. You can obtain potential topics by visiting internet sites such as <http://www.courtstv.com/> (for a listing of current high profile criminal trials) or

http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/oral_arg_previews.php?begin=20111001&end=20120630 (for a list of cases currently pending before the United States Supreme Court. Once you have selected a case, please complete research on one or more aspects of the case and write a paper that briefly describes the case you have chosen and examining in detail the relevant aspect of your case. For example, you might want to examine the evidence introduced in a high profile case, such as the Scott Peterson case and examine arguments from the prosecution and the defense about why that evidence should or should not be admissible. Another possibility is to identify a criminal case currently pending before the United States Supreme Court, read the briefs and describe the case and the arguments on both sides. Keep in mind that your papers are only 5-7 pages in length, so you will want to restrict your topic to one that can be covered in a relatively short research paper.

Grading Criteria:

Assignments	<i>Points</i>
Exams	400
Quizzes	170
Research paper	100
Total Points Possible	670

Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
LESS THAN 60%	F

Assignments submitted after the due date/time will not be graded. Students will receive a zero for any late assignments, unless arrangements are made ahead of time with the instructor. Students may communicate with the instructor via email (<mailto:brownmp@marshall.edu>) or by using the mail tool in WebCT. All assignments should be submitted to the instructor using the mail tool in WebCT, unless students are instructed otherwise.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

In this and any other Marshall University course, all academic assignments are expected to be your own original work. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and can result in discipline ranging from a verbal notice/written warning, to loss of credit for the work conducted in association with academic dishonesty to permanent removal from the university. For further information please see:

<http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/students/plagiarism.asp>

Attendance Policy

There is no formal attendance policy for this online course; however, please keep in mind that you must complete all requirements by the date they are due.

Course Schedule

***Please note: Because some students who take this class have had difficulty completing assignments on a weekly basis, I am making quizzes and exams available for approximately four weeks at a time. All students are required to complete all quizzes and exams by the last day they are available. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0 for any quizzes and/or exams not completed by that date. The availability is as follows:

January 11 – February 8: Quizzes 1-4, Exam 1

February 5 – March 7: Quizzes 5-9, Exam 2

March 4 – April 4: Quizzes 10-13, Exam 3

April 1 – April 29: Quizzes 14-17, Exam 4

A Proposed Course Schedule follows:

Week	Reading Assignments	Page Numbers
Week 1	Chapter 1 – Courts, Crime, and Controversy	2-25
Week 2	Chapter 2 – Law and Crime	26-53
Week 3	Chapter 3 – Federal Courts Chapter 4 – State Courts	54-87 88-119
Week 4	Exam 1	
Week 5	Chapter 5 - Dynamics of Courthouse Justice Chapter 6 - Prosecutors	120-145 146-171
Week 6	Chapter 7 – Defense Attorneys Chapter 8 - Judges	172-195 196-219
Week 7	Chapter 9 – Defendants and Victims Exam 2	220-243
Week 8	Chapter 10 – Arrest and Bail through Arraignment Chapter 11 – Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence	244-273 274-305
Week 9	Chapter 12 – Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty Chapter 13 – Trials and Juries	306-329 330-367
Week 10	Exam 3	
Week 11	Chapter 14 – Sentencing Options Chapter 15 – Sentencing Decisions	368-399 400-432
Week 12	FALL BREAK	
Week 13	Chapter 16 – Appellate Courts and <i>Habeas Corpus Review</i> Chapter 17 – Juvenile Courts	434-467 468-499
Week 14	Exam 4	

SUPPORT SERVICES

Marshall University offers a variety of support services to students enrolled in online courses:

[Off-campus Library Services](#)

[Writing Center Online](#)

[Textbook Service](#)

[Disabled Student Services](#)

[Tips for Succeeding in Online Environment](#)

[Study Guides](#)

[Technical Help](#)

[VISTA Help](#)