

**CRIMINAL COURTS COURSE
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
CRJU 3300, SEC 02; CRN 80243; CREDIT HOURS 3.0**

**FALL SEMESTER 08/15/2016-12/12/2016
Tuesdays and Thursdays- 12:30-1:45 pm
Social Sciences Building, Room 2030**

**Instructor: Dr. Bess L. Walthour, J.D., LL.M.
Asst. Prof. Of Criminal Justice (Law)
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Office phone: 470-578-6739
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2:00-3:00 pm and by Appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CRJU 3300-CRIMINAL COURTS

3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: CRJU 1101.

This course examines the history, development, structure, operation and organization of the criminal court systems in federal and state courts in the United States. Emphasis is given to juvenile courts and court administration. Other topics include the roles of major professional and non-professional courtroom participants; stages in the process of adjudication of criminal cases from initial charging through post-conviction review; and an introduction to the constitutional rights of the accused.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the Course, the student will be able to:

- 1. Describe how the courts are related to the other components of the criminal justice system.**
- 2. Discuss the role and need of the courts in a civilized society.**
- 3. Identify the major participants in the criminal courthouse and their roles and responsibilities.**

4. Explain the basic constitutional rights and protections in the criminal court systems. Know the four amendments of the Bill of Rights that specifically deal with the criminal process. Understand the application of the 14th Amendment to the other four amendments identified.
5. Describe the difference between "law on the books" and "law in reality" in light of sociological, philosophical and ethical factors.
6. Explain the right of appeal in a criminal case and when that right can be exercised, and in what case is that right of appeal is automatic.
7. Discuss the processes and phases of a criminal case through the court systems.
8. Explain the differences between the federal and state criminal court systems.
9. Explain what "jurisdiction" means in the court system and how it is established.
10. Analyze the importance of the legal ethics to the defense of criminal defendants.

TEXTBOOK REQUIRED

The required textbook for the course is ***American Courts and The Judicial Process***, Second Edition, by G. Larry Mays and Laura Woods Fidelie, Oxford University Press (2017)

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Lectures, a modified socratic method of classroom discussions and critiques will be utilized during the course. Individual and small group presentations, written and oral assignments, role play exercises and question and answer reviews will be used to enhance critical analysis of course materials.

ENROLLMENT STATUS OF STUDENT

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment in the course; nonattendance does not constitute a valid withdrawal. Please check with the registrar if you are in doubt.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance is Mandatory. It is impossible for you to do well in this class if you are not present. **Only three (3) unexcused absences will be tolerated. You must provide valid documentation for an absence to be excused.** All students are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, participate in class discussions, small group assignments, out of class courtroom observations and be present for all quizzes and exams. Class attendance and participation in discussions greatly adds to the learning process and understanding of the subject matter. If you arrive late to class (must not be a regular occurrence), please come in, in a manner as not to disrupt the class activity. No one should leave the class before the end of class without prior permission. Class distractions must be kept to a minimum. Contrary to this adherence will result in a verbal and/or written censure.

Class participation is encouraged and welcomed. You are expected to participate in class discussions. Your point of view and comments are a vital part of our learning in the class. Your comments are safe and will be respected. The modified Socratic method used in conjunction with lectures and classroom discussions necessitate students to be attentive and complete all reading assignments carefully. You will be randomly called upon to lead the class discussion and present case facts, issues presented and the court's ruling in cases. You will be required to respond to reading related questions. Please advise the instructor before class if you are not prepared for the day's lesson/material. Individual participation in discussion is designed to facilitate the student's development as a better oral communicator.

COURTROOM VISIT AND WRITTEN OBSERVATION REPORT

Each student will be required to visit and observe a criminal proceeding in a local State, Juvenile, Superior or Federal Court during the semester and submit a report of the observation by December 1, 2016 by 5:00 pm. You are required to submit a short review of your courtroom observation which must contain the following pertinent identifying information:

1. The style (name of parties) of the case observed and the proper identification of the court (type and location).
2. Identify the courtroom work group you observed in the Court.
3. The date of the observation.
4. The type of case observed, the issues involved, the facts presented.
5. Discuss the theories of law, charges, defenses and judge ruling and decision in case.
6. The review must be at least one typed, double-spaced page. Be sure to include all pertinent information because a failure to do so will result in points loss from grade.
7. Your review must be emailed to the following email address by the time designated above: **bwaltho2@kennesaw.edu**.

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Students will work in assigned small groups to present an assigned topic or chapter from the textbook by the instructor. Creativity and clarity of the material presented will be assessed by the instructor and class. The small group participants will present the assigned topic in whatever manner decided by its members. The non-presenting class members will be expected to engage in questions and comments related to the presented topic. The group grade will be based on the individual grades of the presenters. Therefore, an individual presenter's grade is independent of the other presenters.

EXAMS

There will be two (2) substantial course exams consisting of objective and subjective questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill in the blanks, short answers and essays). Pop quizzes, both oral and written, may be administered to verify and assess the students' understanding of particular concepts and theories presented in the assigned readings.

The Midterm and Final Exams will be administered during the assigned time and location. NO LATE OR MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN, EXCEPT IN COMPELLING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES AS DETERMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

Exams will cover materials from required readings, classroom discussions, lectures and group presentations. Lectures may not reiterate all required readings, as such, you are responsible for your own reading. Since the lectures, class discussions and presentations will be the basis of the exams, your class attendance and participation is critical and of the utmost importance.

TIME OF RETURN OF STUDENT SUBMITTED EXAMS AND REPORTS

Students will receive performance feedback on all submitted exams and reports by the second class following the submitted assignment. The grade results will be posted to D2L within the same time frame.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Your performance in the course will be determined by the following criteria:

EXAM # 1- Midterm -----25%

EXAM # 2- Final -----25%

Small Group Presentation--25%

Courtroom Observations and Report-25%

Note: Classroom attendance and participation is mandatory. Students who attend class, participate in class discussions, small group presentations, complete all administered quizzes, and exams may be rewarded by having a border-line final grade increased to the next highest grade. The instructor reserves the right to move a border-line grade at her discretion, however, at no time will the discretion be used to lower a final grade of a student who does not exercise the class participation opportunity.

The Grading scale is the same weighted scale used and identified by KSU in its Handbook.

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Incomplete - I

The grade of "I" denotes an Incomplete grade for the course and may be given only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons, beyond his/her control, is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5c of the referenced catalog addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

DISRUPTION OF CAMPUS LIFE STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a

violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the university disciplinary process. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments must notify the instructor as soon as possible. Verification from KSU disabled Student Support Services is required. All discussions will remain confidential.

USE OF ELECTRIC DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of cellphones during class time and testing is strictly prohibited. All cellular phones, pagers, etc. must be turned off before entering the classroom. Ringing, beeping and all alerts of the devices constitute a disruption of class and a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct. The use of any musical device is not permitted during class. The use of any taping device or photographic device of any kind is not permitted during class time.

Please refrain from sending/receiving text messages, emails or any form of communication during class. All such activity is strictly prohibited.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS OR TABLETS MAY BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM FOR COURSE-RELATED PURPOSES ONLY, I.E., NOTE TAKING AND/OR VERIFICATION OF A SUBJECT RELATED ISSUE.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS OR TABLETS MAY NOT BE USED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF COURSE EXAMS. THE USE OF LAPTOPS AND SIMILAR DEVICES TO ACCESS EMAIL DURING CLASS TIME IS PROHIBITED.

All graded exams and/or grading materials must be returned to the instructor by the end of the class day when distributed. FAILURE TO RETURN THE TESTS DOCUMENTS TO THE INSTRUCTOR AS REQUIRED, WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE OF ZERO.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS WITH INSTRUCTOR:

Please direct all out of class communications with me to my email address: bwaltho2@kennesaw.edu through D2L or OWL EXPRESS. Remember that you can always arrange an appointment with me through the office at 470-578-6739.

PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES FOR KSU POLICIES AND SERVICES:

STUDENT RESOURCES:

The Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/>

Academic Support Services: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/msrs/academic.html

Student Disability Services: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html

ESL Study and Tutorial Center: http://uc.kennesaw.edu/academicinitiatives/docs/Guide_to_the_ESL_Center.pdf

Career Services: <http://careers.kennesaw.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccessservices/cps/services.php>

Center for Health Promotion and Wellness: <http://wellstarcollege.kennesaw.edu/wellness/>

Student Health Services: <http://studenthealth.kennesawstateauxiliary.com/>

CAMPUS POLICIES:

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

University-Student Rights Statement : <http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA): <http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>

Ethics Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Sexual Harassment Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Course Accessibility Statement (ADA Statement): <http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php>

Disruption of Campus Life Policy: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

NOTE: Technology problems, of any kind, are not an acceptable excuse for late assignments, paper, etc. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course schedule is a tentative schedule of the material and subject matter which will be covered during this semester. This schedule may be modified, with sufficient notice to students, as needed during the semester. It is the responsibility of the students to keep up to date as to the required reading. The instructor will make periodic announcements in class as to upcoming class topics.

The Mid-Term Exam will be administered on October 11, 2016 during the regular Tuesday class period.

The Final Exam will be administered on December 6, 2016 during the period of 1:00-3:00pm.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS OR LATE PAPERS IN THE ABSENCE OF A BONA FIDE AND VERIFIED EMERGENCY.

Week One	Chapter 1- An Overview Of The American Legal System
Week Two	Review the US Constitution -Appendix, Page 383
Week Three	Chapter 2- Foundations and Functions Of Law
Week Four	Chapter 2 Continued
Week Five	Chapter 3- The Courtroom Work Group
Week Six	Chapter 4- Judges
Week Seven	Chapter 5- Lawyers And Litigants
Week Eight	Chapter 6- Jurors, Witnesses, And Others In The Judicial

Process

Week Nine	Chapter 7- Trials And Trial Procedures
Week Ten	Chapter 8- Sentencing
Week Eleven	Chapter 9- Courts Of Limited Jurisdiction And Specialized Courts
Week Twelve	Chapter 10- Courts Of General Trial Jurisdiction
Week Thirteen	Chapter 11- Courts Of Appellate Jurisdiction
Week Fourteen	Chapter 12- Addressing The Problems And Crafting Solutions
Week Fifteen	Chapter 12- Continued and Q and E for Final Exam

SYLLABUS RECEIPT

COURSE: CRIMINAL COURTS

INSTRUCTOR: DR. BESS L. WALTHOUR

CLASS MEETING: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 pm

SPRING SEMESTER

Social Science Building, Room: 2030

I have received a written copy of the course and classroom requirements and expectations. I have full knowledge of the course requirements, assignments, classroom rules and other necessary information as set forth within this syllabus. I have read this Syllabus and familiarized myself with its contents.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOTE: This Syllabus Receipt must be signed and dated as indicated. Please return to the instructor no later than the second class meeting.