

University of South Carolina
CRJU 221: Criminal Courts
Fall 2007

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am-12:15pm

Instructor: Mark S. Brown, J.D.
Office: Currell, Room 115
Office Hours: Mondays 8-10, Tuesdays 8-9:30, 12:30-2:00,
(or by appointment)
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Text: David W. Neubauer, America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System,
(9th edition) (Wadsworth 2008).

Note: Students may receive handouts and/or additional readings posted on Blackboard. All such handouts and/or posted readings will contain Information that is pertinent to the class and students will be responsible for any such information on exams.

Course Description: We will examine courts within the framework of the larger criminal justice system. Attention will be given to the judicial process from arrest to case conclusion. In addition, we will consider the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges, and how their decisions influence case outcomes.

Course Objective: This course will examine the role of the courts in our system of criminal justice. More specifically, this course will focus on the interdependence of the courts, police, and prosecutors and how their decisions impact other criminal justice actors. In addition, this course will examine the sociological and psychological aspects of court structure as well as extra-legal influences on courtroom actors. Attention will be given to the history of various courts at both the state and federal levels.

Class Conduct: It is imperative that students come to class prepared and on time. Disruptions to either the instructor or other students will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to ask any student who disrupts the lecture to leave the classroom. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, talking during the lecture, continual tardiness or leaving early, reading newspapers, magazines, etc. Students who encounter problems getting to class on time should contact me in advance.

In addition, cell phones, pagers, beepers and the such are to be turned OFF while class is in session.

Academic Integrity: In order to promote an atmosphere conducive to learning, this class will adhere to the principles espoused in the Carolina Creed, USC Student Handbook and Policy Guidelines. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The principles outlined in the Carolina Community Student Policy Manual will be strictly applied as necessary. Additional information about this policy can be found in the Code of Academic Responsibility.

Exams: There will be three exams in this class (including the final). Each exam will be worth 100 points (for a total of 300). Exams will be multiple choice and/or short answer. They will NOT be SCANTRON, so you will need to bring a blue book and a PEN for the exams.

The first two exams, during the semester, will NOT be cumulative. The Final WILL be cumulative. All exams are closed book and closed notes.

All exams are mandatory and must be completed by all students. All students are expected to take exams on the day they are scheduled. Make-up exams will be given ONLY if there is a documented, unavoidable personal circumstance beyond the control of the student, such as a medical emergency. **You must contact the instructor or the main office 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam if circumstances prevent you from taking exams at the scheduled time. Still, I reserve the right to give, or not give, a make-up exam.**

Assignments: There will be two 5-10 page “impression papers” due during this semester, as outlined on the schedule. In each case, you will be required to go to court and write an impression paper on the experience. Those two papers will be as such:

Federal Court Criminal Hearing: You will need to go to a federal criminal court hearing (it may be ANY type of criminal proceeding, from arraignment to sentencing). The federal court in Columbia is located at 901 Richland Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Hearings in federal court usually take place in the morning, but there are cases heard in the afternoon as well. To find out the schedule for the federal court you will need to call the Clerk of Court for the federal court at 803-765-5816.

Bail Hearing: You will need to go to a state bail hearing. Most bail hearings for Richland County take place at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center at 201 John Mark Dial Drive, Columbia, SC 29209. The phone number there is 803-576-3201. They have bail hearings each day, and usually 3 or 4 times each day. You may call either the Detention Center or the Richland County Clerk of Court, at 803-576-1950, to determine the time of the bail hearings.

In each case, you will need to list the name of the case, the name of the judge or magistrate, the name of the prosecutor and (if there is one) the defense attorney. You should also list any other individuals who were involved that were of note. You will simply be giving me an explanation of what happened during the hearing and how that matched with your expectations of what you thought would be happening.

Detailed information regarding each of these impression papers will be listed on Blackboard within the next week. Each impression paper will be worth up to 50 points (100 points total). Papers which are late will lose 5 points for each day that they are late. Papers will be due DURING class on the date listed, anything turned in after that class will be considered late.

Grading: There are 400 total points available in this class (300 for exams, 100 for the papers). There will be NO EXTRA credit available for any student. Grades will be as follows:

A	=	372-400 points
B+	=	356-371 points
B	=	340-355 points
C+	=	328-339 points
C	=	300-327 points
D	=	260-299 points
F	=	259 or fewer points

Tentative Course Schedule:
(subject to modification and change)

Week 1: Course Introduction/Chapter 1

Week 2: Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3: Chapters 3 and 4

Week 4: Chapters 4 and 5 [**Impression paper on federal court due Thursday, September 13th**]

Week 5: Chapter 6

EXAM #1: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th
(chapters 1-5)

Week 6: Chapters 6 and 7

Week 7: Chapter 7 and 8

Week 8: Chapter 8 [NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th]

Week 9: Chapters 8 and 9

Week 10: Chapter 10

**EXAM #2: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30th
(chapters 6-9)**

Week 11: Chapters 10 and 11

Week 12: Chapter 12 [**Impression paper on Bail hearing due Thursday,
November 8th**]

Week 13: Chapter 13

Week 14: Chapter 14 [NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd]

Week 15: Chapters 14 and 15

Week 16: Chapters 15 and 16 and Review for Final

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th @ 2:00pm