

CRIMINAL COURTS

CRJU 221

SPRING, 2008, Tu & Th: 9:30AM-10:45AM

CURRELL COLLEGE, ROOM 203

INSTRUCTOR: MARK S. BROWN, J.D.
OFFICE: CURRELL COLLEGE, ROOM 115
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY, 9am-12noon; WEDNESDAY, 9am-12noon;
THURSDAY, 8am-9:15am; FRIDAY, 12noon-1:15pm
OR BY APPOINTMENT
TELEPHONE: 803-528-1331
EMAIL: Brownms@mailbox.sc.edu

TEXT : Champion, Hartley & Rabe, Criminal Courts: Structure, Process, and Issues, 2nd Edition; Pearson, Prentice Hall (2008).

Note: Students WILL receive handouts and/or additional readings posted on Blackboard. All such handouts/readings will contain information that is pertinent to the class and students must be prepared to discuss the same, and expect that they will appear in the exams.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will be examining the criminal court system within the United States, beginning by briefly looking at law and court structures. We will then focus on the main players within the criminal court system (prosecution, defense, judges, juries), before moving onto the procedures of criminal courts. The class is designed to give you a solid overview of the important players within the criminal courts as well as the basic procedures at play.

CLASS CONDUCT:

It is imperative that you arrive at class on time, and prepared. Respect for opinions voiced in class is essential, and I expect all students to treat each other courteously. Any type of disruptive or discourteous behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated; these types of behaviors will result in the student(s) being asked to leave the class.

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 or cheating of any kind will NOT be tolerated and will result in failing the course and other disciplinary action.

EXAMS

There will be three exams in this class (including the final). Each exam will be worth 100 points (for a total of 300 points). Exams will be some combination of multiple choice questions, short answers and/or essay. Parts of the exam will likely be based on a scenario. The exams will NOT be SCANTRON, you will need to bring a new blue book for each exam. You must use a blue or a black pen for all exams (failure to do so will result in a reduction of your exam grade).

All of the exams will be cumulative.

All exams are CLOSED book, but OPEN notes. However, other than items that I have provided to you, you may NOT bring photocopies of any sort to the exam. This means that you may not photocopy any portion of the book, nor may you photocopy another student's notes from the class. You may, however, write out any portion of the book for your notes, and you may copy other students' notes (with their permission) for purpose of the exams.

All exams are mandatory and must be completed by all students. All students are expected to take the exam on the date and time that it is scheduled. Make-up exams may 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 scheduled times. Still, I reserve the right to give, or not give, a make-up exam.**

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is **REQUIRED**. Beginning on Tuesday, January 22nd I will have an attendance sheet which each student must sign. You are allowed to have two absences without penalty. However, each absence, after two, will result in a 2 point deduction from your final grade.

Whenever you are called on, or volunteer to answer a question, please begin by stating your **FULL NAME** so that I can attempt to learn all of your names.

GRADING:

There are 400 total points available in this class (300 for exams, 100 for paper). There will be **NO EXTRA CREDIT** available for any student. Grades will be as follows:

A	=	360-400 points
B+	=	340-359 points
B	=	320-339 points
C+	=	300-319 points
C	=	280-299 points
D	=	256-279 points
F	=	255 or fewer points

I do **NOT** round numbers. If you end up with 359 points, that is a B+, not an A; if you end up with 255 points, that is an F, not a D.

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM SCHEDULES

Following is the schedule for when your paper will be due as well as the dates of your exams.

Paper Due on Thursday, April 15th (at time of class). Papers will lose 5 points for each class day they are late.

The exams will be on the dates listed below. I will inform you, by e-mail and in class, at least one week prior to the exams, which chapters/readings will be included in the exams.

EXAMS

#1 TUESDAY 02/19/08

#2 TUESDAY 04/01/08

#3 [FINAL] WEDNESDAY, 04/30/08 @2PM

The final exam is scheduled by the University and I cannot change the date or the time.

PAPER

All students are required to submit a research/impression paper, 8 to 10 pages long. To complete this assignment, you must attend a hearing at the United States Federal Court. The hearing you attend can be any type of **CRIMINAL** (NOT civil) hearing. This would include detention hearings, arraignments, plea hearings, sentencing hearings, motion hearings, or trials.

When you go to the hearing, you are required to find out, and report, the following:

The name of the defendant
The name of the judge
The name of the prosecutor
The name of the defense attorney
The charge(s) that the defendant is facing.

You will usually be able to do this simply by listening closely during the hearing. However, if you miss any of this information, you may go the Clerk of Court's Office in the same building and request to see the file, and all of this information will be available.

You are also required, after you know what the defendant is charged with, to do a little bit of research. You must find a copy of the statute(s) that the person is charged with violating and give me a short explanation of what the charges are, and what the maximum penalties are that are faced by the defendant.

Finally, I want you to give me your impression of the entire experience, from how easy (or difficult) it was to get information about the hearings, what you thought of the hearing that you observed and how it compared to any preconceived notions of what you thought would happen, and, finally, of what you think of the law (the maximum, mandatory minimum, if any, sentences, etc.).

Again, this paper is due on Tuesday, April 15th. It is in your absolute best interest to make sure that you have attended a hearing at least a couple of weeks prior to the date that this assignment is due. Papers will lose 5 points for each class day that they are late (starting immediately at the end of class on April 15th).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This is a TENTATIVE schedule, subject to revision as the semester moves forward. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Week One 1/15-1/17:	Introduction and Chapter 1
Week Two 1/22-1/24:	Chapters 1 and 2
Week Three 1/29-1/31:	Chapter 2 and 3
Week Four: 2/5-2/7:	Chapters 3 and 4
Week Five: 2/12-2/14:	Chapter 4 and Review
Week Six: 2/19-2/21:	Exam 1 and Chapter 5
Week Seven: 2/26-2/28:	Chapters 5 and 6
Week Eight: 3/4-3/6:	Chapter 6
Week Nine: 3/18-3/20:	Chapter 7
Week Ten: 3/25-3/27:	Chapter 7 and Review
Week Eleven: 4/1-4/3	Exam 2 and Chapter 8
Week Twelve: 4/8-4/10:	Chapters 8 and 9
Week Thirteen: 4/15-4/17:	Chapters 9 and 10
Week Fourteen: 4/22-4/24:	Chapter 10 and Review