

---

**47:202:221:61 Case Processing Law & Court**  
**3 Credits**  
**Fall 2018**

---

**Tuesdays**  
**Bradley Hall - Room 410**  
**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**I. Course Information**

**Instructor**

**Instructor:** Professor Gwendolyn Williams, Esq.

**Email:** gwendolyn.williams@rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** Office hours by appointment only

**Course Overview**

This Course explores criminal laws and judicial opinions that influence the policies, procedures, personnel, and clients of the criminal justice system in the United States. Specific topics include, but not limited to, the origin, development, and continuing changes in criminal law, administration of criminal justice, and the criminal courts.

**B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals**

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1. Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
2. Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3. Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
4. Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.
5. Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the roles of courtroom actors: the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, jurors, court clerks, and court officers;
2. Understand the different types of courts in the United States: federal, state, municipal, and administrative;
3. Identify and understand the criminal court process from arrest through sentencing;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of real world factors, for example: large caseloads in the criminal justice process.

For example, as an outcome of taking this course, students who fully engage with the course material will be able to read in-depth media accounts of current criminal cases and understand the dynamics between the parties and the current procedural stage of the case. Students who successfully complete the coursework will be capable of explaining the court system and case processing at a level appropriate to juror orientation.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

### **Required Readings**

Neubauer, David W. & Fradella, Henry F. (2017). *America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System* 12th Ed. Cengage Learning (ISBN-978-1-305-26105-1).

Other materials to be announced later and notice about these materials will be posted on Blackboard. Students will be required to critically read, analyze and summarize the *Selected Readings* from chapters in books, journal articles, periodicals, and the media (distributed in class, posted on Blackboard, or sent to student's Rutgers's email). Additionally, readings may be added based on current events, guest lectures and other related materials that impact this class.

## **Course Structure:**

This course is a combination of lecture and class/group discussion involving criminal law topics and cases. There is a courtroom visit assignment and a mini-mock trial assignment. Based on the interest of the class, a trip may be arranged to observe a courtroom during class time.

**The Course Schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Such change will be given in class and/or on Blackboard or email.**

## **Prerequisite**

Students are to come to class with an open mind and the eagerness to learn.

## **Group Discussions, Quizzes, Exams, Courtroom Essay & Mini-Mock trial:**

**Group Discussions:** Groups will be provided with a topic that is connected to the weekly reading or news topic. Each group will fill out group discussion topic answers. Each group discussion is worth one point. One extra credit point for attending all group discussions. **Unless otherwise stated, be prepared for group discussion during each class.**

**Quizzes:** There will be quizzes on assigned readings in order to determine comprehension of the reading material. Each quiz equals one point. One extra credit point for attending all quizzes.

**Exams:** Three exams will be offered during class time. The exams may be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answers.

**Courtroom Essay:** You are required to attend a court proceeding and write an essay. The assignment will be posted on Blackboard and/or handed out in class in September and due in November. A date has been scheduled for a class trip to a courtroom. Student may write essay based on this trip.

**Mini-mock trial:** You will be assigned a group and provided with a fact pattern which includes police reports, statements and documents. Each student in the group will play a role based on the materials. Class time will be provided for the group to meet.

## **Missed Exams**

Students who fail to take an exam on the date scheduled will not be provided a make-up exam unless extenuating circumstances exist and proper documentation is provided to warrant such action. Failure to promptly notify me of the need for a make-up examination will result in a grade of zero for that examination. Failure to provide documentation will result in a grade of zero for that examination. Documentation must be provided *before* the make-up exam can be administered.

## II. Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

Exam One	20%
Exam Two	20%
Exam Three	20%
Group Discussion	10%
Court Room Visit Essay	10%
Mock Trial Participation	10%
Attendance & in class mini-quizzes	10%

### Grades

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Range</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>90 - 100</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>85 - 89</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80 - 84</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>75 - 79</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70 - 74</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60 - 69</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Below 60</b>

### III. Course Schedule

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Case Processing Law &amp; Court</b>  <b>Tuesdays</b>  <b>6 pm – 9 pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule of Classes - Fall 2018</b></p>		
Date	Theme/Key Topic	Reading & Assignment(s)
<b>Week 1</b> <b>September 4, 2018</b>	Introductions, Distribution of Syllabus & Course Requirements  Introduction: Courts, Crime & Controversy	Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b> <b>September 11, 2018</b>	Law & Crime	Chapter 2  Quiz
<b>Week 3</b> <b>September 18, 2018</b>	Federal Courts	Chapter 3
<b>Week 4</b> <b>September 25</b>	State Courts  <b>Courtroom Visit Assignment: due</b> <b>11/13/18</b>	Chapter 4  Quiz
<b>Week 5</b> <b>October 2, 2018</b>	The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice	Chapter 5
<b>Week 6</b> <b>October 9, 2018</b>	Prosecutors & Defense Attorneys  Distribution of Mock Trial <u><b>State v. Gonzalez &amp; Parsons</b></u> <b>Exam #1 - will cover Chapters 1-5,</b> <b>plus, any handouts</b>	Chapters 6 & 7  Guest Speaker  The mock is a handout that will be distributed in class.

**Case Processing Law & Court  
Tuesdays  
6 pm – 9 pm**

**Schedule of Classes - Fall 2018**

Date	Theme/Key Topic	Reading & Assignment(s)
<b>Week 7</b> <b>October 16, 2018</b>	Judges & The Appeal Process <b>Mock Trial: Role Assignments Given</b>	Chapter 8 Handout Quiz
<b>Week 8</b> <b>October 23, 2018</b>	Defendants, Victims and Witnesses <b>Review for Exam #2</b>	Chapter 9
<b>Week 9</b> <b>October 30, 2018</b>	From Arrest and Bail through Arraignment Disclosing & Suppressing Evidence	Chapters 10 & 11 Guest Speaker Quiz
<b>Week 10</b> <b>November 6, 2018</b>	Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty Courtroom Visit – Newark Municipal Court (Exam #2) <b>Exam #2 - will cover Chapters 6-10,            plus, any handouts</b>	Chapter 12 31 Green Street, Newark Courtroom: TBA
<b>Week 11</b> <b>November 13, 2018</b>	Trials and Juries & <b>Courtroom Visit Assignment paper due</b>	Chapter 13
<b>Week 12</b> <b>November 20, 2018</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b> (11/22/18 – 11/25/18) <b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Week 13</b> <b>November 27, 2018</b>	Sentencing Options & Sentencing Decisions	Chapters 14 & 15 Quiz Guest Speaker

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Case Processing Law &amp; Court</b>  <b>Tuesdays</b>  <b>6 pm – 9 pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule of Classes - Fall 2018</b></p>		
Date	Theme/Key Topic	Reading & Assignment(s)
<p><b>Week 14</b> <b>December 4, 2018</b></p>	<p>Appellate &amp; Habeas Corpus Review            Juvenile Courts</p> <p><b>Student Classroom Presentations</b>  <b>Review for Final Exam</b></p>	<p>Chapters 16 &amp; 17</p>
<p><b>Week 15</b> <b>December 11, 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Mini-Mock Trial</b>  <b>End of Regular Class Periods</b></p>	
<p><b>Week 16</b> <b>December 18, 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Final Exam</b>  <b>Final Exam - will cover Chapters 11 - 17,</b>  <b>plus, any handouts</b></p>	
<p>Syllabus may be subject to change, if so, you will be given notice of same.</p>		

#### **IV. Course Policies**

##### **Classroom Conduct**

**Attendance:** Class attendance is expected but student will be excused for any verified medical or family emergency. Any other excuse may be made by speaking with the instructor prior to the absence and any determination will be made on a case by case basis.

**Classroom Conduct:** Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to work. If you will be late, (more than 10 minutes), please inform me ASAP.

**Attendance Sheet:** You are to sign the attendance sheet prior to each class.

**Leaving Early:** If you must leave early, you are to inform me prior to class. When you leave, do so quietly and discreetly. Please note that leaving with more than an hour left of class will constitute a half-absence.

**Food:** You may eat snack (i.e. candy bar or M & M's) beverages (coffee, tea, water or soda); so long as you do so quietly and properly dispose of your trash.

**Electronics: No cellphone use during class. Laptops and tablets are restricted to classroom work only. No recording of classroom sessions.**

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated. We will treat each other with respect.

### **Academic Integrity**

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.

### **Academic Resources**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres  
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support  
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102



Phone: 973.353.5300

Fax: 973.353.5666

E-mail: [kate.torres@rutgers.edu](mailto:kate.torres@rutgers.edu)

Website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

### Psychological and Counseling Services

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university's psychological and counseling service center (<http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about

- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website <http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/>