

**(47:202:221:01) CASE PROCESSING, LAW, & COURT**

**3 Credits**

**Fall 2020**

1. **Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

Judge Victoria Pratt

Office Hours: Virtual hours to be determined by class poll

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**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 US: 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.

### Required Readings:

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Textbook:

**David W. Neubauer and Henry F. Fradella, *America’s Courts and the Criminal Justice System*, Cengage Publishing (13th Edition)**.
ISBN-10: 1-337-56039-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-337-56039-9 **Course Key:** MTPP-Q75Q-NHZN

### Students will be using an online digital book that will contain the online assignments, quizzes and an exam. Access to the book is under the ASSIGNMENTS link on Blackboard. If you would also like to have the paper copy of the book, in addition to the digital book, you may order it for an extra $20.00 fee. Students will need to have an online access code for the online book and assignments on blackboard that will be linked from Cengage Publishing MindTap. (Cengage.com).

### The access code is free for the first 14 days after that you can purchase the access code online or through the Rutgers bookstore. The access code includes the online digital book plus the MindTap assignments.

Selected readings that are not included in your online textbook such as cases or academic articles, if assigned, will be made available on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to read assignments and complete activities. Students are required to access blackboard regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

**Blackboard** will used for all of your assignments, check it regularly. The syllabus, assignments, grading rubrics, and reading assignments will be posted and accepted through Blackboard. Additional assignments may occur as the semester proceeds and will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for everything posted on Blackboard, whether or not it is mentioned in class. Checking blackboard regularly since course assignments, due dates, and our syllabus may be subject to changes.

**Course Structure:**

# Course content will be a mixture of discussions, video presentations, and virtual court visits. Additionally, following most reading assignments there will be an exercise.

**II. Course Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Class Topic** | **Readings & Assignments Due** |
| Week 1 9/1 | **Introduction: Law, Crime, Courts and Controversy**  |  Review Syllabus Chapter 1  |
| Week 2 9/7 | **Federal and State Courts** | Chapters 2 & 3  |
| Week 3 9/14 | **Juvenile Courts** Dynamics of Courthouse Justice | Chapters 4 & 5QUIZ #1 |
| Week 49/21 | Prosecutors & Defense Attorneys | Chapters 6 & 7  |
| Week 59/28 | **Judges** | Chapter 8 |
| Week 610/5 | **Defendants, Victims, and Witnesses** | Chapter 9 |
| Week 710/12 | **From Arrest to Bail through Arraignment** | Chapter 10 QUIZ #2 |
| Week 810/19 | **Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence** | Chapter 11 |
| Week 910/26 | **Negotiated Justice/Guilty Plea** | Chapter 12 |
| Week 1011/2 | **Trials and Juries** | Chapter 13 |
| Week 1111/9 | **Sentencing Options and Decisions** |  Chapter 14 |
| Week 1211/16 | **Appellate and Habeas Corpus** | Chapters 15 |
| Week 1311/23 | **Open and Closing Statements Presentations** | To be scheduled |
| Week 1411/30 | **Open and Closing Statements Presentations** | To be scheduled |
| Week 1512/7 | **Reading Week** |  |
| Week 1612/14  |  FINAL EXAM WEEK12/5 – 12/22 | FINAL EXAM WEEK12/5- 12/22 |

1. **Grading**

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

1. Quizzes (10%)
2. MINDTAP assignments & discussion (50%)
3. Opening & Closing Statements (15%)
4. Final Exam (25%)

**Open and Closing Statements Presentation** (15 %): Student Open and Closing Statements Presentations will be worth 15% of your Final Grade. I will provide six trial cases, and students will select one for this assignment. This presentation will be a live oral presentation via Zoom or WebEx.

**MINDTAP ASSIGNMENTS** (50%): Mindtap Assignments and discussion are worth 50% of your final grade. All assignments have points that can total 200 points for a final grade.

**FINAL** (25%): The final will be graded on a 100-point scale. See Blackboard for the grading Rubric. This assignment is worth 25% of the final grade.

**QUIZZES** (10%): A percentage of your grade is based on these quizzes.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A 90–100%

B+ 85-89%

B 80-84%

C+ 75-79%

C 70-74%

D 60-69%

 F <60%

### Assignment Policy:

### Late assignments will not be accepted without permission and a valid medical or bereavement excuse.

### Course Policies

### Classroom Rules

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. 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. **NO RECORDING, VIDEOTAPING, OR PICTURE TAKING WITHOUT PERMISSION.**

**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

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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/>