

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CCJS 345: COURTS and SENTENCING
Fall 2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE/SECTION: CCJS 345: Section 0101
COURSE TITLE: Courts and Sentencing
CREDITS: 3
TERM: Fall 2022
TIME/LOCATION: MWF 12:00-12:50 PM, [Tydings Hall](#) 1101

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brett Lacey
He/him/his
OFFICE: 2211 Lefrak Hall
OFFICE HOURS: MW 9-11 A.M., T-Th. 11AM-12 PM
TELEPHONE: 301-405-0170
EMAIL: blacey1@umd.edu

Should you need to contact me, please do so through my UMD email account. You may expect a 24-hour response time to email, although I will typically get back to you much earlier. I can be reached via the above phone number as well.

Office Hours: I will maintain in-person office hours as indicated above and also by appointment if those hours do not work well with your schedule. We can also organize meetings virtually via Zoom at other times which may be more convenient for you.

Masking Requirement (if in place)

University policy states as of August 29, masks will not be required in most situations including classrooms. Should a policy change be forthcoming, it will be strictly adhered to without exception in this course.

Course Description: This course will provide an advanced and detailed overview of the United States criminal court system. It will include court sentencing, how the court processes operate, important actors in the court system including the courtroom workgroup, and apply theory to the court process. Several avenues of media will be used to present modern issues in the court system. Students will be expected to use critical thinking, theoretical perspectives, and empirical research to assess the current criminal court system in the United States. Lastly, students will be able to evaluate the intersections of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and other unique traits in reference to the court system.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Assess inequalities within the justice and court system.
- Identify the different phases of the legal system and what factors may increase likelihood of certain outcomes in the court system.
- Identify how the court system functions, where it could use improvement, and learn what innovations are happening.
- Determine the benefits and disadvantages of contemporary court methods such as specialty courts, restorative justice, diversion programming, and evidence based practices.

Prerequisites: CCJS100: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Textbook: Hemmens, C., Brody, C. T., & Spohn, C. (2022). *CRIMINAL COURTS: a contemporary perspective*. Sage Publications Inc.

ISBN: 1071833898 **ISBN-13:** 9781071833896

Course Policy: The University has created a course related policies web page which will be adhered to that can be found at: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Communication Policy: In accordance with university policy, your university issued email must be issued for all email correspondence. Although the above-mentioned timeframe is 24 hours to receive a reply, it will typically be much sooner. Please have some patience as at times it may take several hours to reply due to other obligations. Should you email me at off business times, you may not receive a response until the following morning. Your understanding and adherence is appreciated.

Canvas Learning Management System: This course relies heavily on Canvas as a delivery platform for the learning material. Power points, assignments, and other course documents and resources are posted and available in the Canvas course site. Students should:

- Become proficient in utilizing Canvas as a Learning Management platform
- Check Canvas regularly for changes, updates, and learning materials
- ***Set notifications in Canvas*** which automatically notify students of instructor emails, submission comments (grading), and additions of new assignments.

Review posted course materials each week to stay abreast of what is occurring in the course including due dates and materials which will assist in completing the final. I will be using CANVAS to post the syllabus, grades, some handouts, and you will be submitting assignments on ELMS as well. Go to <http://www.elms.umd.edu/> and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature. In the event you have difficulty with ELMS:

1. Contact the ELMS support desk at 301- 405-1500

2. Send me an email letting me know what has occurred (Blacey1@UMD.EDU)

Classroom Conduct Policy: Students are expected to behave professionally in the classroom, be respectful towards instructors and fellow classmates, and ensure their behaviors do not disrupt or interfere with class activities. Instructors have the authority and professional obligation to maintain a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

To that end, the following expectations will be enforced:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire class period.
- Be attentive throughout the entire class period.
- Do not engage in side conversations with students.
- Act in a mature and adult manner at all times.
- Respect everyone in the class, but not be fearful of disagreement. Discussion and debate are at the heart of learning.
- Do their best to succeed. Some students may need to work harder than others to succeed, but all students can earn an A in the class depending on their willingness to work.
- Ask the instructor for clarification or further explanation if they feel they do not understand the material being discussed or read. Chances are someone or everyone else has the same question.
- Challenge the instructor using evidence and reasoned arguments if they disagree with something the instructor says!
- Please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the grade you receive.

INSTRUCTOR CONDUCT POLICY: Students can expect me to:

- Treat them with respect.
- Provide feedback in a timely manner on assignments (ideally, within two weeks of the due date of exercises, usually sooner).
- Provide extensive feedback and assistance to students as they learn.
- Be honest in response when I do not know something.
- Enforce the standards I have established for grading and the learning outcomes of the course.

Names, Pronouns, and Self-Identifications

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit trans.umd.edu to learn more. Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation

about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

LATE WORK POLICY: All assignments, papers and homework are due in Canvas by the date and time indicated in the Canvas assignment list and calendar. Assignments, papers, and homework will lose the equivalent point value of one letter grade for each class period they are late. **NOTE: Final projects, papers, and exams CANNOT be turned in late!!!**

LATE PENALTY ON ASSIGNMENTS:

40 pt. assignment	minus	4 pts for every class day
25 pt. assignment	minus	2.5 pts for every class day
20 pt. assignment	minus	2 pts for every class day
15 pt. assignment	minus	1.5 pts for every class day
10 pt. assignment	minus	1 pt. for every class day

Exception: Final papers/assignments CANNOT be turned in late.

NO student will be given an extension for any assessments after the beginning of the final exam. In other words, if work is not turned in by the time of the scheduled Final Exam Period, the student will NOT be allowed to turn the work in and will receive zero points for that assignment.

Make-up policy: Exam make-ups will only be provided with a university sanctioned excuse and when the instructor is notified BEFORE the exam takes place. Failure to attend the exam at the scheduled time without an approved excuse will result in a zero on the exam. For quizzes and other assignments, extension requests are not anticipated without notifying the instructor prior to the due date to be eligible for consideration. Exam make-ups must be arranged and completed by the student within a timeframe determined by the instructor.

Religious Observances: If you are unable to take the any exams or to be present in class on a required attendance day due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by September 12, 2022.

Course Evaluation Policy

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Fall 2022 courses in November. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access

the posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

Copyright

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e., Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Accessibility and Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Support Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2022 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 12, 2022. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by ADS after September 12, 2022. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Center need to provide me with the link to the testing form for each exam and I must receive this **no later than 1 week prior to each exam**. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and computer assignment. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct-codes/>

Evaluation and Assessment of Course Learning Outcomes (Grading):

Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

A+ (97-100%)	B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<60%)
A (93-96%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)	D (63-66%)	
A- (90-92%)	B- (80-82%)	C- (70-72%)	D- (60-62%)	

I will be rounding grades at the end of the term, using the .45 threshold. So, for example, a 92.45% will be rounded up to an A, but a 92.44% will remain as an A-.

Quizzes (75 points): (7 quizzes at 15 points each; best 5 out of 7) Throughout the semester, you will be responsible for completing 7 quizzes. These quizzes comprise a total of 15 true/false and multiple-choice questions (1point each). All quizzes will be completed online through ELMS.

Importantly, only your 5 highest quiz scores will be counted towards your final grade. In other words, 2 of your quizzes with the lowest scores will be dropped. Please reserve your 2 dropped scores for emergencies or unexpected situations that prevent you from completing the quiz on time. Students with excused absences may be provided extensions. Extensions will only be provided with legitimate excused absences prior to the due date of the quiz.

While quizzes are open book and open note, students are not permitted to work on them together. Doing so will be considered cheating. Quizzes will be available on Mondays and due the corresponding Friday. Once the quiz is opened, you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Failure to complete the quiz in 30 minutes will result in a zero.

Exams (200 points): This course will have two exams worth 100 points each. Exams will be administered in the classroom at the date and time indicated in the calendar portion of the syllabus. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the class and the final will be on material during the second half of the class. The final examination will not be cumulative in nature.

Exams and all assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Exams must be taken in the class you are registered for and will be in person. Assignments must be turned in ONLINE via ELMS. Bring a picture ID to each exam.

Court Case Group Presentation (150 points): Groups will choose a specific Supreme Court case and provide a brief presentation. Details will be provided during class throughout the semester. Each student will receive their own grade for the presentation and accompanying paper. One student will be designated by each group to submit the projects as they are due throughout the semester. All group members will provide an assessment of all other individual group members in their group to be submitted to me via ELMS.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be offered multiple times and in multiple forms throughout the semester. All extra credit will be at the instructor's discretion. Please refrain from approaching me at the end of the semester asking for extra credit to boost your grade.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE/FINAL EXAM REMINDER

WEEK 1 (August 29, 2022-September 4, 2022)

Week 1: Major Topics	Intro and syllabus, Law and the Judicial Function
August 29	
	Introductions, thoroughly read and review syllabus Quiz 1 available after class
August 31	
	Hemmens p. 2-31
September 2	
	Read: How do Judges Decide? McIntyre, Re-examining the Judicial Function. Quiz 1 due by 11:59 PM September 4

WEEK 2 (September 5, 2022-September 11, 2022)

Week 2: Major Topics	Sources of Law
September 5	
	No Class
September 7	
	Moral Panics, Goode & Ben-Yehuda
September 9	
	Hemmens ch.2

WEEK 3 (September 12, 2022-September 18, 2022)

Week 3: Major Topics	Types of Law
September 12	
	Gusfield: The Symbolic Process in Public Designations of Deviance Quiz 2 available
September 14	
	Hemmens Ch. 3
September 16	
	Quiz 2 due September 18, at 11:59 pm

WEEK 4 (September 19, 2022-September 25, 2022)

Week 4: Major Topics	Court Organization and Structure
September 19	
	Hemmens Ch. 4
September 21	
	Neubauer & Fradella, ch.1
September 23	
	Case selection due

WEEK 5 (September 26, 2022- October 2, 2022)

Week 5: Major Topics	Prosecutors
September 26	
	Prosecutorial Discretion: The Effects of Uncertainty
September 28	
	Hemmens Ch.5
September 30	
	Paper outline due Quiz 3 available

WEEK 6 (October 3, 2022-October 9, 2022)

Week 6: Major Topics	Defense Attorneys
October 5	
+	Hessick: Plea Bargaining
October 7	
	Hemmens Ch. 6
October 9	
	Quiz 3 due Sunday, October 11, 11:59 pm

WEEK 7 (October 10, 2022-October 16, 2022)

Week 7: Major Topics	Judges
October 10	

	Eisenstein & Jacobs: Trial Courtrooms as Organized Workgroups
October 12	
	Group Project: Work on intro draft
October 14	
	Hemmens Ch. 7

WEEK 8 (October 17, 2022-October 23, 2022)

Week 1: Major Topics	Defendants and Victims, Midterm Exam
October 17	
	Restorative Justice; Scheuerman & Matthews
October 19	
	Midterm Review
October 21	
	Midterm Exam

WEEK 9 (October 24, 2022-October 30, 2022)

Week 9: Major Topics	Defendants and Victims
October 24	
	Restorative Justice
October 26	
	Hemmens ch.8
October 28	
	Victim Impact Panels Procedural Justice Group Project: Introduction due Sunday, October 30, 11:59 pm

WEEK 10 (October 31, 2022-November 6, 2022)

Week 10: Major Topics	The Jury
October 31	
	Hemmens ch. 9
November 2	

	Diamond: A portrait of the Jury
November 4	
	Jury deliberation Quiz 4 available

WEEK 11 (November 7, 2022-November 13, 2022)

Week 1: Major Topics	Pretrial Procedures
November 7	
	Hemmens ch.10
November 9	
	Cash bail
November 11	
	SES effects on pretrial conditions Quiz 4 due, November 13, 11:59 pm

WEEK 12 (November 14, 2022-November 20, 2022)

Week 1: Major Topics	Social Justice and the Court System
November 14	
	Galanter, Why the Haves Come Out Ahead Quiz 5 available
November 16	
	Uggen & Stewart, Piling On
November 18	
	Public defender vs. Private Attorney Quiz 5 due, November 20, 11:59 pm Group Project: Rough Draft due November 20, 11:59 pm

WEEK 13 (November 21, 2022-November 27, 2022)

Week 1: Major Topics	Sentencing
November 21	
	Hemmens ch. 11 Quiz 5 available
November 23	No Class

November 25	No Class

WEEK 14 (November 28, 2022-December 4, 2022)

Week 14: Major Topics	Sentencing, The Appellate Process, Specialized Courts
November 28	
	Sentencing article, Paff
November 30	
	Rabe et. al, Appeals of Sentences Class time to discuss presentations
December 2	
	Work on presentations in groups Quiz 6 due December 4, 11:59 pm Group Project: Peer Review due December 4, 11:59 pm

Week 15: WEEK: (December 5, 2022- December 11, 2022)

Week 16: Major Topics	Specialized Courts
December 5	
	Hemmens ch.14 Overview and types of specialized courts
December 7	
	Presentations Quiz 7 due, 11:59 pm
December 9	
	Presentations Final Draft due, December 11. 11:59 pm

WEEK 16 (December 12-16, 2022, FINALS)

December 12	
	FINAL REVIEW
December 19	
	FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 19, 8-10 am

