



**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE &
CRIMINOLOGY**

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Georgia State University
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**American Criminal Courts
CRJU 2700 (CRN: 16494)**

REVISED Syllabus – Spring Semester 2020

**REVISIONS REFLECT CHANGES MADE TO TRANSITION FROM IN-CLASS TO
ONLINE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEMESTER**

Instructor: Cyntoria Johnson	Class Day/Time: Mon/Wed 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
Email: cjohnson5@gsu.edu	Class Location: Aderhold Learning Center 214
Office Hours: Email for Appointment	100% ONLINE STARTING MARCH 30
Office Location: 55 Park Place, 5 th floor (Bring Panther ID & check-in with the receptionist first)	

Course Description: This course provides an overview of the judicial component of the criminal justice system. It focuses on the historical development, structure, role, jurisdiction, and operation of criminal courts in America. We study the various types of law and the functions and responsibilities of courtroom actors—prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges. This course also provides a basic understanding of each stage of criminal cases from the adjudication process through appellate review.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students should demonstrate abilities to:

- Identify the major components of the U.S. criminal justice system and how courts work as an integral component of the overall system;
- Describe the key stages of a typical felony prosecution;
- Identify the different types and sources of law in the United States;
- Explain the type, structure, organization and function of courts in the U.S. as well as the roles and responsibilities of their courtroom actors;
- Understand the constitutional rights of the accused in criminal cases;
- Illustrate how social, economic and political conditions influence the justice system and, in contrast, how judicial decisions impact society; and
- Analyze how gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and age contribute to varying experiences and outcomes in the criminal justice system;

Required Text: There is no traditional textbook required for this course. Free, open education resources will be assigned with links provided on iCollege.

Recommended Text: Neubauer, D. and Fradella, H., America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, Wadsworth Publishing Co., 2019, 13th ed.

Classroom Technology: All course materials (syllabus, handouts, reading assignments, etc.) will be available either in class or on iCollege. You must maintain access to iCollege and check it regularly for assignments, updates, and announcements. All assignments must be submitted on iCollege. LATE OR EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you

experience problems with iCollege, it is your responsibility to contact GSU Information Systems & Technology and find a solution. (*Note: Consider changing the browser you are using and turn off your pop-up blocker to access iCollege*).

<u>Course Requirements:</u>	Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:	
	Class Attendance/Participation	10%
	CALI Lessons	5%
	Online Discussion Posts	15%
	Quizzes	20%
	Midterm Exam	25%
	Final Exam	25%

Class Attendance—Regular and punctual attendance is vital to your successful completion of this course. I will circulate an attendance sheet during every class period. It is *your* responsibility to make sure your name is on the roll. You must sign your own name. You may not sign for another student or allow another student to sign for you. If you do not sign the attendance sheet, you will be marked absent for that class – No Exceptions. You are expected to attend every class from beginning to end. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to the learning process and will not be tolerated without a legitimate excuse. I will deduct Class Attendance points for absences, repetitive lateness, and early departures which may affect your overall grade in the course. An absence is an absence in this course; therefore, no excuse or explanation is necessary. **GRADES FOR ATTENDANCE WILL BE ASSESSED FROM THE IN-CLASS SESSIONS HELD THROUGH MARCH 11, 2020.**

Class Preparation & Participation—It is imperative that you read the assigned materials BEFORE class begins so that you will be prepared to be fully engaged in the classroom discussion. You are expected to act *professionally* in the classroom, which includes but is not limited to being prepared for class, participating in civilized discussion on the subject matter, actively listening to the lecture and discussion (by paying attention and avoiding emailing, text messaging, web surfing, or other distractions), fairly considering the viewpoints of others, and respectfully allowing others to express their viewpoints in class. All cell phones, pagers, and other disruptive electronic equipment must be turned off (not just silenced) in the classroom. Please bring any questions or issues that need clarification to class so that your classmates can benefit from the discussion as well. Lectures in this course will not function to spoon-feed you the information. Rather, lectures will *supplement* the assigned readings and *highlight* certain portions of the course material. I will deduct Class Participation points for students who are unprepared for class, off task/disruptive to the learning environment, and/or who do not participate and contribute meaningfully in class. **GRADES FOR PARTICIPATION WILL BE ASSESSED FROM THE IN-CLASS SESSIONS HELD THROUGH MARCH 11, 2020.**

CALI Lessons— CALI Lessons are interactive tutorials designed to help law students improve their knowledge of legal concepts through a process of presenting a concept and then immediately testing them on it. Studies have shown that this is one of the most effective ways to learn and *retain* knowledge.” (From cali.org). Links to the appropriate CALI Lessons can be found on iCollege in the module for our various criminal law

topics throughout the semester. Students must complete the assigned CALI Lessons and submit a printout (pdf) of the completion confirmation page by the posted deadline. **GRADES WILL COME FROM YOUR COMPLETION SCORE THAT YOU EARNED FROM COMPLETING EACH CALI LESSON.**

Online Discussion Posts—Regular engagement is vital to your successful completion of this course. It is imperative that you access and read the assigned course materials so that you can engage meaningfully in our class discussions. You are expected to act professionally in the learning environment. Students will fairly consider the viewpoints of others and respectfully allow others to express their viewpoints in our discussions as well. Online discussions help foster a collaborative learning environment and provide opportunities for us to engage as a class and consider different perspectives. Students will submit thoughtful, meaningful and relevant discussion (and/or VoiceThread) posts in response to substantive writing prompts posted. To receive full credit, students must post twice to each discussion board writing prompt. The first post should be your own meaningful and relevant comment on the question presented (min 100 words). The second post should be a thoughtful response to at least one other student's post (min 50 words). See iCollege for writing prompts, deadlines, and detailed instructions. **CONTINUE TO CHECK ICOLLEGE MODULES FOR THESE ASSIGNMENTS AND SUBMIT BY THE POSTED DEADLINE.**

Quizzes—Reading the course materials, preparing for class, and attending class regularly are essential for your successful completion of this course. To that end, there will be several quizzes given in class throughout the semester (typically no more than 10-12 minutes each). The purpose of these quizzes is to evaluate your understanding of the course material and to encourage you to keep up with your readings and coursework. There will be no make-up pop quizzes allowed if you are absent from class or arrive late, regardless of the reason. As a courtesy to you, I will drop the lowest quiz grade. **CONTINUE TO CHECK ICOLLEGE MODULES FOR THESE ASSIGNMENTS AND SUBMIT BY THE POSTED DEADLINE.**

Exams— There will be two (2) noncumulative closed book examinations. Exams will be administered either in-class or online through iCollege (method to be announced during class and via iCollege announcements). Exams will cover the assigned readings and classroom presentations and will consist of some combination of multiple choice, true-false, and essay questions.

- The Midterm Exam will be given on **Monday, March 2, 2020.**
- The Final Exam will be given on **Monday, April 27, 2020.**

FINAL EXAM WILL BE ONLINE. ACCESS IT UNDER "QUIZZES" ON ICOLLEGE. THE FINAL EXAM WILL CLOSE AT THE 11:59 PM DEADLINE. SEE ICOLLEGE FOR FUTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

Make-up Exam Policy: Every effort should be made to take scheduled exams as scheduled. Make-up exams are allowed only in the most exceptional, unavoidable circumstances (excused absences only) by making prior arrangements directly with the instructor. The instructor

reserves the right to assign a "zero" exam grade without giving a make-up exam if you fail to contact me by the beginning of your class period on the exam date with a legitimate, documented, and verifiable reason for the absence. If an exam is missed due to an illness, I require a written doctor's excuse before I allow you to take a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

Exam Conflicts: Students are not required to take clustered exams during the final exam period (more than two examinations within one 24-hour period). If you have a clustered exam situation, you must inform me in writing at least 14 days before the beginning of the final exam period so that we can make special arrangements for you to take the final exam. No special arrangements will be made if you fail to submit a timely conflict letter.

Grade Adjustments/Scale: For your own privacy protection, I do not discuss grades over the phone or via email. You can access your assessment scores on iCollege throughout the semester. If you have questions, feel free to make an appointment to come in for office hours to discuss your performance in the course. If you believe there is an error in your grade, you should discuss this with me first. With the exception of correcting an arithmetic error, grades will NOT be adjusted. The following grading scale will apply to your overall grade:

A+ = 97 – 100	B+ = 87 – 89	C+ = 77 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A = 93 – 96	B = 83 – 86	C = 73 – 76	F = 59 and below
A- = 90 – 92	B- = 80 – 82	C- = 70 – 72	

My due date to turn in grades is **May 7**. Grades are available to students via PAWS on **May 8**.

Email Etiquette: I expect professional decorum in the online learning environment as well as your communications via email. Please use correct English, appropriate punctuation, and overall professionalism when corresponding with me via email. I teach several courses each semester, so please include your course name (CRJU ####) and CRN in the subject line of every email so that I know who you are and can respond accordingly. Please double-check the syllabus and iCollege announcements for the answer to your question *prior to* emailing me. If you would like a response from me, please email me directly at cjohnson5@gsu.edu. DO NOT use the email feature on iCollege, and DO NOT use my old student email address. I will not respond to these. Please allow at least 24 to 48 hours of response time before sending multiple emails. I do not respond to emails requesting information that is already provided on the syllabus and/or posted on iCollege.

Privacy Policy: No one is permitted to make any recordings of the course material (whether audio, video, or otherwise), including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, etc. You may not record, take pictures or transmit any part of this course by any means.

Disabilities: Any student with a documented learning disability should notify the instructor on the first day of class so that appropriate steps may be taken to ensure a quality learning experience. Neither learning nor physical disabilities will exempt anyone from the requirements of this course such as attendance, participation, and timely submission of required work. Otherwise, all efforts will be made to provide reasonable accommodations for the student. Because students' disabilities and needs vary, each student must schedule an appointment to come in to see me no later than the first week of class so we can discuss your needs and develop a reasonable accommodations plan for the semester.

Participation in Research: Researchers are often interested in conducting studies using convenience samples of college students. Being enrolled in a large classroom section such as this course makes you a candidate of interest. You may be asked to volunteer to participate in research throughout this semester. Your rights as a participant are paramount, and your participation is completely voluntary.

University and Criminal Justice Departmental Policies: You should familiarize yourself with Georgia State University's Undergraduate Catalog and the policies of the Department of Criminal Justice. We will adhere to the guidelines stated therein. For your convenience, some of these policies and procedures are featured on the last page of this syllabus.

Academic Dishonesty: Students must adhere to the Georgia State University Code of Conduct, the Student Handbook, and the Policy on Academic Honesty. You are expected to know and abide by these policies. Please take some time to refresh yourself with these rules on academic integrity and ethics. Students who engage in academic dishonesty and violate these policies will receive an automatic F in the course and will be subject to disciplinary penalties imposed by the University.

<https://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/>

<https://studenthandbook.gsu.edu/>

<https://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/academic-honesty/>

REVISED COURSE SCHEDULE¹			
DAY	DATE	WEEKLY MODULES	TOPICS (See iCollege for Assignments)
M/W	Jan 13/15	Course Introductions & Review Syllabus Overview of Criminal Courts	Syllabus Quiz CJ Wedding Cake
Mon	Jan 20	MLK HOLIDAY—UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
Wed	Jan 22	Federal & State Courts	Policymaking Role
M/W	Jan 27/29	Prosecutors & Defense Counsel	Prosecutorial Discretion
M/W	Feb 3/5	Judges	Judicial Independence
M/W	Feb 10/12	TBD (See iCollege for Assignments)	
M/W	Feb 17/19	Arrest, Bail & Arraignment	The Bail System: Is It Working?
Mon	Feb 24	Plea Bargaining	The Plea (video)
Wed	Feb 26	Catch-up/Review Day	
Mon	Mar 2	MIDTERM EXAM	
Tues	Mar 3	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW	
Wed	Mar 4	Go over Midterm Exam Performance	
M/W	Mar 9/11	Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence	The Exclusionary Rule & Fruit of Poisonous Tree
M-F	Mar 16-22	SPRING BREAK—UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
M-F	Mar 23-29	UNIVERSITY CLOSED – NO WORK	
Module Opens: Deadline:	Mar 30, 8:00 am Apr 5, 11:59 pm	Jury Trials	Quiz, CALI Lesson (Rt to Counsel at Trial) & Discussion (Pretrial Publicity & Social Media)
Module Opens: Deadline:	April 6, 8:00 am April 12, 11:59 pm	Sentencing	Quiz, CALI Lesson (Punishment Theories) & Discussion (Sentencing Disparities)
Module Opens: Deadline:	April 13, 8:00 am April 19, 11:59 pm	Appellate Courts	Quiz & Discussion (Wrongful Convictions)
Module Opens: Deadline:	April 20, 8:00 am April 26, 11:59 pm	Juvenile Courts	Quiz & Discussion (Waivers to Adult Court)
Monday	April 27, 8:00 am	ONLINE FINAL EXAM (DUE ON ICOLLEGE MONDAY APRIL 27 BY 11:59 PM)	

¹ This syllabus provides a tentative schedule for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be made at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be posted on iCollege.

University and Criminal Justice Departmental Policies

1. **Disruptive Conduct:** Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on disruptive conduct as described in the online undergraduate and graduate Catalogs. Cell phones and pagers are considered disruptive and should be turned off before class.
2. **Academic Dishonesty:** In the event of academic dishonesty, policies stated in the GSU General Catalog will be followed. Cheating includes presenting another's work as your own, presenting previous work as work done in this semester, copying the work of another, etc. If you have any questions about whether an activity is cheating, refer to your student handbook or see the instructor. The instructor will determine the sanction for dishonest behavior. Academic Dishonesty may result in an F for the course and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College. For complete details on GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty, please refer to the online undergraduate and graduate catalogs.
3. **Disability Statement:** Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. [Office of Disability Services is located in the Student Center, Suite 230].
4. **New W/WF Policy:** As of Fall 2006 semester, all undergraduate students are allowed to withdraw with a grade of W a maximum of six (6) times in their entire careers at Georgia State. Students who exceed the limit will automatically receive a grade of WF. (WFs count as Fs for GPA calculation purposes.) Withdrawals taken before Fall 2006 will not count against the limit and neither will hardship withdrawals, military withdrawals, withdrawals at other institutions, or withdrawals after the midpoint. (Withdrawals after the midpoint are automatically given a grade of WF.) Please note, the instructor of a course will not decide whether a student who withdraws before the midpoint receives a W or a WF. Instead, students with less than 6 withdrawals will automatically receive a W and students with 6 or more withdrawals will automatically receive a WF.
5. **Plus/Minus Grading Policy:** The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology voted to use plus/minus grading in criminal justice courses. The specific grading scale is set by the instructor.
6. **Online Course Evaluations:** Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
7. **AYS Career Services and Student Life Office:** The Andrew Young School provides career support & leadership development services to all current AYS students and alumni. Students are invited to attend our career events and workshops, and are encouraged to schedule career counseling appointments with University Career Services in the Student Center. Graduate students can make individualized career counseling appointments with Ms. Colleen Perry, the Director of AYS Career Services office. These efforts with Career Services can help students with resume writing, interviewing, job searching, internship development, and networking. To see what career panels, career fairs, and events are available this semester, please visit: <https://www.schedulicity.com/Scheduling/Default.aspx?business=AYC75T#/services> . The office also supports all AYS student clubs and organizations – so read about the various groups within the college, and join one today: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/organizations> . Make the most of your education by utilizing these great resources. *The AYS Career Services & Student Life office is located on the ground floor of the Andrew Young Building, in room G47-51.*