COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES (CRIJ 1306)  
SYLLABUS  
SCH: 3 LECTURE / 0 LAB

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
A study of the judiciary in the American criminal justice system. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to discuss: the structure of the Texas court system; the prosecution of offenders; the basic right to counsel; the concept of pretrial release; the purpose and function of the grand jury; the procedural processes of adjudication; the rules of evidence; rules concerning trial procedure; and the disposition of criminal cases. By focusing on court systems and the rules of procedure, the student will better understand why particular cases are filed in certain courts, and why certain procedures are required, while others are prohibited. Studying procedural law enables students to have a more complete understanding of the criminal process, from arrest through appeal.

COURSE TEXT:  
Also REQUIRED: Texas, State of. (Current ed.) Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. [Texas Criminal Laws, available in the bookstore, is recommended]

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES:  
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:  
• describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdiction, development and structure;  
• analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom work group;  
• identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal;  
• describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLASS POLICIES:  
For Online courses, students MUST actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

Each student should anticipate at least one hour out of class preparation for each lecture hour, plus study time preparing for examinations. Attendance is important in this class.

Portable cellular phones, beepers, and similar paging devices may be disruptive to the class, and you are encouraged NOT to bring them into the classroom. If you do bring them to class, please make sure they are turned off. Should they become a nuisance, you may be asked to remove them from the classroom. The wearing of hats and the consumption of food are not allowed in during class, and, pursuant to Midland College Policy 5:14:02, the use of tobacco
products (smoking, dipping, chewing, etc.) is prohibited in the building, including the classroom.

**Students missing a major examination must make the exam before the next class period unless special arrangements are made.** Make-up examinations may be the same as, or different from, the examination given in class. Make-up examinations will cover the same material as the scheduled examination. Failure to make up an examination will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. Final exams are not given early or late. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes, announced or unannounced, at any time. There is no opportunity to make up quizzes that are missed.

The instructor cannot drop students from courses. It is your responsibility to drop a class if you no longer plan to attend and complete the semester. Check the Midland College catalog for the last day to drop a course. You may be limited in the number of courses you can drop, and you may not be entitled to a tuition refund if you drop a course.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Semester Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Exams</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** The class meets for three lecture hours per week.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

- **Instructor:** Brian Kneisley
- **Office:** 174 Technical Building
- **Telephone:** (432) 685-4685
- **E-mail:**
- **Division:** Social/Behavioral Science and Business Studies (685-6830)

**ADA Statement:** Any student who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the Counselor/Disability Specialist at 432-685-5598 as soon as possible. The Counselor/Disability Specialist is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.