

**MIDLAND COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS  
SEMESTER AND YEAR  
CRIJ 1306  
COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES  
CORE CURRICULUM COURSE**

**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.

**TEXT – REQUIRED:** current required textbook information

**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.

**PARTICIPATION STATEMENT**

Students must dedicate themselves to learning while in college. You should follow the syllabus, read each chapter before it is discussed in class, and use effective study techniques (e.g. note taking, outlining the text, flash cards; study groups) to improve chances for success. Additional time is required for preparing for examinations and completing assignments. Attendance is important in all classes; a grade is given for attendance and participation. Students are encouraged to ask questions and, if necessary, meet with the instructor during office hours for additional help.

Portable cellular phones, beepers, and similar devices are 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 will be asked to remove them from the classroom. You may bring beverages into the classroom, but may not eat during class or wear hats in the classroom. You are expected to be on time, and remain in class until the end. Coming late and leaving early will affect your participation grade.

Students missing a major examination must make up the examination before the next class. 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 within the specified time will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. Students missing class are responsible for finding out what was missed and getting the notes from another student. 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. Final exams are not given early or late.

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.

**Notice:** The instructor cannot drop students who stop attending or have an excessive number of absences. Missed work will be graded as zero and averaged into the final grade. 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 last day to drop.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:**

Major examinations	50% of semester grade
Assignments	40% of semester grade
Attendance	10% of semester grade

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COURSE SCHEDULE, PLEASE REFERENCE CANVAS. STUDENTS WILL ALSO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS IN CANVAS.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Instructor  
Office  
Telephone  
E-mail  
Division            Social/Behavioral Science

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement**

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit [Midland College Accommodation Services](#) and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

### **Student Grievances and Appeals**

The goal of Midland College is to help students achieve their educational goals. Students have certain rights and responsibilities, [Student Rights & Responsibilities section of the Midland College catalog](#).

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program and activities. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

#### **Tana Baker**

Title IX/504 Coordinator and Compliance Officer  
3600 N. Garfield, SSC 242  
Midland, TX 79705  
(432) 685-4781  
[tbaker@midland.edu](mailto:tbaker@midland.edu)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the [Office of Civil Rights website](#) for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.