

**CRM 260-899: Criminal Law and the Courts**  
**Course Syllabus: Spring 2018**

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<b>Phone:</b>	417-836-4333	<i>Generally, response time is within 24 hours.</i>
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**Course Description**

*This course is solely online.*

This course examines the basic principles, processes, and structures found in adult criminal courts in the United States and Missouri. The course also examines the nature and development of criminal law from the Common Law to its current state nationwide with an emphasis on current Missouri criminal law.

**Required Materials**

1. ***Criminal Law, Gardner and Anderson, 13th edition, Thomson/Wadsworth, 2018***
2. **Missouri Penal Code** will also be used and is available online at:  
<http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/statutesAna.html>
3. Supreme Court of the United States website: <http://www.supremecourt.gov>
4. Other materials will be available on Blackboard throughout the semester.

**Office Hours & Contact Information**

- Student-professor meetings can occur via videoconference and teleconference, as well as in person.
- Office hours are typically 12:00-2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Please see the Office Hour Information in Blackboard for each week's exact times; this information is continually updated.
- I am also available outside of office hours! To set up appointments for any mutually convenient times outside of the office-hour windows, please email me.
- Email is the best form of communication. Generally, response time is within 24 hours. Maximum response time is 72 hours.
- Contact information is located at the top of this page.

Please email me with any substantive questions or concerns anytime! Note, substantive items or issues *do not include* schedules, acquisition of course materials, or technology (e.g., Blackboard, My Career Success Lab). Responses to emails regarding these issues will consist of directions to this section of the Syllabus and/or the:

- Course Schedule
- Blackboard modules
- Library Resources: Blackboard / Services Tab / Library Resources
- Computer Services Help Desk: Blackboard / Services Tab / Help Desk
- My Career Success Lab Help

**Facebook**

The department's Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

*I do not have a Facebook account.*

## Course Calendar

The Course Schedule contains all deadlines for the course. The Course Schedule is divided into Modules, which are reflected in Blackboard. The full Course Schedule is located in Blackboard. Additionally, due dates are listed within each Blackboard module and on the Course Schedule. Please see the Academic Calendar for all MSU deadlines, such as withdrawal, refunds, holidays, grade reporting: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/home/academic/fa2017>

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Corresponding Assessments

*SLO1: Students will demonstrate mastery of the content knowledge regarding the history, development and current state of criminal law in the United State with an emphasis on the criminal law of Missouri.*

Assessment: Exams, Quizzes, Discussions, Case brief

*SLO2: Students will think critically about current criminal law practice in the U.S.*

Assessment: Exams, Quizzes, Discussions, Case brief

*SLO3: Students will exercise written communication skills.*

Assessment: Discussions, Case Brief

## Course Assessments & Grading

### **Exams = 30% of Grade**

There are a total of four exams: three sections exams + 1 comprehensive exam. All exams are comprised of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Questions will be based on the readings, lectures, and other assigned materials. **Note: It is your responsibility to take exams on a computer that has a reliable internet connection. All exams are open, and the deadlines are posted. Exams must be completed by their deadlines. See the Late Work policy.**

### **Weekly Quizzes = 25% of Grade**

Non-exam weeks have weekly quizzes. You will be allowed to drop your 4 lowest quiz grades. **Note: It is your responsibility to take quizzes on a computer that has a reliable internet connection. All quizzes are open, and the deadlines are posted. Quizzes must be completed by their deadlines. See the Late Work policy.**

### **Case Brief = 25% Grade**

Students will select a Supreme Court decision from a list of cases that will be posted in a separate section. Special instructions for how to complete the brief and general instructions on the format of the brief are located in Blackboard. The grading rubric is also located in Blackboard. Points are given for selecting your case, turning in the draft of your case and the final draft of your case. The first draft of your case should be very, very polished and should only need for me to help you polish it. I will complete a grading rubric that will let you know the grade you would have received if this had been the final draft. **Make sure that you contact me if you have questions about your case BEFORE your first draft is due.**

### **Discussions = 20% Grade**

There will be 3 discussion board assignments during the semester. Each discussion board assignment

will involve an initial response to the topic and reply posts to simulate classroom discussions (except that everyone must post!). Instructions for each discussion are included with the prompt in Blackboard. **Note: It is your responsibility to complete discussions on a computer that has a reliable internet connection. Discussion deadlines are posted, and all component must be completed by their deadlines. See the Late Work policy.**

**All discussion board responses must be written in paragraph format with proper spelling, grammar, word usage, and sentence construction. All responses must be respectful, and opinions must be based on fact. In order to get full credit for the discussion, you must address each aspect of the discussion question, and your main post must reflect that you have read the material and understand it. Failure to post your responses to your colleague's posts will result in a loss of points.**

*I strongly advise you to compose your discussion posts in Word and then copy and paste your discussion into the discussion board. This allows you to have a copy of it should there be a technological problem. DO NOT attach your post - Posts that are attachments and are not copied and pasted into the discussion board WILL NOT BE GRADED! NO EXCEPTIONS!*

*After you have pasted your discussion into the discussion board, log out and then log back in to check to make sure that your post actually posted and that it shows up in the discussion board. I will not reopen the discussion board after it has closed. Thus, it is in your best interest to work on these early so that you do not run out of time should you encounter any technological issues. All technological issues should be addressed with the HELPDESK.*

*Also note that I have set the discussions so that you must post before you read your colleagues' posts. I will check to make sure that you have not entered, posted an irrelevant note, exited and then reentered to post your work. Make sure you are ready to post when you enter the discussion.*

### **Grade Calculations**

Grades are posted in Blackboard; however, Blackboard's running calculation of final grades is only based on available data. This means that it does not include any work yet to be done. To obtain up-to-date grade calculations and estimate your grades, please calculate each category using the formula below and then add each category together.

$$\text{Category Average} \times \text{Category \% of Grade} = \text{Category Score}$$

**Add all Category Scores to get Final Grade**

### **Final Grading System**

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice does not use the +/- system

- **A (4.00): Outstanding work.** Outstanding achievement relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was of the highest level. Excellence while meeting course objectives was sustained throughout the course. Not only was the student's performance clearly and significantly above satisfactory, it was also of an independent and creative nature.
- **B (3.00): Meritorious.** Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was very good, although not of the highest level. Performance was clearly and significantly above satisfactory fulfillment of course requirements
- **C (2.00): Adequate.** Achievement that meets the course requirements. Performance was adequate, although marginal in quality.
- **D (1.00): Minimum passing work (inadequate).** Achievement barely worthy of credit. Student demonstrated unsatisfactory achievement in meeting course objectives, yet fulfilled a

sufficient enough portion of the course objectives that repeating the course is not necessary unless required by the academic unit.

- **F (0.00): Failed – no credit.** A failure to meet course requirements. The work of course objectives were either: 1) completed but not at a level of achievement that is worthy of credit, or 2) have not been completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I” (incomplete).
- **XF (0.00): Failure due to Academic Dishonesty – no credit.**

*For the detailed grade and credit point system, please see the following website but disregard the +/- grades: <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html>*

## **Classroom & University Policies**

### **Late Work**

Late submissions will automatically receive zero (0) points. Late work is not accepted unless a specific hardship or emergency warrants an exception. Should an emergency occur that will impact your ability to submit an assignment on time, please let me know right away. If I deem that the situation warrants an extension, accommodations will be made. Please note that it is important to me as an instructor that all of my students are given equal opportunities. Therefore, extensions will not be given without appropriate verification.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University’s academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the “Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures” is available online (link at the end of this paragraph) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty (as defined by the university) will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

[http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3\\_01\\_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm)

Please note that any person plagiarizing will receive a “0” for the assignment and risks the possibility of an “F” or “XF” for the course. This means that you must turn in original work created by you specifically for this course, as well as use quotation marks when appropriate and cite authors that you paraphrase or quote in your papers, assignments, and in our online discussion forums. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty you need to ask me (your instructor) and/or refer to the University’s policy. Please note that all of your written assignments will be run through Safe Assign in order to check for incidents of plagiarism and duplicate submission. Duplicate submissions also constitute plagiarism—**Yes, you can plagiarize yourself!** If you previously submitted work in another course or for an earlier assessment in this course, you cannot resubmit it.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, [417-836-4192](tel:417-836-4192), to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work

with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

### **Disability Accommodation**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), [www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc>.

### **Emergency Response**

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

### **Religious Accommodation**

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

### **Mental Health and Stress Management**

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic

performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520.

See Academic Calendars ([www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html)) for deadlines.

### **Course Jurisdiction**

Student participation is critical for a successful and productive learning experience, and students are expected to draw from course materials, assessments, and activities in order to contribute. Class success is dependent on both the: 1) professor's abilities and talents as teacher to communicate ideas and 2) ability of the class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. Disruptive behaviors in any classroom environment cheat other students out of opportunities to learn. Examples include not posting assignments, posting inappropriate material, harassment, and rude and inappropriate comments. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated, and those engaging in such behaviors will be removed from the classroom (physical and digital).

The course instructor has original jurisdiction over this class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to participate in this class. The course instructor may have a student administratively withdrawn from a course upon showing of good cause and with the concurrence of the department head. The appeals process in case of such administrative withdrawal shall be as stated in the academic regulations under "Grade Re-evaluation Based on Performance."