

**Courts and the criminal justice system**  
(CJ 250)  
Spring Semester 2007  
8:00 - 9:15 TR  
Stubbs 244

**Instructor:** Alton Braddock

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**Office Hours:** Posted

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**Text:** *America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System* (8<sup>th</sup> edition)

Dr. David Neubauer

Published by Thomson/Wadsworth

ISBN #: 0-534-62892-3

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will consist of an examination of the court component of the American Criminal Justice System. Emphasis is on structure, roles, and function of courts and their relationship to other system components and social institutions. Criminal Justice 101 is a prerequisite for this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The student will become intricately familiar with local, state, and federal court systems in America. The student will likewise develop an understanding of the interlocking relationship between the courts and all other components of the criminal justice field. An understanding of the centrality of the court system to the criminal justice system will be demonstrated by each student.

**COURSE GRADES:** There will be three(3) examinations (to include the final test) valued at 100 points each. Dates for each examination - except the final test - will be announced at least one week prior to the examination. Examination format will be short-answer test items such as True/False, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple choice.

**GRADING SCALE:**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| A | 90 percent and above |
| B | 80-89 percent        |
| C | 70-79 percent        |
| D | 60-69 percent        |
| F | Below 60 percent     |

Both mid-term and final grades will be posted on-line!

Make-up examinations will be given for excused absences only and should be scheduled and taken as soon as possible. Make-up examinations MAY be in a different format than regular scheduled examinations and may include discussion and/or essay questions. Therefore the short-answer stipulation if for regularly scheduled examinations only.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Class attendance is highly encouraged. Roll call will be taken at

each class meeting. Excused absences for make-up examinations must be justifiable and well documented (doctor's orders, court orders, etc.) Statements from spouses, parents, room mates, et al that you did not feel well on the date of the test will not suffice.

**DISABILITY:** Any class member with a documented disability which may require accommodations should inform the instructor of this fact immediately and should also notify and contact the ULM Office of Student Life.

**COURSE OUT-LINE:** (corresponding to text chapters to be covered)

- I. Courts, Crime, and Controversy**
- II. Law and Crime**
- III. Federal Courts**
- IV. State and Local Courts**
- V. The Dynamics of Justice - The adversary system**
- VI. Prosecutors/Defense Attorneys**
- VII. Judges**
- VIII. Defendants and Victims**
- IX. Arrest to Arraignment/Bail**
- X. Evidence**
- XI. Plea Bargaining - Bargain Basement Justice**
- XII. Trials and Juries**
- XIII. Sentencing**
- XIV. Appellate Courts**