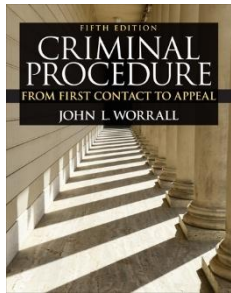


Texas A&M University-San Antonio

College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Criminology and Political Science
CRIM 3388-01 Courts and Criminal Procedure 13142
Credit Hours: 3 SCH
Fall 2026

Professor: Ricardo Gomez, MS
Office: CAB 348 C
Office Hours: 1pm – 2 pm; Tuesdays or by appointment
Office Phone: 210-784-2286
Email: rgomez@tamusa.edu
Class Days/Time: **Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**
Classroom: Madla Building, 353

Materials Required: Worrall, J. L. (2018). *Criminal Procedure* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. ISBN 13: 978-0-13-349495-2
ISBN 10: 0-13-349495-0



Course Description: This course examines the structure of the court system in the United States, the constitutional basis for criminal procedure, the criminal justice process, including the role of prosecutors, grand juries and defense attorneys, plea bargaining and guilty pleas, and the trial and appeal process.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Understand the structure of the court system and the constitutional basis for criminal procedure.
2. Know the different types of remedies for unlawful search and seizure.
3. Analyze Fourth Amendment issues, including those associated with search warrants and exceptions to the warrant requirement.
4. Know the rights of the accused during interrogation and confessions.
5. Understand court procedures.
6. Utilize critical thinking skills to apply the law to the facts when given hypothetical scenarios.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING COMPONENTS:

Attendance and Participation (10%); Short Answer/Discussion Questions (20%) Quizzes (15%); Matching Exercise (15%); Midterm Exam (20%); Final exam (20%)

Grading Scheme:

A = Excellent, 90-100.

B = Good, 80-89.

C = Average, 70-79.

D = Passing, 60-69.

F = Failure, below 60.

Exams

This course will use two in-class exams, a Midterm and a Final as a method of evaluation, which constitute 40% of your final class grade. All exams will be graded and posted on Blackboard.

End of Chapter Quizzes

After each chapter, you will receive a quiz of 10 questions via Blackboard by the end of class on Tuesday of each week to check your comprehension of the chapter with an allotted time of 15 minutes. The quizzes are counted towards your overall grade (15%) so it will be useful for you to complete the quizzes since they will also prepare you for the exams and will give you an idea of what kind of questions to expect in the exams. The deadline for taking the quizzes will be on the following Tuesday of each week at 2:00 pm. Quizzes completed after the due date are subject to penalty. All quizzes and grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Matching Exercise

After each chapter, you will receive a matching exercise consisting of 10 key terms via Blackboard by the Tuesday of each week to check your comprehension of the chapter with an allotted time of 10 minutes. The questions are counted towards your overall grade (15%) so it will be useful for you to complete them since they will also prepare you for the exams. The deadline for completing the exercise will be the following Tuesday of each week at 2:00 pm. Matching exercises submitted after the due date are subject to penalty. All grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Discussion Posts/Short Answer:

After certain chapters, you will receive a short answer question/discussion question via Blackboard on the Tuesday of each week and will be due on the following Tuesday each week at 2:00 pm. The Blackboard questions involve research analysis relative to questions from the chapter. Online discussion forums are used to inspire thought and interaction between classmates. Short answer questions are used to inspire self-initiated research and is a critical part of the course experience. We recognize that there are a variety of AI programs available to assist writers. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Students must obtain permission from me before using AI composition software (like ChatGPT) for their writing assignments in this course. Using these tools without my permission puts your academic integrity at risk. Short answer/discussion questions constitute 20% of your final class grade. It is the place where you will not only respond to questions posed by the instructor, but where you may post questions concerning the material presented. It is also the place where you are to ask for and provide help and encouragement to your classmates. Your online participation will be evaluated on a quantity and quality basis. Your comments should advance the discussion, add value, and be relevant. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-added participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a comment, please state and support your agreement or disagreement. Writings submitted after the due date are subject to penalty. All grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Attendance Policy:

Every student is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with the specific academic regulations contained in the university catalog including degree requirements. For a detailed explanation of policies on class attendance, absence due to religious holidays, field trips, degree planning and withdrawal from the university, please refer to the catalog or the online version at <http://www.TAMUSA.edu/academics/catalog/>.

The University Attendance Policy provides that any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work in a course, and frequent or persistent absences may preclude a passing grade or cause a student to be dropped from one or more courses upon the request of a faculty member to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Participation and engagement on the part of the student will be an integral part of this course and **will constitute 10% of the overall grade.**

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION

Many of the "rules of the road" or protocols that apply to e-mail also apply to the use of discussions. Use the following conventions when composing a discussion posting:

1. During a Discussion assignment, deadlines for posting to and replying will be specified with each assignment. It is a good practice to always check the Discussions multiple times during the week.
2. If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use e-mail rather than the discussions (see above E-mail Protocols).
3. Use the appropriate Discussion Topic; don't post everything on the "Main" Discussion Topic.
4. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message.
5. A helpful hint for use with both discussions and e-mail --- Compose your message in your word-processing application to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar --- then copy and paste your composition into e-mail or the discussion. This also saves online time.
6. Everyone should feel free to participate in class and online discussions. Regular and meaningful discussion postings constitute a substantial portion of your grade.
7. Respect each other's ideas, feelings, and experience.
8. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online, as it is in the classroom.
9. Explore disagreements and support assertions with data and evidence.
10. "Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or discussion topic when applicable. Some assignments will specify the subject heading.
11. Use the "reply" button rather than the "compose" button if you are replying to someone else's posting.
12. Do not use postings such as "I agree," "I don't know either," "Who cares," or "ditto." They do not add to the discussion, take up space on the Discussions, and will not be counted for assignment credit.
13. Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
14. Use the Technical Discussion topic for assistance with technical issues. Use the Help Discussion topic for questions about course material or assignments. There will be specific discussion topics for discussions - pay close attention to the assignment, and post appropriately.
15. Students must obtain permission from me before using AI composition software (like ChatGPT) for any assignments in this course.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

E-mail communications are an integral part of this course. It's recommended you make sure you:

1. Check your e-mail at least twice per week (more often is better).
2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply.
3. Include "Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.
4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).
7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
8. Sign your e-mail messages.

Cellular Phone Policy: All cellular phones, pagers, and other forms of electronic communication must be silenced during the class period. If you need to have your device on for emergency purposes, inform the teacher as well as take steps to minimize the disturbance in class. Recording in the classroom is prohibited.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu,

calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

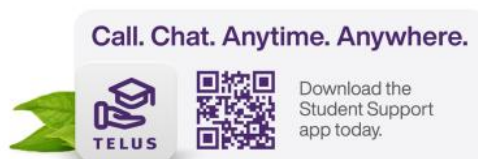
Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only

receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human

dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find

themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

CRIM 3388-01 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online

Tentative Course Schedule/Outline

Date	Chapter	Topics	Assigned Reading
Week 1 8/25	Course Introduction and Syllabus		Chapter 1
No other assignments			

Week 2 9/1	Chapter 1	Introduction to Criminal Procedure	Chapter 2
• 9/1 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 1 • Due Date 9/8 by 2:00 pm			
Week 3 9/8	Chapter 1 review Chapter 2	Exclusionary Rule & Other Remedies	Chapter 3
• 9/8 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 2 • Due Date 9/15 by 2:00 pm			
Week 4 9/15	Chapter 2 review Chapter 3	Introduction to Fourth Amendment	Chapter 4
• 9/15 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 3 • Due Date 9/22 by 2:00 pm			
Week 5 9/22	Chapter 3 review Chapter 4	Warrants	Chapters 5 and 6
• 9/22 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 4 • Due Date 9/29 by 2:00 pm			
Week 6 9/29	Chapter 4 review Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Warrantless Searches Stop-and Frisk	Study
• 9/29 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapters 5 and 6. • Due Date 10/6 by 2:00 pm			
Week 7 10/6	Midterm Exam		Chapter 7
• No other assignment			
Week 8 10/13	Chapter 7	Special Needs	Chapter 8
• 10/13 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 7 • Due Date 10/20 by 2:00 pm			
Week 9 10/20	Chapter 7 review Chapter 8	Interrogations	Chapters 9 and 10
• 10/20 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 8			

- **Due Date 10/27 by 2:00 pm**

Week 10	Chapter 8 review	Chapter 11
10/27	Chapter 9	Identifications
	Chapter 10	The Pretrial Process

- **10/27 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapters 9 and 10**

- **Due Date 11/3 by 2:00 pm**

Week 11	Chapter 9 and 10 review	Chapter 12
11/3	Chapter 11	Grand Juries and Attorneys

- **11/3 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Short Answer/Discussion Question for Chapter 11**

- **Due Date 11/10 by 2:00 pm**

Week 12	Chapter 11 review	Chapter 13 and 14
11/10	Chapter 12	Pleas

- **11/10 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Discussion Question for Chapter 12**

- **Due Date 11/17 by 2:00 pm**

Week 13	Chapter 12 review	Chapter 15
11/17	Chapter 13 and 14	Trial and Beyond

- **11/17 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Discussion Question for Chapter 13**

- **Due Date 11/24 by 2:00 pm**

Week 14	Chapter 13 and 14 review	Study
11/24	Chapter 15	Sentencing and Appeals

- **11/24 Check for Comprehensive Quiz, Matching Exercise, and Discussion Question for Chapter 13**

- **Due Date 12/1 by 2:00 pm**

Week 15	Chapter 15 review	Study
12/1	Q&A	

Week 16		
12/7-12/11	Final Exam	TBD