

CRIM 3388 – Courts & Criminal Procedure

Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Joseph Gay, Esq.

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Office: 331 Main Campus

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Format: Hybrid – Meets Wednesdays, 7:00–8:15 p.m., Madla Room 237

Course Description

This course examines the structure of the United States court system and the constitutional foundations of criminal procedure. Topics include the criminal justice process, pretrial procedures, the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and grand juries, trial and plea bargaining processes, and appellate review. Students will apply legal principles to factual scenarios through critical analysis.

Required Textbook

Samaha. Criminal Procedure (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Cengage MindTap access is provided through the course; a free eBook is included.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the structure of the court system and constitutional basis of criminal procedure.
2. Identify remedies for unlawful search and seizure.
3. Analyze Fourth Amendment issues, including warrants and exceptions.
4. Understand rights related to interrogation, confessions, and identification procedures.
5. Explain pretrial and courtroom procedures.
6. Apply legal principles to hypothetical and real-world case scenarios.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through exams, Cengage MindTap assignments, video case analyses, and applied decision-making exercises.

Grading Breakdown

- Chapter Quizzes – 30%
- Mid-Term Exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Video Case Assignments – 15%
- “You Decide” Assignments – 15%

Course Requirements and Expectations

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend weekly in-person class meetings beginning Week 2. Attendance will be taken. Students must also log into Blackboard weekly, complete readings, and submit all assignments as scheduled.

Video Case Assignments

Video Case Assignments are completed through Cengage MindTap. Students must view each video in its entirety before answering questions. Two attempts are permitted; the highest score is recorded. These assignments are untimed and worth up to 100 points each.

“You Decide” Assignments

After completing the assigned readings and Video Case Assignments, students will complete a corresponding “You Decide” scenario. These assignments are untimed, allow two attempts, and are worth up to 100 points each.

Chapter Quizzes

Chapter Quizzes are completed in MindTap and consist of 25 multiple-choice questions. Each quiz is timed for 60 minutes and allows one attempt only.

Exams

The Mid-Term Exam covers all material through Week 7 and is timed for 90 minutes. The Final Exam covers material after the Mid-Term and is also timed for 90 minutes.

Academic Integrity and Use of AI

All work submitted in this course must be the student’s own. The use of generative AI tools, including ChatGPT or similar platforms, is strictly prohibited and constitutes academic misconduct.

University Policies and Student Resources

This course adheres to all Texas A&M University–San Antonio policies regarding academic accommodations, student conduct, harassment and discrimination, Title IX, religious observances, military affairs, and student support services. Students are encouraged to review university resources and seek assistance as needed.