

CRJS 5825 - Criminal Procedures and Constitutional Issues

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41992,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dr. Christopher Bellas

Distinguished Professor

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Public Instructor Information

Ph.D. Political Science, Kent State University

M.A. Political Science, Kent State University

M.S. Criminal Justice, Youngstown State University

B.A. Political Science, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

A.S. Business Administration, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Post Baccalaureate Certificate Paralegal Studies, Kent State University (Approved by the American Bar Association; 30 semester hours of law courses)

Course Description

5825. Criminal Procedures and Constitutional Issues. Constitutional foundations of the American criminal justice process with special emphasis on recent Supreme Court decisions. Legal and practical applications of the laws of arrest, criminal procedure, search and seizure, court structures, and federal civil rights. Prereq.: CRJS 3719 and must be a criminal justice major or have permission of chairperson. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
	Criminal Procedure 5th Edition (2022)	Mathew Lippman	978-1071879344

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1 An Introduction to Criminal Procedure The U.S. Constitution specifically the Bill of Rights	A review of the federal and state court system and criminal versus civil law.	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
8/31	Chapter 2 Sources of Criminal Procedure	A detailed discussion of the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
9/7	Chapter 3 Search and Seizures	Searches of people, and places with a focus on technological advancements in tools utilized by law enforcement	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.



9/14	Chapter 4 Stops and Frisks	Detention of persons and searches of automobiles	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
9/21	Chapter 5 Probable Cause and Arrests	Standards needed to make an arrest, enter a home and conduct searches	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
9/28	Review and Exam # 1	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	Students need to participate in a review and take exam # 1.
10/5	Chapter 6 Searches and Seizures of Property	Types of searches and when a warrantless search can be conducted	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
10/12	Chapter 7 Inspections and Regulatory Searches	Special types of searches	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
10/19	Chapter 8 Interrogations and Confessions	Questioning suspects	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
10/26	Chapter 9 Eyewitness and Scientific Identifications	Wrongful convictions and scientific evidence	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
11/2	EXAM 2	Review for Exam # 2 (chapters 6, 7, 8, 9)	Students need to participate in the review and take Exam # 2
11/9	Ch 10 The Exclusionary Rule and Entrapment	Deciding when critical evidence should be excluded at trial	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
11/16	Ch 11 Civil and Criminal Remedies for Constitutional Violations	Law Enforcement Liability	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
11/23	Ch 15 Counterterrorism	civil liberties and protecting our borders	Read the assigned chapter. Be prepared to be called upon in class to brief cases within the textbook and/or any new cases assigned. Please attend class and participate.
11/30	Chapter 13 The Trial * time permitting	Understanding the constitutional safeguards of defendants in the courtroom	be prepared to answer questions and participate in the final exam review session
12/7	Finals week	Final Exam (Chapters 10, 11, 15 and 13)	students will take the Final Exam

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.