

CRJS 2602 - Criminal Courts

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 30567,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dr. Bellas, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice

Professional Qualifications:

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)

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Preferred Contact Method: email directly (not through course messages)

Communication Expectations:

When corresponding with Dr. Bellas professional emails are required. Please visit this website on how to write professional emails to your professors as all these components are required as well as identifying: the name of the course you are in and whether it is in person or online. <https://www.purdue.edu/advisors/students/professor.php>

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Bellas

Course Description

2602. Criminal Courts. Structure and function of criminal courts in American society, perceptions of national commissions; organization, administration, and caseload relationships with appropriate social agencies. Prereq.: CRJS 1500 or permission of the Chair. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System	David W. Neubauer and Henry Fredella	13: 9780357763285

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
5/11	Chapter 1 Crime, Law, Courts and Controversy Chapter 2 Federal Courts	Crime and Law; Federal Courts	Students are to read/watch all the content in the weekly Blackboard folder module 1 quiz over chapters 1 and 2



5/18	Chapter 3 State Courts Chapter 4 Juvenile Courts	State and Juvenile Courts	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder students complete a discussion debate post on juveniles being tried as adults complete module quiz over chapters 3 and 4
5/25	Read Chapter 6 Prosecutors Read Chapter 7 Defense Attorneys	Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder students complete the module 3 quiz over chapters 6 and 7
6/1	Read Chapter 8 Judges Read Chapter 9 Defendants, Victims, and Witnesses	Judges, Defendants, Victims and Witnesses	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder students submit an 8 slide narrated powerpoint bio on a U.S. Supreme Court Justice (former or current) students complete the module 4 quiz
6/8	Read Chapter 10 Pretrial Case Processing & Attrition Read Chapter 11 Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence	Pretrial and Evidence Suppression	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder students will complete the module quiz on chapters 10 and 11 Students write a reaction response to a small video on suppression of evidence
6/15	Read Chapter 12 Negotiated Justice and Pleas Read Chapter 13 Juries and Trials	Plea Bargaining, Juries and Trials	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder complete the module quiz on chapter 12 and 13
6/22	Read Chapter 14 Sentencing Read Chapter 15 Appellate Courts	Sentencing and Appellate Courts	students are to read/watch all content in the weekly Blackboard folder complete the final module quiz on chapters 14 and 15 by FRIDAY at 5:00 p.m.

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.