

# CJAD 6361 Advanced Constitutional Law Spring, 2020



## Syllabus

**Dr. John Fisher**

OFFICE: Mesa Building 3244  
OFFICE PHONE: 432-552-2355  
E-MAIL: fisher\_j@utpb.edu  
OFFICE HOURS:

This course is a Web Course and is conducted within Canvas <http://utpb.instructure.com>

**NOTE:** The due dates and times for the activities will adhere to the Central Time Zone.

### Course Description

#### Course Catalog Description:

An in-depth study and analysis of leading court cases and their impact on the criminal justice system.

#### Measurable Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature of constitutional law and constitutional interpretation in United States, and especially its fundamental constitutional principles of due process
2. Demonstrate the intellectual and practical skills needed in the complex process of constitutional interpretation.
3. Articulate and critically examine contemporary issues relating to the constitutional system of the United States of America;
4. Demonstrate an advanced ability to evaluate the role and functioning of the Courts in contemporary American society, and its relationship with the elected branches of government;

Prerequisites: **Undergraduate coursework in criminological theory**

# Materials

## Required Materials:

Harr, J. S., Hess Kären M., Orthmann, C. M. H., & Kingsbury, J. (2018). *Constitutional law and the criminal justice system*. Boston, MA: Cengege Learning. ISBN-13: 9781305966468

Association, A. P. (2019). *Publication Manual: APA (6th ed. or later)*. Washington: APA. ISBN: 978-1433832178

## Recommended Materials:

Various journal readings and videos will be selected based on current events. Readings will be listed in the course resources page within the learning platform.

## Other materials:

Office 360, specifically Word, and PowerPoint. Students will require a reliable internet source.

## Important Academic Dates

UTPB [Academic Calendar](#)

## Course Overview

**Readings:** Each week the student is going to be required to read portions from the text and journal articles as required within the learning module.

**Discussion Topics:** Each week the student will be required to participate in a topic based discussion. Each Discussion will be worth 10 points and 20% of the total grade. Original posts will be due by Thursday of each week. Each Student is required to reply to at least two fellow students by Sunday of each week. Students are also required to respond to any person that replies to their original post. Replies and responses are expected to be comprehensive and thought out. "I agree this is a good post" will not be considered as a good reply. See the attached rubric for grading expectation.

**Weekly Assignments:** Students will be required to write a two to three page essay addressing the topic from the weekly reading. All writing assignments will be required to be written in APA format 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Each essay will be worth 16 points and 40% of the total grade. See the attached rubric for grading expectations.

**Final Project:** Each student will be required to complete a 10 to 12 page paper in APA format. The final project will address an approved subject covering contemporary legal issues within the Criminal Justice Field. See attached rubric for grading expectations.

**Grading:**

<b>Course Activity</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Grade</b>
Introduction Discussion	10	2.22
Discussion 1	10	2.22
Discussion 2	10	2.22
Discussion 3	10	2.22
Discussion 4	10	2.22
Discussion 5	10	2.22
Discussion 6	10	2.22
Discussion 7	10	2.23
Discussion 8	10	2.23
Essay 1	16	5
Essay 2	16	5
Essay 3	16	5
Essay 4	16	5
Essay 5	16	5
Essay 6	16	5
Essay 7	16	5
Essay 8	16	5
Final Project	100	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade Range</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
90 and above	A
80 to 89	B
70 to 79	C
69 or less	F

\*Unless otherwise stated, all materials, activities, and assessments are required and are not optional.

## **Communication, Grading & Feedback:**

Students should expect all discussions to be graded by the instructor by Thursday of the following week. Written essay grades posted within 7 days from the due date. Final grades are posted as quickly as possible within 7 days of the end of the course term. Faculty will respond to all email communications within 48 hours of the sending of any email. Students are able to make phone or Skype appointments for more individualized attention.

## **Time Management:**

A student should expect to spend eight to twelve hours per week to obtain an "A" in a class. It is important to develop a Time Management Plan to be successful. It is recommended that students complete all reading assignments on Monday and Tuesday; prepare discussion posts on Wednesday for posting prior to the Thursday due date. Although written assignments are due on Sunday, it is recommended to have assignments turned in by Saturday evening. Sundays should be reserved for continuing the replies and responses to the discussion boards.

## **Policies**

### **Discussion Board**

Discussion Board is primarily for discussing course related topics and issues. Best practices are:

- Read all message postings in online discussion.
- Respond to the question directly
- Reply to minimum of two other student posts.
- Use a person's name in the body of your message when you reply to their message.
- Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc.
- Ensure responses to questions are meaningful, reflective.
- Support statements with concepts from course readings, refer to personal experience, examples.
- Follow **Rules of Behavior (below)**.

### **Rules of Behavior**

Discussion areas are public to every student in this class (including your instructor) who will see what you write. Please pay attention to the language you use and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not post anything too personal.
- Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.

- Do not use all caps in the message box unless you are emphasizing (it is considered shouting).
- Be courteous and respectful to other people on the list
- Do not overuse acronyms like you would use in text messaging. Some of the list participants may not be familiar with acronyms.
- Use line breaks and paragraphs in long responses.
- Write your full name at the end of the posting.
- Be careful with sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke is another person's insult.

### **Make-Up/Late Submission Policy**

This is an online course. All course materials will be open and available during the first few days of the course and will remain open. If you know you are going to miss a deadline attempt to complete it before your known absences. If you miss a deadline, a 3% grade reduction per day will be applied.

### **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating**

The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an "F" for the course.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the [University's Handbook: Scholastic Dishonesty](#).

**Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

## **Attendance and Class Participation**

Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. Students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

## **Tracking**

The learning management systems have tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

## **Absenteeism**

All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation.

## **Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal**

All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals consult the University Handbook: [Drops and Withdrawals](#) and [Appeal Process](#).

## **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

**Students with Disabilities:** The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who is requesting an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter from the ADA Officer for Students. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored.

\*\*Adapted from UTSA ADA syllabus statement.\*\*

**ADA Officer for Students:** Mr. Paul Leverington

**Address:** Mesa Building 4243/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762

**Voice Telephone:** 432-552-4696

**Email:** [ada@utpb.edu](mailto:ada@utpb.edu)

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

## **Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements**

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to [UTPB Office 365 Page](#).

### **Computer Technical Requirements**

See [Technical Requirements](#).

### **Online Student Authentication**

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies the second method of student authentication by Proctored exams using an approved photo ID\*.

- Presentation of approved photo ID\* through a web cam and video recorded proctoring during major exams (Respondus Monitor)
- This course satisfies the second method of student authentication by: Presentation of approved photo ID\*.

\*Approved up to date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD. Dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

## **Preparation for Emergencies**

### **Computer Crash**

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

## Complete Loss of Contact

If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.

## Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

## End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end-of-course evaluation/survey provided by UTPB. During the last few weeks of class, you will receive an announcement through email notifying you that the Course/Instructor Survey is available. You may follow the link in the email to complete the survey using the same credentials to access your courses here. When entering the emailed Survey link you will see a list of surveys for you to complete. Another way to find End-of-Course Evaluations is through you my.utpb.edu account > My Surveys & Evaluations are on the first page after you login.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

## Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA Accommodation/Support	<a href="#">Testing Services &amp; Academic Accommodations Department</a> (432) 552-4696
Advising	<a href="#">UTPB E-Advisor</a> (432) 552-2661 <a href="#">UTPB Academic Advising Center</a>
Bookstore	<a href="#">UTPB Campus Bookstore</a> (432) 552-0220

SERVICE	CONTACT
Email, Outlook 365, my.utpb.edu	<a href="#">Information Resources Division</a> (IRD)
Financial Aid and Scholarship	<a href="#">UTPB Financial Aid</a> (432) 552-2620
Library	The <a href="#">J. Conrad Dunagan Library</a> Online at (432) 552-2370
Registrar	<a href="#">UTPB Registrar</a> (432) 552-2635
Student Services	<a href="#">Dean of Students</a> (432) 552-2600
Technical Support	<a href="#">Canvas</a> 1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: <a href="#">Smarthinking Online Tutoring</a> (provides tutoring services), <a href="#">SmarterMeasure</a> (measures learner readiness for online course).

### Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

### Copyright Statement

Many of the materials that are posted within UTPB courses are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for the purpose of the course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

### Schedule

DATE	Assignments/Activities/Topics	Due Date

DATE	Assignments/Activities/Topics	Due Date

Sample Syllabus