Instructor: Attorney Krista M. Larsen
Office: 411 Churchill
Office Hours: M 12:30-2:30pm, some Wednesdays same time & by appointment

Class Times: 2:50pm-4:30pm
325 Behrakis

Office Hours: I anticipate having Office Hours on Thursdays from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. It is advisable that you check with me if you plan on coming to Hours so I can make sure that I am there. I can be reached via email at K.Larsen@neu.edu. This is the best way to reach me to schedule an appointment or ask any question. You can also leave a message at my Law Office at 781-933-4711. I generally return all phone calls within 24 hours, if you leave a message after regular business hours, it may take a little longer.

Course Description & Overview: This course will examine the bail to jail part of the criminal justice system. Examines the role of criminal courts in the United States, with emphasis on Massachusetts, the structure and organization of the court system, and the flow of cases from bail to jail (arrest to conviction). Focuses on the key actors in the courtroom – prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and court clerks and the decision making process in charging a person with a crime, setting bail, pleading guilty, going to trial, and sentencing. Also, addresses prospects for reforming courts.

Required Text: Criminal Courts: Structure, Process, & Issues 3rd Ed
Dean John Champion, Richard D. Hartley, & Gary Rabe

Grading: Scale:
A 95-100
A- 90-94
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 74-76
C- 70-73
D+ 67-69
D 64-66
D- 61-63
F 60 and less
Percentages:  
| Chapter Tests     | 50%  
|-------------------|------  
| Participation     | 25%  
| Reflection Papers | 25%  

Chapter Tests:

Make-up Tests: Make-up Tests will not be given unless illness and/or accident is verified and then only at my discretion.

Participation/In Class Activities: THIS DOES NOT MEAN ATTENDANCE. I will not and do not take Attendance – however, despite this, I generally notice who is/isn’t in class. Participation includes but is not limited to your questions, input, opinions, and arguments for or against my position or your classmate’s positions. You will be graded on the quality of your participation NOT the quantity. I expect that the subjects we cover will invoke in class discussions and to that end, while we may have differing opinions, you must respect mine and your fellow classmates if it differs from yours. I will not tolerate anything less. **IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS, YOU NEED TO ASK ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

I ask that, either way, you raise your hand and not just yell out.

FACT (Faculty Advisor Communication Tool): This is a University tool which allows Professors to communicate with students and their advisors when a student is not doing well. It is a mechanism to forewarn the parties so everyone is on the same page about where a student is academically and assist that student however necessary. A report is usually done mid-way through the semester and is required for athletes. I will make an announcement when I fill them out so you are not surprised.

Teaching Style: Lecturing with focus on class discussion. I will ask questions geared toward the particular chapter we are studying to facilitate discussion, participation, and analysis of the readings material. **Students are expected be prepared to do this by reading the assigned reading prior to the scheduled class.**

This also means that I may call on you regardless of whether or not you have your hand raised. **Bottom line – BE PREPARED for class.**

Attendance: I expect that you attend class regularly despite the fact that I do not take attendance. I cannot stress enough that your attendance in class will only help your grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get what was covered in that class from another student. Failure to attend class regularly can negatively impact your grade.

Class Cancellation: Cancellations due to snow days will be announced per the University policy.
Cancellations due to my schedule will be announced per the University policy which includes posting on Blackboard, an email to you via Blackboard, and/or a notice posted on the classroom door.

I will do my best to make an announcement in class regarding the possibility of my missing a scheduled class due to my work schedule. However, it is your responsibility to check with me and/or via the methods above to confirm whether or not this will happen. Thinking that class was cancelled because I mentioned the possibility of it will be considered a “missed” class.

You will still be responsible for the materials scheduled for a particular day even if it is missed due to my schedule.

**Student Conduct:** Students must abide by the following:

- Punctuality is expected. Late entrances disrupt me as well as your fellow students. Continued late entrances will impact your final grade negatively. Missing a graded assignment is discussed above.

- All cell phones and pagers must be turned off and/or to silent vibrate during class. If you do not do this and your phone rings, plan on my taking it and returning it at the end of class. **There is NO texting during class.** If there is something that important, walk out of the classroom. I will call you out on it and if you continue to do it I will take your phone until the end of class.

- Use of computers is allowed in class for **class only.** This means no internet, no email, no AIM, etc. Basically if it looks like you are having too much fun with your computer, I’m going to ask to see it, call you out on it, or walk behind you to see it.

- The topics we are discussing often spark debate among students. While this is encouraged and expected, students are to treat everyone in the classroom with respect this includes being tolerant of other student’s questions/comments/ideas.

- Please do not speak out during class and/or hold independent conversations with your friends/neighbors.

- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

- Cheating of any kind including but not limited to plagiarism **will not** be tolerated and will result in a failing grade. This may also result in more serious sanctions from the University.

**Extra Credit:** In addition to the extra credit questions on quizzes or exams, I generally provide extra credit assignments throughout the course for points to be added on to your final grade if you so choose. The EC assignments will be announced and listed on Blackboard.
COURSE CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS

Please note that the dates for assignments listed are approximate and flexible. If we finish something early, we will move on to the next topic. If a particular subject lasts longer than noted, we will start the new topic on the next date. This requires you to look ahead to assignments. We also may not cover all topics listed due to time. As we go, I will likely make announcements in class where changes are going to be made. Being prepared for a particular class is your responsibility.

September 9th
Class Introduction

September 14th
Chapter 1: Law: The Legal Battlefield
SKIP EVOLUTION OF DISPUTES, ADMIN LAW, SOCIOLEGAL PERSPECTIVES AND THE LAW, LEGAL REALISM, CRITICAL LEGAL STUDIES, FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY

Chapter 2: The Structure of American Courts

September 16th
Chapter 3: The Prosecution
Chapter 4: The Defense

September 24th
Finish Chapter 4, if needed
Chapter 5: Judges

September 23rd
Chapter Test 1-5

September 28th
Chapter 7: Pre-Trial Procedures and the Trial Process
Pp 143-155
HANDOUT PAGES 1-19
IN CLASS BAIL ARGUMENT EXERCISE(S)

September 30th-October 1st
NO CLASSES TO SEE BAIL ARGUMENTS

October 5th
Bail reflection Paper Due
Chapter 6: Juries
HANDOUT PAGES 40-43
October 7th
Chapter 6: cont’d
IN CLASS JUROR EXERCISES

OCTOBER 12TH – NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

October 14th
IN CLASS MOVIE: 12 ANGRY MEN
Class Discussion

October 19th
Jury reflection Paper due/in class discussion

Chapter 7: Pre-Trial Procedures and the Trial Process
p. 156 Trial Process and Procedures – end of chapter
SKIP OTHER FORMS OF PRETRIAL RELEASE

HANDOUT PAGES 23-39, 44-48

October 21st
Chapter 7 finish, if necessary

October 26th-28th
NO CLASSES TO SEE JURY TRIALS

November 2nd
Trial Reflection Paper due/in class discussion
Chapter 8: Pretrial Procedures: Plea Bargaining
HANDOUT PAGES 20-22, 49-50

November 4th
Chapter 8 finish, if necessary
IN CLASS PLEA EXERCISES

November 9th
Chapter Test 6-8

NOVEMBER 11TH – NO CLASS- VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY

November 16th
Chapter 9: Sentencing Goals and Structures
Chapter 10: Judicial Sentencing Options, Sentencing Disparities, and Appeals

November 18th
Chapter 10 continued
November 23rd
Chapter 13: Diversion, Alternative Dispute Resolution & Specialty Courts

NOVEMBER 25TH – NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 30th-December 2nd
NO CLASS SEE APPELLATE ARGUMENTS AND SJC ARGUMENT

December 7th
Appellate reflection paper/in class discussion

Chapter 14: Courts, Media, and the Litigation Explosion
SKIP TORTS, ARGUMENTS FOR TORT REFORM,

December 9th
Chapter Test 9-10, 13-14