

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Michael Ferguson, MS
- **UTT Email:** mferguson@uttyler.edu
- **Office Telephone:** 903.730.3927
- **Office Location:** CAS 134
- **Office Hours:** MWF from 10:15a - noon. For those who wish to meet via Zoom rather than F2F, click [THIS](#) link and use the passcode contained inside the Canvas LMS. I will be logged into Zoom during my MWF office hours, so there's no need to arrange an appointment beforehand on those days. If you need to meet on T/Th, send me an email to arrange a time after noon that works for both of us.

Course Catalog Description

CRIJ-4341, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: Federal and state laws and rules of criminal procedure prior to trial. Subjects considered include law of arrest, search and seizure, interrogation and confession, identification procedures, etc. with emphasis on constitutional restraints imposed on law enforcement. Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301, CRIJ 3320, CRIJ 3326.

Course Rationale

This course provides you with a deep dive into the fascinating world of search and seizure law, arrest law, admissions and confessions, and eyewitness identification.

Course Time and Location

- **Dates:** 01/12/2026 - 05/01/2026
- **Meeting Days:** Tuesday / Thursday
- **Time:** 11:00a to 12:20a
- **Location:** CAS Room 104

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. **Analyze** federal and state constitutional provisions governing pretrial criminal procedure and **explain** how those provisions constrain law enforcement decision-making.
2. **Evaluate** the legality of arrests under applicable statutory and constitutional standards by **applying** relevant case law to fact-based scenarios.

3. **Apply** Fourth Amendment doctrines related to search and seizure, including warrant requirements and recognized exceptions, to **determine** whether evidence is admissible.
4. **Assess** the constitutional requirements governing interrogation, confessions, and identification procedures by distinguishing lawful practices from violations of individual rights.

Textbooks

Required Textbook

None, as no-cost OER material will be provided via Canvas. The primary OER textbook will be [*Fundamental Cases in Criminal Justice*](#) by Adam J. McKee, Ph.D.

Recommended Textbook

1. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. **Note that you can get the same basic information for free by using the Purdue University "APA Formatting and Style Guide (7th Edition)" by clicking [HERE](#).**

Technology Requirements

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Lastly, students must have access to a mind-mapping application. Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- **Documents:** .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- **Presentations / graphs:** .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

Attendance

You can't learn if you're not in class. You must attend and participate in the class to earn credit. I understand that life happens, but you need to be in class to learn the material we're covering. **Attendance will be taken each class session and will count as a major exam grade when determining your final course grade. Your attendance grade will be based on your attendance in class. Each day you miss counts as a zero and each day you're late to class will result in a 50% reduction in that day's attendance grade.**

Course Assignments

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quizzes, assignments, or tests will translate into a 50% reduction in score. ***There will be no extensions to complete the final exam -- if you're not here to take the final, you will receive a score of zero for the final. PLEASE don't "forget" that you have an in-class final exam!***

- **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate (5%):** You must complete the free, online anti-plagiarism course for which I will provide a link. Upon completion of the two required modules, you must upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. This certificate is worth 5% of your grade and is required for successful completion of the course.
- **Quizzes (50%):** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete short quizzes each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.
- **Case Briefs (25%):** Your class contains multiple court case opinions. You will complete various case briefs the course of the semester.
- **Exams (20%):** There are two exam grades: your attendance average and your final exam. The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester.

Activities and Learning Objectives

Below are the learning objectives for each online activity. More detailed instructions, including grading rubrics, are provided to you on the respective assignment page in Canvas.

Case Brief

- You will be assigned various cases on which you will write and submit case briefs. The validity of the information about the case, the formatting, the grammar and spelling, etc., will all be considered when a grade is assigned.

Census Date

The census date for this summer class is **01/26/2026**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

Student Resources and UT-Tyler Policies

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)

Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change by the instructor.

- **WEEK 1: 01/12/2026 - 01/16/2026**
 - Welcome to class, introductions
 - Review syllabus
 - The foundations of search & seizure and arrest law
 - Review of the Bill of Rights
 - Submit writing exemplar (Thursday; bring pen or pencil to class)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - Week One Quiz
- **WEEK 2: 01/19/2026 - 01/23/2026**
 - NOTE: University closed on Monday, January 19, for MLK Day
 - Tuesday: How to brief court opinions
 - Assigned reading: [Beck v. Ohio](#), 379 U.S. 89 (1964)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - Thursday: Writing a case brief in class (bring your laptop or tablet to class!)
- **WEEK 3: 01/26/2026 - 01/30/2026**
 - Standards of Proof
 - Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, [Chapter 14](#).
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - Week Three Quiz
- **WEEK 4: 02/02/2026 - 02/06/2026**
 - Consensual encounters
 - Investigative detentions
 - Assigned reading: [Terry v. Ohio](#), 392 U.S. 1 (1968)
 - Assigned reading: [United States v. Arvizu](#), 534 U.S. 266 (2002)
 - Assigned reading: [United States v. Dortch](#), 199 F.3d 193 (5th Cir. 1999)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - Case brief: [Arvizu](#)
 - Week Four Quiz
- **WEEK 5: 02/09/2026 - 02/13/2026**
 - Custodial arrests
 - Building blocks of probable cause
 - Assigned reading: [United States v. Mendenhall](#), 446 U.S. 544 (1980)
 - Assigned reading: [California v. Hodari D.](#), 499 U.S. 621 (1991)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - Week Five Quiz

- **WEEK 6: 02/16/2026 - 02/20/2026**
 - Texas law on arrests without warrant
 - Assigned reading: Code of Criminal Procedure, [Chapter 14](#)
 - Assigned reading: [Atwater v. Lago Vista](#), 532 U.S. 318 (2001)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - **Week Six Quiz**
- **WEEK 7: 02/23/2026 - 02/27/2026**
 - Texas law on arrests under warrant
 - Assigned reading: Code of Criminal Procedure, [Chapter 15](#)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - **Week Seven Quiz**
- **WEEK 8: 03/02/2026 - 03/06/2026**
 - Search warrants
 - Assigned reading: Code of Criminal Procedure, [Chapter 18](#)
 - Assigned reading: [Marron v. United States](#), 275 U.S. 192 (1927)
 - Assigned reading: [Aguilar v. Texas](#), 378 U.S. 108 (1964)
 - Assigned reading: [United States v. Leon](#), 468 U.S. 897 (1984)
 - Assigned reading: [Riley v. California](#), 573 U.S. 373 (2014)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - **Case brief: Riley**
 - **Week Nine Quiz**
- **WEEK 9: 03/09/2026 - 03/13/2026**
 - Spring Break -- no classes this week!
- **WEEK 10: 03/16/2026 - 03/20/2026**
 - Searches without a warrant
 - Exceptions and exclusions
 - Assigned reading: [Carroll v. United States](#), 267 U.S. 132 (1925)
 - Assigned reading: [Chimel v. California](#), 395 U.S. 752 (1969)
 - Assigned reading: [Michigan v. Tyler](#), 436 U.S. 499 (1978)
 - Assigned reading: [Thompson v. Louisiana](#), 469 U.S. 17 (1984)
 - Assignments/Quiz
 - **Week 10 Quiz**
- **WEEK 11: 03/23/2026 - 03/27/2026**
 - Admissions and Confessions
 - Assigned reading: [Miranda v. Arizona](#), 384 U.S. 436 (1966)
 - Assigned video: “[Right to Remain Silent: Miranda v. Arizona](#)”
 - Assigned reading: Code of Criminal Procedure, [Article 38.22](#)
 - Assignment/Quiz
 - **Week 11 Quiz**

- **WEEK 12:** 03/30/2026 - 04/03/2026
 - **Note: 03/30/2026 is the last day to withdraw from one or more 15-Week courses.**
 - Special situations in search and seizure law: correctional settings, school officials, and dealing with juvenile suspects
 - Assigned reading: [New Jersey v. T.L.O.](#), 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
 - Assignment/Quiz
 - **Week 12 Quiz**
- **WEEK 13:** 04/06/2026 - 04/10/2026
 - Eyewitness identification
 - Assigned reading: [Eyewitness Evidence: A Guide for Law Enforcement](#)
 - Assignment/Quiz
 - **Week 11 Quiz**
- **WEEK 14:** 04/13/2026 - 04/17/2026
 - Suppression hearings and civil liability
 - Assigned reading: [Mapp v. Ohio](#), 367 U.S. 643 (1961)
 - Code of Criminal Procedure, [Article 38.23](#)
 - Assignment/Quiz
 - **Week 14 Quiz**
- **WEEK 15:** 04/20/2026 - 04/24/2026
 - Canine searches by law enforcement
 - Assigned reading: [United States v. Place](#), 462 U.S. 696 (1983)
 - Assigned reading: [Illinois v. Caballes](#), 543 U.S. 405 (2005)
 - Assignment/Quiz
 - **Week 15 Quiz**
- **WEEK 16:** 04/27/2026 - 05/01/2026
 - **Comprehensive Final Exam**