



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
VIRTUAL CAMPUS

**Wayland Mission Statement:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Course Title, Number, and Section:** JUAD 3319-VC01 - American Legal System

**Term:** Summer 2016

**Instructor:** Jeanette Ahlenius

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** 956.212.0221; [Jeanette.ahlenius@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:Jeanette.ahlenius@wayland.wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** Online Course

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Online Course

**Catalog Description:** A study of the American legal system including its history and development, the courts, participants, processes, the adversarial system, and criminal and civil law.

**There is no prerequisite for this course**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s):**

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	ED	YEAR	ISBN#
Carper's Understanding the Law	McKinsey & Burke	Cengage	7th	2015	9781285428420

**Optional Materials:** Reliable internet access

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Upon completion of this course, each student will be able to understand, explain and describe:

- the American legal system including its history and development,
- the courts,
- participants,
- processes,
- the adversarial system,
- and criminal and civil law.

**Attendance Requirements:**

Virtual Campus

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate

in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Disability Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:** Weekly assignments/Discussion Boards, 3 Quizzes and a Final Exam

Procedure used for computation of Final Grade

1. Responses to Discussion Board assignments and completion of any additional written assignments each week: 20% of Final Grade.
2. 3 Quizzes over reading assignments and Discussion Board topics, averaged together for Quiz Grade: 40% of Final Grade.
3. Final Exam: 40% of Final Grade.

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student grade appeals:

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty

Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Week 1 (Begins)	May 23, 2016	History and the Constitution (Chapters 1 and 2)
Week 2	May 30, 2016	Courts (Chapter 3)
Week 3	June 6, 2016	Quiz 1 (Due Sunday, June 12, midnight CST)
Week 4	June 13, 2016	Lawyers (Chapter 4)
Week 5	June 20, 2016	Jury and Police (Chapters 3 and 6)
Week 6	June 27, 2016	Quiz 2 (Due Sunday, July 3, midnight CST)
Week 7	July 4, 2016	Civil Trial Process (Chapter 3)
Week 8	July 11, 2016	Criminal Trial Process (Chapters 3 and 6)
Week 9	July 18, 2016	Quiz 3 (Due Sunday, July 24, midnight CST)
Week 10	July 25, 2016	Additional readings from Chapters 7-15
Week 11	August 1, 2016	Final Exam (due by <u>Saturday</u> , August 6, 2016)

**This syllabus is not a contract. The syllabus can be changed or altered at any time by the instructor. The instructor will notify students of any changes.**

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