



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE:
The City University of New York
Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice

CRJ 200 XXXX: Constitutional Law
3 Lecture Hours| 3 Credits| Spring 2020 Syllabus
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00PM – 5:15PM in Room XXX

Professor Daniel DiPrenda
Office: XXXX

Office Hours: TIME to TIME
Email: ddiprenda@bmcc.cuny.edu

[Sociology Department Adjunct Office N657: (212) 220-1259 or Adjunct Office N658: (212)776-6414]

Prerequisites: POL 100 (American Government) AND Math Proficiency Index of 40 or above

Course Description

This course provides a historical overview of the relationship of the states to the Bill of Rights, and how the Supreme Court has interpreted the powers of the federal government. The effect of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment on the application of the Bill of Rights to the states is examined through a study of the leading Supreme Court decisions related to criminal justice. Topics include characteristics and powers of the three branches of government, the principles governing the operation of the Bill of Rights, and the variables affecting the formulation of judicial policy.

Student Learning Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Course Student Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the historical development of the relationship between the United States Constitution and the criminal justice system. Discuss the general principles of the Bill of Rights, and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases related to criminal justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Research papers • Case Briefs • Chapter outlines

General Education Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Below are the college’s general education goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.

General Education Goals	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
<p>Social & Behavioral Sciences – Students will understand and apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences. Student behaviors include being able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate an understanding of the unique theories and methods of a social or behavioral science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay exams or assignments • Discussion board posts • Quizzes • Research papers • Chapter outlines



General Education Goals	Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue 	
Information & Technology Literacy- Students will collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple choice quiz Discussion board post

Required Text: this course is designated a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC). Students are not required to purchase textbooks. We will use material that is either freely available or available through the BMCC Library. In this course, you will access materials through Blackboard.

Additional Resources: You may be required to read additional material handed out during the semester.

Evaluation & Requirements of Students

This is an upper level course with upper level expectations. You are expected to attend and to participate in every class. Participation is more than a grade. There is a strong correlation between student engagement and student success.

The instructor may revise this grading pattern. Final grades may be determined as follows:

Grade Book Items	Weight
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	25%
Writing Assignments (Homework)	20%
Case Briefs	20%
Blackboard Discussion Posts	15%
Total	100%

BMCC Grading Scale

A 93% and above	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80 - 82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D - 60-61%	F Below 60%

GRADING EXPLAINED

1. Quizzes (20%)

All quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false and administered on Blackboard. Quizzes will be used to reinforce concepts that were taught and covered in lectures.

2. The Final Exam (25%) will be multiple choice, true/false and administered on Blackboard. It will be given during finals exam week. You will have a full class period, (1 hour and 15 minutes) for completion.



3. Writing Assignments (Homework) (20%)

Each week, you will be required to read material associated with that week's lecture. You will be asked to complete either a reading worksheet to summarize the reading or prepare case briefs. Assignments will be written in a Word document. Summary worksheets must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11:59PM Sunday evening.

4. Case Briefs (20%)

Another large portion of this class is based on writing case briefs of U.S. Supreme Court cases. A case brief is a short summary and analysis of a case that is written typically for use in classroom discussion. It is a set of notes, presented in a systematic way, in order to sort out the parties, identify the issues, ascertain what was decided, and analyze the reasoning behind decisions made by the courts. It is imperative that you be prepared for class by reading the cases and preparing case briefs. I have included this link from the John Jay Library to guide you. [How to Brief a Case.](#)

5. Blackboard Discussion Posts (Participation) (10%)

Blackboard discussion posts are an integral part of class participation. Each week I will post a question related to the material that we discussed in class. You will be prompted to respond to the question and also to one or more of your classmates in the post. Your responses should be substantive and meaningful. Discussion posts are graded and due by 11:59PM Sunday evening.

Course Readings and Power Points:

All assigned readings and Power Point lectures will be provided to students on Blackboard, organized by weeks. Content for each week will become available to students beginning on Monday. All completed assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11:59PM Sunday of each week.

Due Dates and Late Submissions:

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due by 11:59PM Sunday of the week assigned. Students will incur a 50% penalty for each day late. Assignments that are late more than three days will not be accepted. Students who submit work late cannot be treated equally with those who submit work on time. Avoid the hassle and submit your work on time.

BMCC Writing Center

[The BMCC Writing Center](#), teaches students registered at BMCC to think critically, write actively, revise mindfully and proofread carefully. Writing Center tutors are trained to help you improve your writing on multiple levels, from grammar to argumentation. They can apply these skills to formal and informal writing. One-on-One tutoring and workshops meet different needs, but both must be reserved, so plan ahead. The Writing Center is a valuable resource for any student of writing, and I encourage you to use this excellent resource. The Writing Center may be contacted through any of the following: Address: 199 Chambers Street in Room S-510, telephone (212) 220-1384. Email: writingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Notable Class Events

Tuesday XXX Classes begin

Tuesday XXXX Classes follow Wednesday schedule

Wednesday April 8, 2020 – Thursday April 16, 2020 Spring Recess – No Classes –

Thursday XXXX Last Day of Classes

Friday XXXX Reading Day

Saturday XXXX – XXXX Final Examinations



CLASS CALENDAR and TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Week Starting	Topic	Reading Due For Class
1	January 27	Course Orientation Information and Technology Literacy	
2	February 3	The Constitution and Its Origins	The Constitution and Its Origins (PDF and Power Point PPT) A Very Quick History of the Early United States (PPT) The Declaration of Independence
3	February 10	Development and Ratification of the Constitution	Articles of Confederation (PDF and PPT) Development and Ratification of the Constitution (PDF and PPT) United States Constitution and the Amendments
4	February 17	Development and Ratification of the Constitution continued	Continued
5	February 24	The Courts	The Courts (PDF and PPT) Comparison of Court Structures: Federal and New York State (PPT) Federal Appellate Circuits (link) Supreme Court Procedures (link) Office of Solicitor General (link) Marbury v. Madison (1803) link
6	March 1	The Courts continued	Continued
7	March 8	How to Brief a Case and Prepare for Class	How to Brief a Case 2017 version (John Jay College) Federal Reporter Oyez (link) Justia (link)
7		Judicial Power: Judicial Review	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i> (1803) 5 US 137
	March 12 – March 18	Instructional Recess (All Classes) Instructors will prepare classes for transition to Distance Teaching	
8	March 19	First Amendment (Freedom of Religion)	Van Orden v. Perry 545 US 677 (2005) McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky 545 US 844 (2005)
		Freedom of Speech	Schenck v. US 249 US 47 (1919) Dennis v. US 341 494 (1951) Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School 393 US 503 (1969)
		Incorporation Doctrine	Barron v. Baltimore (1883)
7		Free Press – prior restraint	NY Times v. US 403 US 713 (1971)
9	March 23	Second Amendment	DC v. Heller 554 US 570 (2008) McDonald v. Chicago 561 US 742 (2010)

10	March 30	Fourth Amendment General Principles of the Exclusionary Rule	Weeks v. US 232 US 3883 (1914) Mapp v. Ohio 367 US 643 (1961)
		In Schools	New Jersey v. TLO 469 US 325 (1985)
		Fruits of the Poisonous Tree	Wong Sun v. US 371 US 471 (1963)
11	April 6	Are exceptions taking over the rule? Inevitable discovery and attenuation	Nix. V. Williams 467 US 431 (1984) Utah v. Strieff 579 US (2016)
		Exceptions to the Fourth amendment Consent	Schneckloth v. Bustamonte, 412 U.S. 218 (1973)
12	April 13		SPRING BREAK
13	April 20	Search Incident to Lawful Arrest	Chimel v. California 395 US 752 (1969) New York v. Belton 453 US 454 (1981) Arizona v. Gant 556 US 332 (2009)
		Plain View and Open Fields	Hester v. US 413 US 266 (1973) Florida v. Riley 488 US 445 (1989) Kyllo v. US 533 US 27 (2001)
		Automobile	Carroll v. US 267 US 132 (1925) Brendlin v. California 551 US 249 (2007) US v. Jones 565 US (2012) Rodriguez v. US 575 US (2015)
14	April 27	Stop and Frisk	Terry v. Ohio 392 US 1 (1968) Sibron v. New York 392 US 40 (1968) Floyd v. City of New York 13-3088 2 nd Circuit (2014)
15	May 4	Self-Incrimination, involuntariness and the Fifth Amendment Miranda Warnings	Arizona v. Fulminante 499 US 279 (1991) Miranda v. Arizona 384 US 436 (1966) Schmerber v. California 384 US 757 (1966)
16	May 11	Sixth Amendment – Right to Counsel What is effective representation?	Powell v. Alabama 287 US 45 (1932) Gideon v. Wainwright 372 US 225 (1963) Escobedo v. Illinois 378 US 478 (1964) Texas v. Cobb 532 US 162 (2001) Montejo v. Louisiana 556 US 778 (2009)
17	May 17	Finals Week	



Course Requirements & Policies

➤ Email

- Email communication with the instructor in this class should be considered formal, similar to other business style email correspondence. Your email should address your instructor by title and name (Professor DiPrenda, Mr. DiPrenda) unless instructed otherwise. Please restrict your email correspondence to issues of class business and questions that are not answered in the syllabus. Please use appropriate capitalization, spell out words completely, and sign your complete name. I will usually be able to answer your emails within 24 hours [except on weekends]. I typically will not respond to emails between 10:00PM and 6:00AM. If you have substantive questions about course content, you can use the [Can We Talk?](#) section of Blackboard. If you prefer, you may see me during office hours when we can talk more productively.
- Every student registered at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) is assigned a BMCC email account (firstname.lastname@stu.bmcc.cuny.edu).
- You are required to use your BMCC email account.
- Please include “CRJ200” in the subject heading.
- You must check to see that your BMCC email is listed in Blackboard. To verify this, you must go to the Blackboard homepage, locate Tools on the left side of the page. Click *update email* and follow the instructions.

Issues involving email or Blackboard access can be resolved by the BMCC Department of Information Resources and Technology. They are located in the main building Room S-140, by calling the help desk: telephone 212.220.8360

NOTE: YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO BLACKBOARD! YOU MUST CHECK BLACKBOARD FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS.

Blackboard Notes

Here are few notes regarding the submission of assignments and use of Blackboard:

- All written work should be done in a *Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint or PDF* format to submit documents in Blackboard. Do not use Google Docs. (If some other format is used, you must convert it to a PDF.)
- I require this for several reasons. These formats are compatible with Blackboard. I can provide feedback by using the in-line grading process to write comments directly on your document. Creating a document in *Word* allows you to save a copy of your work. You should save your work on a USB, a cloud service or your computer’s hard drive.

Note: It is not advisable to create a document in Blackboard by writing directly to the text editor. I have heard of rare cases in which Blackboard did not save the document in the text editor. Locating lost documents in Blackboard requires a forensic effort that neither of us have time for.

- If you are required to take a test or quiz on Blackboard, use a computer, *not your phone or tablet*. Use Mozilla Firefox as the preferred browser. Other browsers are fine for browsing, but Firefox works best with Blackboard. Be certain that your computer is attached to an Ethernet cable and not operating solely on Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi signals, other than those in your home, may “cut out”, causing you to lose the connection.

If you lose the connection to Blackboard, the exam or quiz will stop and your grade will be submitted to Blackboard as is. Ethernet connections can be found in the College computer labs, the College library, your local library, or your home. Coffee shops and similar venues typically operate on public Wi-Fi. So, it’s not a good idea to do take the test there.



Your Success

Your success in this course and at BMCC is important to me. I encourage you to reach out to me if there is anything that is preventing you from succeeding. I will try my best to assist you. However, I cannot do this if you do not make me aware. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to contact me with any issues related to class, assignments, etc. Please contact me via email, during office hour, or Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, as appropriate.

Tired of writing papers on your phone?

The BMCC Library loans laptops for a three-hour period (details here: <http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/services/ipad-laptop-borrowing/>). Through a grant funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and a Title V grant from John Jay College, we are also able to offer CRJ students the opportunity to borrow a laptop for a **24-hour period**. To check out a laptop for 24 hours, visit the Media desk in the Library, tell the staff that you are a CRJ student, and bring your ID card with a current semester sticker.

Tutoring

Tutors are available free of charge at the Learning Resource Center (LRC) located on the fifth (5) floor of the Borough of Manhattan Community College Library.

Class Participation

You must read and be familiar with and follow the participation policies for this course.

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work.

Balancing Stress, Life and Academics

Life happens! And sometimes it can make succeeding in your coursework difficult. If you find that you are having a hard time concentrating on your coursework because other issues in your life feel overwhelming, don't hesitate to reach out for assistance. You may talk to me about how your coursework is being affected, and I can refer you to some resources.

You can also go directly to the Counseling Office at BMCC, which is staffed by psychologists and offers free consultations in Room S-343, or call them at (212) 220-8140. You may also email them: counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. See the [webpage](#) for more information.

You can call, text, or chat online with NYC Well, which offers free mental health support. Visit their [webpage](#), or call 1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355).

Any student who faces challenges affording groceries, accessing sufficient food to eat every day, who lacks a safe and stable place to live, or who struggles to afford a MetroCard, and believes this may affect their performance in the course is encouraged to contact the Single Stop office (link [here](#)). They provide free assistance with financial counseling, legal services, tax preparation, health insurance options, and food stamp applications. You can visit them in Room S-230, or call (212) 220-8195.



Office of Compliance and Diversity, room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu, or twade@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public Safety at 212-220-8080.

Office of Accessibility, room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180. This office collaborates with students who have documented disabilities, to coordinate support services, reasonable accommodations, and programs that enable equal access to education and college life. To request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit or call the office.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's website, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).
End of document.