

Courts and Criminal Justice (CJUS 250)

Spring Semester 2006

Stubbs 218

Hybrid Course

Held online and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Professor: Dr. Robert Hanser

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Office Hours: 1) Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. 2) Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. 3) Friday: By appointment only.

Course Description: This course will consist of an examination of the court component of the criminal justice system. Emphasis on structure, roles, and functions of courts and their relationship to other system components and social institutions. CJ 101 is a prerequisite for this course.

Course Objectives: The student will become intricately familiar with court systems in America. The student will likewise develop an understanding of the interlocking relationships between the courts and all other components of the criminal justice field. An understanding of the centrality of the court system to the criminal justice system will be demonstrated by each student.

Course Text: Neubauer, D. W. (2002). *America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Instructional Methods: This course will be delivered in both an online and traditional classroom instructional format. It is expected that roughly half of the course will be provided through online instruction. Classroom activities will consist of instructor lectures as well as video and/or class guest presentations. In addition, students will maintain an ongoing "discussion" each week in response to questions that are presented by the instructor during the class meetings. The "discussion board" section of the course Blackboard website will be used extensively for this purpose.

Student Introductions & Syllabus Quiz: During the first week of the semester students must post a personal introduction to the Discussion Board and they must also complete a short quiz (located on the blackboard site under Assignments) over the syllabus for this course. These two assignments are intended to familiarize the student with the blackboard component of the course while also allowing everyone to become acquainted with one another.

Class Discussion Assignments: These assignments are designed to encourage interaction between the class participants. The first student to post an answer to the given weekly discussion will simply provide their answer. All subsequent students must not only post their answer, but must also provide some form of response to at least two other postings made by other students. Feedback on at least two previous postings is required, and of course students should avoid ridicule or sarcasm when giving their opinion. Student submissions will be graded on quality and quantity of postings that are submitted during the week that they are assigned. All students should post their answers on the Discussion Page (On Blackboard course menu click on COMMUNICATION, then click on DISCUSSION to post your answer). **Note that there are ten Group Discussion Assignments throughout the semester.**

Also note that the instructor will monitor the discussion throughout the week, the instructor will reserve comments until the end of the week and will often simply provide an overview or re-cap of this discussion.

The instructor will post each question(s) the night prior to the beginning of the week. Students will only have 7 days to respond to the questions or issues presented. **Students will not be allowed to progress ahead of the class schedule with weekly assignments. Also, there will be no exceptions to the timely completion of the weekly Class Debate assignments.**

Practitioner Interviews: These assignments are intended to provide the student with some exposure to the real world of criminal justice. Students will interview a specific type of practitioner for each of the two semester practitioner interviews. Details will be provided to the class on the Announcements Page on Blackboard. The instructor will likewise provide classroom guidance for the completion of this project should students have any further questions or concerns.

Exams: There will be three (2) tests and one final exam consisting of any combination of multiple choice, true-false, fill in the blank, short answer, and or essay style questions at the instructor's discretion Please note that each test will count equally toward your overall final grade. The final exam will not be comprehensive in nature.

A student's overall course grade will be determined and weighted according to the following composition:

Online Introduction & Syllabus Quiz	4%
Test One	20%
Test Two	20%
Test Three (Final Exam)	20%
Discussion Board Activity	20%
Practitioner Interviews	16%

100%

Course Grading System: The final course grade, as well as all tests, papers and projects assigned throughout the semester, will be based on the typical letter grade system as follows:

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = 59 & Below

Midterm Grades: Please note that midterm grades will be reported based on your scores that are current during that time. They will remain on the Arrow System for roughly 2 weeks for all students to view. They will be reported through the Arrow System similar to your final grade. Please note that unlike your final grade, the midterm grade is simply used for your benefit to provide you with a preliminary indicator of your class progress. It is not a final grade, simply an informative tool to check your progress.

Attendance and Participation: One of the many benefits of a hybrid course is the flexibility in the delivery of the instruction, providing more flexible schedules for students. While there is obviously less in-class attendance than with a traditional course, participation is required. Likewise, participation in the on-line weekly discussion board is mandatory for this course. Students with excessive absences will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Makeup policy for exams: Typically, there will be no make-up exams for this course. All exams will be given online and students will have a week to finish each one. Regardless of personal emergencies, students should have sufficient time and flexibility to arrange their social responsibilities around their academic obligations. If a situation should arise where a student believes that a make-up exam is justified, such a determination will be based solely upon the discretion of the professor.

Course Schedule:

Week One (Begins Jan. 16)

January 17 Introduction to course & Chapter 1 Courts, Crime, and Controversy

January 19 Online Assignments

Students complete their online personal introduction and the syllabus quiz

Week Two (Begins Jan. 23)

- January 24 Chapter 2 The Legal System
- January 26 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 1

Week Three (Begins Jan. 30)

- January 31 Chapter 3 Federal Courts & Chapter 4 State Courts
- February 2 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 2

Week Four (Begins Feb. 6)

- February 7 Chapter 4 State Courts & Chapter 5 Dynamics of Courthouse Justice
- February 9 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 3

Week Five (Begins Feb. 13)

- February 14 Chapter 6 Prosecutors
- February 16 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 4

Week Six (Begins Feb. 20)

- February 21 Chapter 7 Defense Attorneys
- February 23 **Test One Chapters 1-7**
(Test Given on Feb. 20th)

Week Eight (Begins Mar. 06)

- March 7 Chapter 8 Judges
- March 9 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 5

Week Nine (Begins Mar. 13)

- March 14 Chapter 9 Defendants and Victims
- March 16 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 6

Week Ten (Begins Mar. 20)

- March 21 Chapter 10 Arrest to Arraignment & Chapter 11 Bail
- March 23 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 7

Week Eleven (Begins Mar. 27)

- March 28 Chapter 12 Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence
- March 30 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment # 8

Week Twelve (Begins Apr. 03)

- April 04 Chapter 13 Negotiated Justice

- April 06 **Test Two Chapters 8-13**
(Test Given on April 3rd)

Week Thirteen (Begins Apr. 10)

- April 11 Chapter 14 Trials and Juries
- April 13 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment #9

Week Fourteen (Begins Apr. 17)

- April 18 & 20 **Spring Break**

Week Fifteen (Begins Apr. 24)

- April 25 Chapter 15 Sentencing Options & Chapter 16 Sentencing
- April 27 Online Assignments (NO CLASSROOM MEETING)
Complete Discussion Board Assignment #10

Week Sixteen (Begins May 01)

- May 2 (NO CLASSROOM MEETING) Professional Practice (Practitioner Interview #2) **Due Today**. All submissions must be turned in through the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard. No other form of submission will be allowed. No exceptions.
- May 9 **Test Three Chapters 14, 15, & 16 Due Today by Midnight (Test to be made available on May 2nd and is to be completed by midnight of May 9th)**