



CJ 261W.09
Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
CID 6425
Fall 2007



Professor: Cutty T. Gilbert, M.A.
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Class Hours: Monday 6 - 8:50 p.m.
Classroom: A-115
Office Hours: Monday 3 – 6 p.m.; Also by Appointment.

Required Readings

Schmallegger, Frank. 2006, *Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction (7th ed.)* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Inc.

Student Study Guide (optional)

Schmallegger, Frank and Steven Chermak. 2006. *Criminal Justice: A Brief Introduction (7th ed.)* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Course Description

This is an introductory criminal justice course designed to expose students to the diverse and complex criminal justice system. Students will acquire a thorough and comprehensive understanding of crime and justice in the United States, and will be encouraged to share viewpoints, opinions, and ask questions when discussing topics in class.

Course Objectives

The primary objectives of this course are:

1. Introduce the students to the laws, procedures, and policies involved in processing an offender through the criminal justice system.
2. Allow students to develop an understanding of roles and responsibilities of various officials involved in the court system processing offenders.
3. Examine the police role, the judicial system function, and the correctional techniques used in dealing with offenders and how the judicial system functions in Texas.
4. Familiarize the students with the public's attitudes toward the offender and the resulting changes in laws, system policies, and legal practice.
5. Give students an orientation and practical experience on writing a paper with proper format.

Course Requirements

There will be a mid-term and final exam – 50 points each for a total of 100 points. Each exam will include multiply choice, true/false and essay questions, including a bonus question from subjects mentioned in the lecture. There will be 10 pop quizzes with short essays, for a total of 100 points. The exams and pop quizzes will count 50% of your grade. In addition, there will be a research paper 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced. Students are expected to send a digital copy of their paper via email to the instructor on December 3rd, 2007 in addition to hand delivering a hard copy of your paper on December 3rd, 2007 to the Professor during the class period specified in the class schedule. The research paper and short essays on pop quizzes will count 50% of your grade.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Early papers will be accepted.

The papers and short essays will comprise 50% of the final grade. A more detailed description of the writing assignments will be handed out in class.

Grading Policy

Mid-term Exam	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Pop Quizzes (w/short essay)	100 points (50 points questions, 50 points short essay)
Research paper	100 points
<u>Class participation will be considered</u>	
Total	300 points

A 90 – 100	290 – 300
B 80 – 89	280 – 289
C 70 – 79	270– 279
D 60 – 69	260 – 269
F 59 – below	below 259

Grades will be entered on the student's Blackboard file. It is the student's responsibility to monitor the accuracy of the grades and absences. Please do not ask how many absences you have. It is your responsibility to know.

MAKEUP EXAM POLICY

No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination date.

Makeup exams must be taken one week from original test date, or will NOT be given.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with **Academic Policy Statement 800401**. It is expected that students will attend EACH class session, complete reading and homework assignments, participate in-group exercises, and contribute to class discussions. Throughout the course of the semester, a student is allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence (three hours). Students missing more than one class session will subject to having their final grade lowered one full letter grade for each unexcused absence, pursuant to the instructor's discretion on student's full semester attendance record.

CLASS BEHAVIOR:

Some of the substance of this course is likely to be controversial in nature. When asked to articulate moral or ethical thoughts on various matters, people often present a dogmatic or ideological position akin to a religious belief system. At times our discussions will force us to examine ideas that are repugnant to such belief systems. In the best scenario, we will do so with an open mind welcoming the opportunity to set one belief system beside another gaining insight from the comparative perspective. In the worst scenario, we will become defenders of our beliefs and/or enemies of alternative belief systems.

Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another person's belief system will not be tolerated. They will be identified as such by the professor (or any other class participant who senses that discussions have moved to a personal level) and stopped. Students who continue to engage in personal level challenges will first be counseled by the professor; but may ultimately be dropped from the class

Talking amongst each other, reading a newspaper, magazine or eating will not be tolerated. You may be excused from the class for any of the above disruptions.

**ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS
OR YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND COUNTED ABSENT**

NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS WITHOUT APPROVAL BY INSTRUCTOR

**IF YOU WALK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS AND DO NOT RETURN
WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, YOU WILL BE COUNTED ABSENT.**

Academic Honesty:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Disabled Student Policy

<http://www.shsu.edu/schedule>

Services for Disabled Students

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticcrequirements.html#holyday>

Important dates to Remember:

- August 20: First Day of Class
- September 3: *Labor Day Holiday*
- September 5: 12th Class day; Last day for dropping without a "Q" and receive 100% refund.
- September 14: Last day for dropping half-semester courses without grade of F.
- October 8: Mid-Term Exam
- October 10: Last day for dropping Fall Semester course without grade of F. Last day for resignations without receiving a mark of W.
- November 21, 22 & 23: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 3: Research Paper due
- December 7: All campus Study Day
- December 10: Final Exam

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE:	ASSIGNED READINGS	ISSUES OF DISCUSSION:
August 20	Chapter 1	Introduction to Class; What is Criminal Justice?
August 27	Chapter 2	The Crime Picture
September 3	Labor Day Holiday	Labor Day Holiday
September 10	Chapter 3	Criminal Law
September 17	Chapter 4	Speaker – Policing: Purpose and Organization
September 24	Chapter 5	Policing: Legal Aspects
October 1	Chapter 6	Policing: Issues and Challenges – <i>Mid-term Review</i>
October 8	MID – TERM EXAM	MID – TERM EXAM
October 15	Chapter 7	Courts and the Courtroom Work Group
October 22	Chapter 8	The Criminal Trial - Speaker from District Attorney’s office
October 29	Chapter 9	Sentencing
November 5	Chapter 10	Probation, Parole and Community Corrections
November 12	Chapter 11	Prison and Jails
November 19	Chapter 12	Prison Life
November 26	Library Night	Meet at Library to work on Research papers
December 3	Chapter 13 - Research Paper Due	Juvenile Justice - <i>Final Review</i> Research Paper Due
December 10	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR’S DISCRETION