

CJ 261.01
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Spring 2008

Professor: Kelly T. Weeks, J.D.
Board Certified-Criminal Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:00-1:50 p.m.
Classroom: A190
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00-4:00p.m. and Tuesday 9:00-12:00 p.m. and
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Required Readings

George F. Cole and Christopher E. Smith, *Criminal Justice in America*, fifth edition,
(Wadsworth Publishing, 2007)

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 Texas, 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, the correctional techniques used in dealing with offenders, and the juvenile justice system 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..

Course Requirements

Exams – there will be 4 exams. Each will be worth 100 points. Each exam will include an additional 5 bonus points from subjects mentioned in the lecture.

Grading Policy

Exam 1 100 points

Exam 2 100 points

Exam 3 100 points

Exam 4 100 points

Class participation will be considered in determining your grade

Total 400 points

A 90-100 360-400

B 80-89 320-359

C 70-79 280-319

D 60-69 240-279

F 59 or below below 240

Makeup Exam Policy

At the discretion of the professor, students who have documentation for a justified absence or illness of the student will be allowed to take a makeup exam one week from the original test date.

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 assignments and contribute to class discussions. Throughout the course of the semester, a student is allowed a maximum of **six unexcused absences**. **Students missing more than six unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered 10 points for each unexcused absence after the 6th unexcused absence**. Students who have documentation for a justified absence or illness may obtain an excused absence. However, it will be up to the Professor's discretion whether it qualifies as an excused absence or is considered unexcused. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll sheet. Failure to sign the roll sheet will be considered as an absence. Falsely signing the roll sheet will be an automatic failure of the course.

Class Behavior

All cell phones will be turned off. No text messaging will be allowed. Talking amongst each other, reading a newspaper or eating will not be tolerated. You may be excused from the class for any of the above disruptions.

Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another'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.

Academic Honesty

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.htm1#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/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE:	ASSIGNED READINGS:	ISSUES OF DISCUSSION:
January 16	See powerpoint	Introduction to Class & Syllabus
January 18	Chapter 1	The Criminal Justice System
January 21	Holiday MLK day	
January 23	Chapter 1	The Criminal Justice System
January 25	Chapter 2	Crime & Justice in America
January 28	Chapter 2	Crime & Justice in America
January 30	Chapter 3	Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law
February 1	Chapter 3	Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law
February 4	Chapter 4	Police
February 6	Chapter 4	Police
February 8		review
February 11	Exam #1	
February 13	Chapter 5	Police Officers & Law Enforcement Operations
February 15	Chapter 5	Police Officers & Law Enforcement Operations
February 18	Chapter 6	Contemporary Issues and Challenges
February 20	Chapter 6	Contemporary Issues and Challenges-speaker
February 22	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
February 25	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
February 27	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
February 29	Chapter 8	Courts & Adjudication

March 3	Chapter 8	Courts & adjudication
March 5		review
March 7	Exam #2	
March 10-14	Spring Break	
March 17	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
March 19	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
March 21	Holiday-Good Friday	
March 24	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
March 26		speaker
March 28		speaker
March 31	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
April 2	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
April 4	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
April 7	Chapter 11	Corrections
April 9	Chapter 11	Corrections
April 11	Chapter 12	Community Corrections Probation Intermediate Sanction Community
April 14	Chapter 12	Community Corrections Probation Intermediate Sanctions
April 16		speaker
April 18		review
April 21	Exam #3	
April 23	Chapter 13	Incarceration & Prison Society
April 25	Chapter 13	Incarceration & Prison Society
April 28	Chapter 14	Reentry into the Community
April 30		speaker
May 5	Chapter 15	Juvenile Justice
May 5	Chapter 15	Juvenile Justice & Review
May 14 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Final Exam	

THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESOR'S DISCRETION