

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CJ 261W.3

Spring 2008

INSTRUCTOR:

JIM MABRY

CLASSROOM:

A-115

CLASS HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM—9:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS:

Before or after class
or by appointment

Email:

jem006@shsu.edu

TELEPHONE:

291-1511

TEXTBOOK: The American System of Criminal Justice
(Cole/Smith Eleventh Edition)

This Course Is Writing Enhanced

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Course Description:

This course will provide students with an introduction and overview of CRIMINAL JUSTICE, both as a system and as a process. Recognize crime as one of the most serious problems facing our society today. The primary mechanism for dealing with the problems associated with crime is the CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, with its three operational components of LAW ENFORCEMENT, COURTS, and CORRECTIONS. We will explore the organization and operation of these agencies; focus on the major decision makers and the processing of criminal offenders through the system. Additionally, we will examine the criminal law, causation of crime; study some criminals, protection of individual rights and the purposes of punishment. Finally, you will acquire the language of Criminal Justice known as "Legalese."

Course Objectives:

1. Provide a solid foundation of valid information about the subject.
2. Provide opportunities to process and think about the information.
3. Promote critical thinking, decision making, problem solving and communication skills.
4. Encourage individual participation and group discussion.
5. Enhance essential skills of reading, writing, research through special assignments.
6. Provide a way to demonstrate acquired knowledge and understanding of the information.
7. Extend learning beyond the classroom.
8. Introduce students to employment opportunities.

Strive to make this class one that the students actually look forward to coming to each week and one they will remember forever.

Attendance Policy:

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student.
2. Students are expected to remain in each class session for the full time period.
3. Individuals not officially enrolled in our class are not permitted to be present (except guest speakers selected and authorized by the instructor).
4. The instructor is required to take regular class attendance and maintain a record of student attendance.
5. Class attendance will be recorded and counted from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in this specific class.
6. A student may be penalized for more than three (3) hours of absence.

7. For each additional absence five (5) points shall be deducted from the final grade average.
8. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying assignments or examinations.
9. Students are expected to personally meet with the instructor to arrange for accepting late work or making-up tests, prior to the next class period. Failure to accept this responsibility by the student results in receiving a zero grade.
10. Students are expected to perform assigned reading and acquire class information for any class sessions missed due to absences.
11. A personal telephone call to the instructor, prior to any class, concerning attendance and assignments is appropriate and encouraged.
12. Students with perfect attendance and maintaining an "A" average on all tests and assignments prior to date of the final examination can request and receive an exemption from taking the course final. The accrued average grade will be your grade for the course.

Grading Policy:

1. There will be three (3) tests scheduled and administered during our class time for the semester.
2. A short review may be provided during class time prior to administering each test. Please know that this review likely will not cover all the test questions. All tests are taken without use of any assisting materials.
3. Each test will have the value of 100 possible points.
4. Each student will be assigned six (6) writing assignments. Completion of each assignment will have value of 100 possible points. Specific information will be provided when the assignments are made.
5. To promote the importance of assigned textbook reading, students should expect and be prepared to answer in writing a single question each class. The question derived from the assigned reading can be answered by completing the reading.
Each question has the value of five (5) points. The total points possible for this assignment will equal 100 points (20 questions from random weeks); you either make a 5 or 0 for each question. Failure to turn in the assignment for any reason results in a grade of zero (0).

Evaluation:

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Test #1 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 2. | Test #2 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 3. | Test #3 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 4. | Assignment #1 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 5. | Assignment #2 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 6. | Assignment #3 | 0 to 100 possible points |
| 7. | Assignment #4 | 0 to 100 possible points |

8. Assignment #5 0 to 100 possible points
9. Assignment #6 0 to 100 possible points
10. Weekly Questions 0 to 100 possible points
11. Final 0 to 100 possible points

Please note: each assessment earns a separate grade

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

All grades accrued will be totaled and averaged by number of required assessments to reflect acquired grade average.

The final exam will be administered on the date scheduled and will have the value of 100 points.

The final examination grade will be totaled with all earned points and averaged to reflect your course grade.

6. No early tests nor final examination will be given.
7. It is the responsibility of the individual student to personally arrange with the instructor any missed assessments and assignments to be made up. (normally this should occur prior to the next class period)
8. Failure to complete any work which earns a grade will result in a zero for that particular assessment.

Additional Information:

1. Students must complete all required textbook reading assignments prior to each class meeting.
2. Students are expected to bring materials necessary to take notes and complete written assignments.
3. Students are encouraged to have an inquiring mind and actively participate in discussion, appropriate to the course material.
4. Students are responsible for any material or information missed during a class absence.
5. Students should feel free to contact the instructor for appointments to provide needed assistance with course material. Please know that your individual success in this course is important to both of us.
6. There will be no use of any tobacco products allowed in the classroom.

7. No use of cell phones allowed during class. If you have an emergency or on "duty status" bring this situation to the instructors attention prior to class.
8. Any use of recording devices must have prior approval of the instructor. If such devices distract others their use must be eliminated.
9. All tests and examinations will be taken without assisting materials in sight. Sorry, but caps are not allowed on testing days.
10. You are certainly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions, but remember to respect others present. Please avoid bringing up personal situations unless called upon by the instructor to do so.
11. If we go on scheduled field trips, a specific dress code will be required and certain items cannot be in your possession. Confidentiality will be explained prior to any such trips.
12. Individuals not enrolled in this course (children, friends, etc.) are simply not allowed to be present.
13. Sleeping and distractions are not considered appropriate behaviors in our classroom.
14. Acts of dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in consequences (university policy).
ACADEMIC HONESTY:
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>
15. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired (university policy).
DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html
SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:
<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>
16. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor concerning excuses to observe religious holy days.
STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:
<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>
17. Failure to attend class and perform required assignments and assessments will be reported to the Dean.
18. Exams turned in with the answers Typed will not be graded.
19. You are university students but please remember to make certain you have your name readable on all work submitted for a grade.

Expectations:

I expect your presence.

I expect your participation and preparation.

I expect your very best behavior.

I expect your very best efforts to learn.

Please don't leave class confused or not knowing something.

Sometimes during our class I'll ask your input on how we are doing and how we can do better for you.

Also you will be asked to evaluate the course and the instructor with this confidential information going to the Dean.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT CLASS.

Writing Enhanced Course:

One mission of the College of Criminal Justice is to provide the foundation for talents necessary to succeed in the profession and in society. These talents include:

- An ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Your class has been designed as a writing enhanced course. Each student will write six, two page papers throughout the semester on specific assigned topics.

Topic #1 Interview with a criminal justice official.

Topic #2 Conduct a survey and write a summary of your findings. Why people choose to violate our laws.

Topic #3 Why do criminal defendants have rights.

Topic #4 Creative thinking, imagine a society without any laws "My Life without Laws"

Topic #5 Opinion assignment, "Does Imprisonment Work"

Topic #6 A critique on a field trip to the Walls prison.

Each assigned topic will be further discussed by your instructor and due dates established. More than 50% of your course grade will result from written assignments

Writing Enhanced

Course Calendar:

Please note: the following schedule is subject to some change at the instructor's discretion to accommodate more discussion, speakers, films, field trips, etc. You will be notified immediately of any significant changes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook Reading</u>
1-17	Syllabus and Course Preview	
8-23	"What is Criminal Justice"	
8-28	Overview of Criminal Law	Chapter 4
8-30	Procedural Criminal Law	Chapter 4
9-4	(Labor Day Holiday)	
9-6	Bill of Rights (4-5-6)	Chapter 4
9-11	Bill of Rights (8-10-14)	Chapter 4
9-13	Test #1 (TBA)	
9-18	Overview of Criminal Behavior	Chapter 2
9-20	Victims and Victimization	Chapter 2
9-25	Prevention and Safety	
9-27	Overview of Crime	Chapter 1
10-2	Public Order and Property Crimes	
10-4	Violent Crimes	
10-9	Serial Killers and Mass Murder	
10-11	Test #2 (TBA)	
10-16	Overview of System	Chapter 3
10-18	Overview of Law Enforcement	Chapter 5

10-23	Overview of Courts	Chapter 9
<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook Reading</u>
10-25	Major Decision Makers	Chapter 10
10-30	Test #3 (TBA)	
11-1	Overview of Process	Chapter 3
11-6	Decision Points (LE)	Chapter 3,6,7,8
11-8	Decision Points (Courts)	Chapter 3,9,10
11-13	Prosecution and Defense	Chapter 10
11-15	Overview of Trial	Chapter 11
11-20	Test #4 (TBA)	
11-22	Thanksgiving Holiday	
11-27	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 12
11-29	Capital Punishment	Chapter 12
12-4	Overview Probation/Parole	Chapter 14,16
12-6	Overview of Corrections	Chapter 13,15
12-11	Final Exam (TBA)	