

CJ 261.02
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Fall 2007

Professor: Kelly T. Weeks, J.D.
Board Certified-Criminal Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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Class Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Classroom: A201
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-4:00p.m. and Tuesday 9:00-12:00 p.m. and
1:00 to 4:00 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
<u>Class participation will be considered</u>	
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**. 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.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/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE:	ASSIGNED READINGS:	ISSUES OF DISCUSSION:
August 20	See powerpoint	Introduction to Class & Syllabus
August 22	Chapter 1	The Criminal Justice System
August 24	Chapter 1	The Criminal Justice System
August 27	Chapter 2	Crime & Justice in America
August 29	Chapter 2	Crime & Justice in America
August 31	Chapter 3	Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law
September 3		Holiday
September 5	Chapter 3	Criminal Justice & the Rule of Law
September 7	Chapter 4	Police
September 10	Chapter 4	Police
September 12		review
September 14	Chapter 5	Police Officers & Law Enforcement Operations
September 17	Chapter 5	Police Officers & Law Enforcement Operations
September 19	Chapter 6	Contemporary Issues and Challenges
September 21	Chapter 6	Contemporary Issues and Challenges-speaker
September 24	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
September 26	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
September 28	Chapter 7	Police and Constitutional Law
October 1	Chapter 8	Courts & Adjudication
October 3	Chapter 8	Courts & adjudication
October 5		review
October 8	Exam #2	

October 10	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
October 12	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
October 15	Chapter 9	Pretrial Procedures, Plea Bargaining & the Criminal Trial
October 17		speaker
October 19		speaker
October 22	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
October 24	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
October 26	Chapter 10	Punishment & Sentencing
October 29	Chapter 11	Corrections
October 31	Chapter 11	Corrections
November 2	Chapter 12	Community Corrections Probation Intermediate Sanction Community
November 5	Chapter 12	Community Corrections Probation Intermediate Sanctions
November 7		speaker
November 9		review
November 12	Exam #3	
November 14	Chapter 13	Incarceration & Prison Society
November 16	Chapter 13	Incarceration & Prison Society
November 19	Chapter 14	Reentry into the Community
November 21		Holiday
November 23		Holiday
November 26	Chapter 14	Reentry into the Community
November 28		speaker
November 30	Chapter 15	Juvenile Justice
December 3	Chapter 15	Juvenile Justice
December 5		Review
December 10 11:00a.m.- 1:00p.m.	Final Exam	

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